The Voice of New Mexico's **Rural Electric Cooperatives**

FARMERS' ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

enchants

MAY 2022

Gallup: A Way of Life Page 14





This 12-foot bronze statue of an unidentified Navajo code talker in front of the Gallup Cultural Center is one of two statues a half-mile east of the Veterans Memorial. PHOTO COURTESY OF GALLUP CULTURAL CENTER





GRADUATION DATES

CROWNPOINT HIGH Friday, May 20 6:30 PM

> GALLUP HIGH Thursday, May 19 6:30 PM

GALLUP CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL Saturday, May 21

10:00 AM

MIYAMURA HIGH SCHOOL Saturday, May 21 6:30 PM NAVAJO PINE HIGH Friday, May 20 6:30 PM

RAMAH HIGH SCHOOL

Friday, May 20 6:30 PM

THOREAU HIGH SCHOOL

Thursday, May 19 6:30 PM

TOHATCHI HIGH SCHOOL

Saturday, May 21 6:30 PM

TSE YI GAI HIGH SCHOOL Saturday, May 21 10:00 AM

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL - MAY 31st

May 2022

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We live in the Land of Enchantment ...

We are enchantment!

Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation.



Congratulations to the Safety Month Coloring Contest Winners!

To recognize Electrical Safety Month, NMRECA invited youth to color this important safety message. The winners' artwork is shown at right.

The first place winner is 8-year-old Tracer Montoya, Socorro Electric Cooperative.

"The wallpaper and floor design are awesome and vibrant," says contest judge Enrique Salazar.

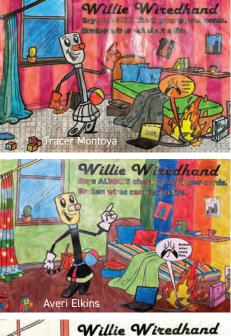
Second place was awarded to 9-year-old Averi Elkins, Continental Divide Electric Cooperative.

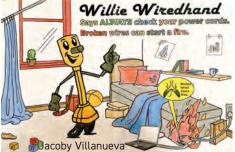
"The curtains and bed sheet really make this picture stand out and pop" Enrique says.

Seven-year-old Jacoby Villanueva from Mora-San Miguel Electric's service territory, won third place.

"Very consistent coloring, and I really enjoyed the layers of color on the fire," Enrique says.

Thanks to all young artists for sharing!





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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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view from enchantment By Keven J. Groenewold, CEO



May marks National Electrical Safety Month, and the electricity your electric cooperative provides day in and day out is a phenomenal resource. It powers our modern lifestyles in a safe, reliable and affordable way.

But electricity must be respected. If safety is not a priority, what changes our lives for the better could change them for the worse in an instant.

Safety has been a part of the fundamental culture at New Mexico electric co-ops since day one. Being an electric lineworker is ranked by the U.S. Department of Labor as one of the most dangerous jobs, on the same list as shipbuilders, loggers and high-rise ironworkers. We demand that not only those out in the field, but employees at all levels make safety a top priority.

New Mexico cooperatives are committed to keeping our members and the general public safe from dangerous situations. Proper facility maintenance and warning signs are key elements in our tireless effort to keep everyone safe and aware of energized electrical equipment in the surrounding area. Electric shock is not the only item we should have on our electricity safety checklist.

Electrical problems in older homes account for more than 50,000 fires every year. The risk of such fires is noteworthy since half of all homes in the United States were constructed and wired prior to 1980—before the advent of home computers. Even more telling, one-third of U.S. homes were built before hair dryers or electric can openers were even invented.

Electrical Safety Foundation International has created a checklist that lets consumers identify electrical dangers commonly found in each room of their homes. Owners of older homes can upgrade their electric systems with newer fire prevention technology, such as arc fault circuit interrupters. These advanced electronic circuit breakers detect dangerous conditions in a home's wiring and cut off power before a fire develops.

Additionally, those living in older homes with children can install tamper-resistant receptacles. These devices look like normal electrical outlets, but they have a built-in shutter system that prevents children from inserting foreign objects into the slots. Using tamper-resistant receptacles can prevent most of the burns suffered by children each year from outlets.

Electrical safety is not just an indoor concern. Outdoor activities in the springtime are an effective way to shake off the winter cabin fever. However, a few common-sense precautions can help to ensure a safe, fun event. For example, when planning your outdoor event, know the area and weather forecast. Activities such as flying kites or, in today's world, drones, can be enjoyable family fun. Sudden changes in weather or wind can have



Keep electrical safety in mind, whether you are upgrading older appliances, working around the house or enjoying the spring weather outdoors. ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY CHEPKO DANIL

consequences, so ensure you are always a safe distance from overhead power lines.

Eliminating electrical hazards begins with education and awareness. National Electrical Safety Month is a time for all of us to reexamine our surroundings and determine steps we can take to prevent death or injury, and billions of dollars in economic losses that occur each year because of electrical hazards. Please take time to learn how you can be safe around electricity at home. Spending just a little time with some helpful resources can make all the difference when you are faced with a possible unsafe situation. For more information on electrical safety, please visit your local co-op's website. Be safe this month and every month.



Mercury's May Appearance

Just like last month, most of May's planet activity takes place in the morning sky. In fact, the month is bookended by two dramatic planetary conjunctions.

At the beginning of the month, Saturn is highest above the horizon, followed by Mars. Around the beginning of dawn, Venus and Jupiter rise, coming off the close conjunction they had with each other on the last morning of April. As May progresses, Jupiter climbs higher in the sky above Venus. On the morning of May 29, it and Mars have their close conjunction.

The lone planet visible in the evening sky this month is Mercury, although its show is fairly brief. At the beginning of May, Mercury is low in the west and sets just after the end of dusk, but sinks rapidly toward the horizon during the following days. It disappears into the twilight a little over a week later.

Our part of the world experiences a total eclipse of the moon Sunday evening,

May 15. By the time the sky becomes completely dark that night, the moon will already be deep within the umbra, or dark inner shadow of Earth. It is completely immersed by 9:30 p.m. Totality lasts for almost an hour and a half. The accompanying partial eclipse lasts for another hour after that.

It is possible that a comet discovered last year by the Pan-STARRS survey based in Hawaii will be visible in our evening sky this month. At the beginning of May, it will be low in the dusk. During the ensuing days and weeks, it climbs higher and northward. By month's end, it will be located not too far from the North Star, Polaris. It is difficult to predict just how bright Comet PANSTARRS might appear, but it should be visible with binoculars and possibly with the unaided eye—at least during the first couple weeks of May.

The debris of other comets—in the form of meteor showers—also may be

visible this month. The Eta Aquarid shower—which comes from Halley's Comet and, incidentally, will be at the farthest point in its orbit less than two years from now peaks Friday morning, May 6, and may produce 20 to 30 meteors per hour.

It is possible another shower may appear near month's end and from the constellation Hercules, which is now high up in the eastern sky during the evening hours. This would be from a dim comet known as 73P/ Schwassmann-Wachmann 3, which came close to Earth a decade and a half ago and may be visible in larger backyard telescopes later this year.

ABOVE: Comet Leonard, which was somewhat bright near the end of last year. This photo was taken December 19, 2021, by amateur astronomer Chris Schur near Payson, Arizona. It is similar to the comet's appearance through a pair of binoculars. Comet PANSTARRS may, conceivably, look like this during May. PHOTOGRAPH USED WITH PERMISSION

The Invention of the Year

The world's lightest and most portable mobility device

Once in a lifetime, a product comes along that truly moves people. Introducing the future of battery-powered personal transportation ... The Zinger.

Throughout the ages, there have been many important advances in mobility. Canes, walkers, rollators, and scooters were created to help people with mobility issues get around and retain their independence. Lately, however, there haven't been any new improvements to these existing products or developments in this field. Until now. Recently, an innovative design engineer who's developed one of the world's most popular products created a completely new breakthrough ... a personal electric vehicle. It's called the *Zinger*, and there is nothing out there quite like it.

"What my wife especially loves is it gives her back feelings of safety and independence which has given a real boost to her confidence and happiness! Thank You!"

-Kent C., California

The first thing you'll notice about the *Zinger* is its unique look. It doesn't look like a scooter. Its sleek, lightweight yet durable frame is made with aircraft grade aluminum. It weighs only 47.2 lbs but can handle a passenger that's up to 275 lbs! It features one-touch



Available in Green, Black (shown) and Blue

folding and unfolding – when folded it can be wheeled around like a



ZINGER

The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

suitcase and fits easily into a backseat or trunk. Then, there are the steering levers. They enable the *Zinger* to move forward, backward, turn on a dime and even pull right up to a table or desk. With its compact yet powerful motor it can go up to 6 miles an hour and its rechargeable battery can go up to 8 miles on a single charge. With its low center of gravity and inflatable tires it can handle rugged terrain and is virtually tip-proof. Think about it, you can take your *Zinger* almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life.

Why take our word for it. You can try the *Zinger* out for yourself with our exclusive home trial. Call now, and find out how you can try out a *Zinger* of your very own.

Zinger Chair[®] Call now and receive a utility basket absolutely FREE with your order.





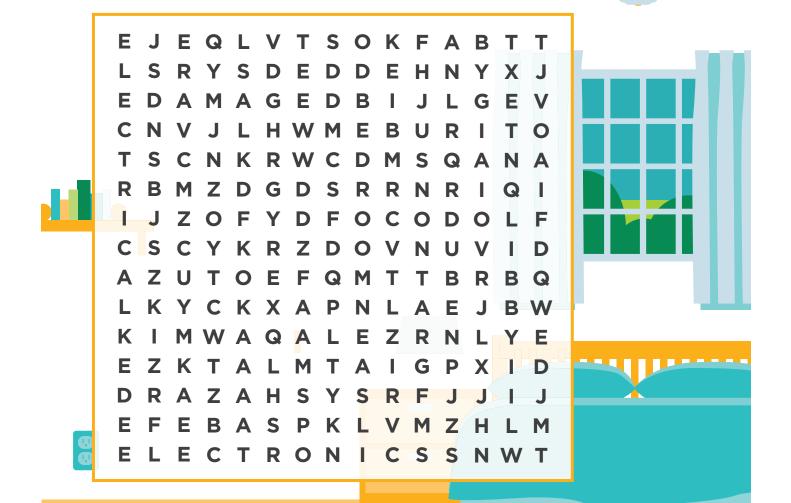
Please mention code 116851 when ordering.

The Zinger and Zoomer Chairs are personal electric vehicles and are not medical devices nor wheelchairs. They are not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. They are not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle

ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH WORD SEARCH

May is Electrical Safety Month! Read the safety tips below, then find and circle all the bolded words in the puzzle.





WORD BANK:

- Do not use any electrical **cords** that feel warm to the touch or are **damaged** in any way.
- Remind parents or adults in your home to test smoke alarms every month. Alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Do not overload electrical **outlets**. Overloading creates a potential fire **hazard**.
- Keep all liquids away from electronics, including TVs, computers and gaming consoles.
- Do not run electrical cords under rugs or carpet. This creates a fire risk.

Bad to the Bone

Full tang stainless steel blade with natural bone handle — now ONLY \$79!

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*.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. Feel the knife in your hands, wear it on your hip, inspect the impeccable craftsmanship. If you don't feel like we cut you a fair deal, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

Limited Reserves. A deal like this won't last long. We have only 1120 *Huntsman Blades* for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers. Call today!

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Rating of A+



What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives

"This knife is beautiful!" — J., La Crescent, MN

"The feel of this knife is unbelievable...this is an incredibly fine instrument." — H., Arvada, CO

Ten Ideas for Summer Savings

Service Your AC Unit Air conditioning units work by moving air over fins or coils that contain refrigerant. When the coils or fins get dirty, the unit doesn't work as well and uses more energy.

Whether you have a portable unit, central AC or a ductless/ mini-split, get it ready for the summer by cleaning the filter, coils and fins. If you are going to tackle this yourself, always disconnect power to the unit.

Central AC systems have two sets of coils: one inside and one outside. Both should be cleaned annually. A professional can check refrigerant levels during the process.

Thermostat Settings

Keeping your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature will save you money. If you aren't home during the day, increase your thermostat 8 to 10 degrees. Don't cool an empty house.

Keep Your Cool

Before adjusting the thermostat, turn on a fan in the room you're in, change into lighter clothing and drink something cool. This may be enough to make you comfortable without spending more to cool your home. Finding the balance between comfort and savings is key.

Seal Your Window AC Unit

If you have a window or portable AC unit that vents through a window, seal the area between the window sashes. Water heater pipe insulation is a great product to seal this spot. It's available at local hardware stores and is easy to cut to a snug fit.

Weatherstripping and Curtains

Covering and sealing windows may seem like a wintertime efficiency practice, yet these help in the summer, too. Windows are typically the leastinsulated surface in a room. Add weatherstripping to form a tight seal and curtains you can close during the hottest times of the day to block out the sun.

Cook Al Fresco

Keep your home cool and your AC from working overtime by cooking outside. My grill has an extra burner on the side that lets me do stovetop cooking outside, too.

Lock Windows

After opening your windows at night or in the morning to let in fresh air, ensure your windows are closed and locked once the temperature is to your liking. This reduces gaps that allow air to flow through and cause drafts. If your locks don't form a tight fit, add weatherstripping. Most products are easy to install.

Add Insulation

Even in the summer, adding insulation can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your air conditioning system. As a general rule, if you can see the joists in the floor of your attic, you need more insulation.

Add Shade Outside

Several years ago, we planted a hedge on the south side of our home. I was surprised how much cooler it made the house in the summertime. Planting trees and shrubs strategically around your home can shade the roof, walls and pavement, reducing heat radiation to your home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, treeshaded neighborhoods can be up to 6 degrees cooler in the daytime than treeless areas. Before buying a tree or shrub, check with your city or local nursery about free or discounted tree programs.

Turn Off Gas Fireplaces

Reducing the amount of heat entering your home can keep it cooler, especially if you don't have AC. If you have a gas fireplace, your pilot light lets off a small amount of heat into the room. Consider turning it off in the summer. n



Miranda Boutelle has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy. She has worked on energyefficiency 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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book chat I By B.A. Kelly



How Should a Person Be? By Sheila Heti Picador us.macmillan.com

CHUCK KLOSTERMAN



A BOOK

The Nineties: A Book By Chuck Klosterman Penguin Press penguinrandomhouse.com

"How Should a Person Be?" is described as a "metafiction-meets-nonfiction novel," which I think is another way of saying it's sort-of, kind-of, maybe, but not entirely a memoir. What I can say is this story is about a woman named Sheila, who, while adrift in her distinctly coastal elite, extended adolescent odyssey, is getting along, somewhat haphazardly, by doing her best impression of how she thinks she should be.

While reading this book, I also started in on the hardcover release of Chuck Klosterman's "The Nineties: A Book." I've been a nerd for Klosterman—an author and essayist—ever since my husband and I listened to the audio version of his essay collection titled "Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs: A Low Culture Manifesto," while roadtripping around California on our honeymoon over a decade ago. Klosterman was also, for a time, the "Ethicist" for the New York Times Magazine. I find him most entertaining for his commentary on popular culture.

In his new book, he's entirely in his glory, though he could have titled the book "Generation X" given how much time is dedicated to specifically unpacking how the 60 million people who were in their 20s during the 1990s navigated the decade. But that title doesn't work either, because, you might already know, "Generation X" is already the name of the novel that Douglas Coupland published in 1991. In fact, Coupland's novel gets undisputed credit for the Gen X moniker.

Still, when revisiting any decade, it stands to reason the focus would center on young people because really, who else but the young have the energy and momentum to set the tone, values, texture and culture of any given moment? That was at least true until the internet put all generations together into one strange trending stew.

In any case, it was a quote from Coupland in Klosterman's book that helped me navigate Heti's book: "There was Richard Linlater's Slacker, there was Generation X, and then there was Nirvana's Nevermind, and it only takes three objects to make a constellation."

Aha! It only takes three to make a constellation! I get that. And so it was, with this concept in mind, that the constellation of Sheila's narrative became visible to me, and most brightly illustrated by, the counterfeit tears she spilled during her wedding vows; her peculiar way of navigating the relationship with her best friend, Margaux; and her cringey delivery on an unusual request proposed to her by an incorrigible lover.

So how should a person be? It's her friendship with Margaux that ultimately guides Sheila out of the wilderness and into the world of true being. But this isn't a classic telling of a buddy story.

Heti's writing is wild and weird and rich and brave. I've read enough to say I'll be staying the course and picking up Heti's 2018 novel, "Motherhood," before moving on to her 2022 release, "Pure Colour."

As for the vast landscape of "The Nineties," after the first few chapters, I switched over to the audio version of the book so I could enjoy the meta experience of hearing Klosterman's literal voice be the metaphorical voice of his generation.

But the real triumph of Klosterman's portrait, in my estimation, is his ability to process what was arguably the last cohesive decade for consensus experience.



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So Pipe the Young

Annabelle Granger seeks solace and a fresh start, only to find the locals in Box Elder, New Mexico, more than a little unnerving.

Time slipped away from me in this absorbing story that moves from the suburbs of Detroit—where there is a "subtle but implacable pressure to conform"—to a rural homestead somewhere off the Turquoise Trail.

"This world is insane," Annabelle says to her husband, Paul, of their suburb called Royal Oak. "We order our groceries, bank online and get

Heath's toys by subscriptions, all this convenience freeing us up to do what?"

Annabelle is on to something big. She has a prestigious job at a surgical robotics company, but works like a robot to pay other people to raise their son. What she doesn't tell her husband is how her boredom may also drive her to have an affair with her co-worker.

The writing here is top-shelf. Southwestern bookworms will delight in this New Mexican novel, but the real feat is the deft hammering of a very specific and modern tension readers everywhere will recognize.

By Jen Watkins Etheridge Press etheridgepress.com

12 MAY 2022







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"MOST PATRIOTIC SMALL TOWN IN POPULATION 21,678 ELEVATIO

The City of Gallup: A Way o

By Margaret Nava

One of the first things greeting visitors to Gallup as they exit the interstate are oversized "Welcome to the City of Gallup" billboards featuring Old Glory, boasting a population of 21,678 and proclaiming the title of "Most Patriotic Small Town in America."

Although the population has dropped somewhat since the signs went up, the patriotism of Gallup's residents is as strong—if not stronger—than when Rand McNally bestowed the accolade upon the town.

Welcome

In partnership with USA Today, Rand McNally launched its Best of the Road competition in 2011. Candidates were divided into six categories: Most Beautiful, Most Fun, Most Friendly, Most Patriotic, Best for Food and Best for Geocaching.

Rand McNally judges narrowed the entries to five for each category. Supporters of the semifinalists drummed up votes by writing essays, posting on social media and filming video tours. In 2013, one of the finalists for Most Patriotic Small Town in America was Gallup. Its main supporter was Kenneth Riege, a Desert Storm veteran and manager of Comfort Suites on Gallup's Historic Route 66.

After leaving the Air Force in 1993, Kenneth and his wife, Retha, moved to Gallup, where Retha grew up.

Kenneth says he always felt a profound responsibility toward his country and a strong solidarity with his brothers and sisters in arms, especially those from AMERICA" ON 6,512'

> Gallup. In an article for the Museum of the American Military Family & Learning Center, he wrote, "From the Spanish American War to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Gallupians—as we proudly call ourselves—answered the call to duty and served in all five branches of the armed forces, protecting our families, our community and our way of life."

When Kenneth became general manager of Comfort Suites, he turned the lobby into a one-of-a-kind museum featuring photos, challenge coins, dog tags, service medals, Native code talker relics and other memorabilia donated by veterans and their families, and wartime artifacts from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan.

"Every piece has its own story," Kenneth says. "A table and chair in the breakfast area are left empty as a remembrance table, and one space in the parking lot is painted purple and reserved for the combat wounded."





When Kenneth heard about the Rand McNally competition, he entered Gallup into the running for the Most Patriotic Small Town of 2013.

"Gallup has been shaped by its praiseworthy and historic veterans," he says. "We respect the contributions and sacrifices they made."

After months of voting, Gallup won out over Mandan, North Dakota; Enterprise, Alabama; Fairborn, Ohio; and Jonesborough, Tennessee.

Wherever you look, there is evidence of Gallup's patriotism. In 2008, the city created an awe-inspiring veterans

ABOVE: The veterans memorial outside McKinley County Courthouse is made of 14 steel and glass pillars and recognizes veterans dating back to Word War I. LEFT: Air Force veteran Kenneth Reige nominated Gallup for the honor of Most Patriotic Small Town in America in 2013.

memorial by erecting 14 steel and glass pillars along a walkway in the plaza in front of McKinley County Courthouse on Hill Avenue. The pillars bear the names and pictures of veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam, the Gulf Wars and the World War II Navajo code talkers—all originally from McKinley County.

Included in the memorial is a pillar dedicated to Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura the only American of Japanese heritage in the Korean War to receive the nation's highest combat award, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

About 6,000 Japanese-Americans were living in New Mexico when Pearl Harbor was attacked in 1941. Although many were rounded up and sent to internment camps in other parts of the state, the people of Gallup refused to allow any of their 100 Japanese-American families to be removed because of their ethnicity.

Hiroshi, the fourth of nine children of immigrant parents, joined the Army

Story continues on page 18

Farmers' Electric Cooperative



General Manager Lance Adkins

Clovis Office 3701 Thornton Clovis, NM 88102 575-762-4466

Ft. Sumner Office 618 East Sumner Ft. Sumner, NM 88119 575-355-2291

Santa Rosa Office 1169 Historic Route 66 Santa Rosa, NM 88435 575-472-3971

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Board Meeting

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Annual Meeting Date Set

We look forward to visiting with you Saturday, May 14, 2022, at the cooperative's 84th Annual Meeting of Members. The meeting is in Fort Sumner, New Mexico, in the Fort Sumner High School gymnasium. Door prizes for children and adults will be awarded, and lunch will be served following the business meeting.

Because Farmers' Electric is locally owned and operated, your involvement is crucial. Mark your calendar today and plan to attend the annual meeting of your electric cooperative.

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

Join us to hear reports from co-op officers, trustees and committees, and take part in election of trustees from Districts 2 and 7.

Always Call Before You Dig

The snow is melted and spring has sprung, making way for outdoor do-it-yourself projects. When your project involves any type of digging, it's very important to locate and avoid utility lines buried underground. Possible buried lines include electric, gas, phone, internet, cable, fiber and water. Whether you're taking on building a new fence or deck, or tilling the soil to plant a garden, you should always call 811 before digging.

Dialing 811 is free. You can also visit nm811.org to submit an online request. Give the operator your location, and within a few days, they will arrange for



locators from your local utility service providers to mark any buried lines with paint or flags.

Failing to contact 811 and proceeding to dig in an unmarked area could result in disastrous, expensive and sometimes fatal consequences. In 2018, it was estimated that underground lines were damaged every six minutes and caused by people who did not call and have the lines located and marked before digging.

Please remember to call 811 every time you dig, even if you have had lines located and marked in the past. A few days' wait is well worth it to prevent damage to various lines and injury to you or others. Your neighbors will also thank you.

Farmers' Electric Cooperative

Keep Outdoor Electrical Safety in Mind

ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY PATHDOC

By Pam Blair

The arrival of warmer weather signals the start of outdoor pursuits everything from flying a kite to cutting the grass. While enjoying yourself outside, make sure you follow electrical safety rules.

• When overhead power lines are nearby, use wooden or fiberglass ladders—not metal. Look before you lift.

• Before digging into the ground, call and make sure you won't come in contact with underground power lines or any other utilities.

• Never fly kites, model airplanes or metallic balloons near power lines, or in stormy weather. Use only dry string. Avoid using metal or wire on kites. If your kite or balloon gets caught on power lines, don't try to untangle it. Call your utility.

• Inspect power tools before each use for frayed cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings. Make sure tools or extension cords used outdoors are marked for that use.

• Never remove the third prong of a three-pronged plug. If

possible, convert two-pronged outlets to fit three-pronged plugs, using an adapter with a ground tab.

• Don't try to repair electric products yourself.

• Keep outdoor outlets and electrical products covered and dry between uses. Never use electrically operated power tools in the rain or in wet conditions. Even morning dew can turn electricity into a serious shock hazard.

• Know the location of circuit breakers or fuses. Ensure you can easily reach them.

• Put a ground-fault circuit interrupter between your electric power source and

your electric product.

 Don't plant tall-growing trees under lines. If a tree has lines running through it, don't climb it.

• Teach children to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.

• Stay away from downed power lines.





A Way of Life Story continued from page 15

in 1945 and volunteered for the 100th Battalion/442nd Infantry Regiment comprised mostly of Japanese-Americans.

Although he was discharged after Japan surrendered, he reenlisted in 1950 at the beginning of the Korean War, was captured and taken prisoner of war in 1951, and was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1953 for using his bayonet to enable the men in his squad to escape an assault by Communist Chinese soldiers. One of his favorite sayings is, "It was the right thing to do."

A half-mile east of the veterans memorial, two statues stand in front of Gallup Cultural Center on East Historic Highway 66. One is a sandstone sculpture depicting Chief Manuelito; the other is a 12-foot-tall bronze statue of an unidentified Navajo code talker.

Manuelito was a Navajo leader and warrior who resisted federal efforts to enforce the Long Walk in 1864. As a warrior, Manuelito's prime objective was to protect and defend his people. CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi "Hershey" Miyamura is a Gallup native. Korean War Navajo code talkers with Kenneth, far right, who nominated Gallup for Most Patriotic Small Town in America. A statue of Chief Manuelito sits outside Gallup Cultural Center.

Navajo code talkers served in World War I and World War II, protecting and defending their country by developing a communication system that used Navajo words instead of standard spelling. The system stymied Japanese cryptographers and became a deciding factor in the war effort. The two statues and the Navajo Code Talker Museum housed on the second floor of the renovated Santa Fe Rail Depot pay tribute to the contributions made by brave Native American warriors throughout history.

Established in 2000, Gallup Veterans Helping Veterans is a group of local veterans who promote healing and camaraderie, as well as assistance in obtaining veterans benefits. Another group, Gallup Citizens Honoring Veterans, is made up of individuals who believe in God and country and want to do everything they can to support and honor local veterans. The Wounded Warrior Project—a nationwide effort offers a variety of programs, services and events for wounded veterans of the military actions following September 11, 2001.

The Loyal Order of the Quilt, also known as the Quilts of Valor, is a group of women who design and stitch quilts that are presented to local veterans. Coordinator Lynn Olinger once said, "The quilts provide comfort to veterans when they have their dark days of past war experiences. They act like hugs holding them for the service they have done for everyone."

Together, these organizations and others like them offer support and encouragement to men and women who selflessly served our nation.

Many people show patriotism by flying the American flag, marching in parades, setting off fireworks or visiting cemeteries on federal holidays such as Memorial Day, July Fourth, Labor Day and Veterans Day. While these are admirable expressions of respect, what about the rest of the year? In Gallup, a small town known for its unique jewelry, artwork and cultural diversity, patriotism is a way of life.

SACRED STONE OF THE Southwest is on the **BRINK OF EXTINCTION**





Penturies ago, Persians, Tibetans and Mayans considered turquoise a gemstone of the heavens, believing the striking blue stones were sacred pieces of sky. Today, the rarest and most valuable turquoise is found in the American Southwest— but the future of the blue beauty is unclear.

On a recent trip to Tucson, we spoke with fourth generation turquoise traders who explained that less than five percent of turquoise mined worldwide can be set into jewelry and only about twenty mines in the Southwest supply gem-quality turquoise. Once a thriving industry, many Southwest mines have run dry and are now closed.

We found a limited supply of turquoise from Arizona and purchased it for our Sedona Turquoise Collection. Inspired by the work of those ancient craftsmen and designed to showcase

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Time to Celebrate in the Kitchen

School is nearly out, spring ranch work is wrapping up, and the Land of Enchantment is in bloom! With so much to celebrate, our kitchens become party central in May. If these reasons are not enough, how about National Eat What You Want Day on May 11 and National Do Something Good for your Neighbor Day on May 16? Regardless of your motivation to party, bring on great recipes.

Long ago, a neighbor said, "If you can read, you can cook." Enjoy reading and making the following recipes, involve your family and friends, and cook for your own celebrations this month. Let the great times roll.



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

Feta-Florentine Stuffed Chicken With Parmesan Sauce

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts 2 cups fresh spinach, chopped ½ cup feta cheese, crumbled ½ teaspoon dried tarragon 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided 1 cup panko crumbs ½ cup Parmesan cheese ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
 4 slices provolone cheese
 Sauce:
 2 tablespoons butter
 ½ cup flour
 2 cups whole milk
 ½ teaspoon smoked paprika
 ½ cup Parmesan cheese

Wash and butterfly chicken, ensuring long side is still connected. Set aside. Microwave spinach for 30 seconds to 1 minute to wilt.

In a bowl, mix together spinach, feta, tarragon and 2 tablespoons oil. Split mixture into four scoops, placing one scoop on one side of each split chicken. Fold chicken together and press to seal.

Heat oven to 375 F. Prepare a shallow baking dish with cooking spray.

In a skillet, heat remaining olive oil. While heating, mix together panko crumbs, Parmesan cheese, salt and pepper in a shallow dish.

Press stuffed chicken breasts into panko crumb mixture on both sides. Fry until lightly browned on both sides. Set skillet aside.

Place lightly fried chicken in the prepared baking dish. Bake, uncovered, for 35 to 40 minutes until chicken is no longer pink.

While chicken is baking, prepare sauce. In the skillet used to fry the chicken, melt the butter. Stir in flour and create a roux.

Carefully whisk in milk until no lumps appear. Stir in paprika. Cook until sauce is slightly thickened. Stir in Parmesan cheese, and continue to whisk until sauce is thick. If necessary, add more milk to create a smooth sauce, whisking frequently.

Remove chicken from oven. Lay one slice of provolone cheese on each chicken breast. Return to oven for 5 minutes to melt. Allow chicken to rest for 5 to 10 minutes before serving.

To serve, place chicken on a serving platter. Pour sauce on chicken, reserving some for individual use.



Soft Toffee Bars

- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg yolk

2 cups flour

desired

- 1½ cups semisweet
 chocolate chips
 1 cup chopped pecans, if
- 1 teaspoon butter flavoring ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

Heat oven to 350 F.

Spray a 9-by-12-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Line the bottom with parchment paper, then spray parchment.

In a large bowl, cream butter, brown sugar and egg yolk together until smooth.

Mix in butter flavoring and vanilla.

Stir in flour until incorporated. Spread batter in prepared pan. Bake for 25 minutes.

Remove pan from oven. Evenly sprinkle chocolate chips on top. Return to oven for 5 additional minutes.

Remove from oven, and allow to rest for 3 minutes. Gently spread melted chocolate on surface, covering toffee bars.

If desired, sprinkle pecans on top.

Allow bars to cool completely in pan. Slide bars out using parchment paper, and slice into squares.

<image>

Oven-Roasted Mixed Veggies with Balsamic Onions

1 medium-sized red onion

- 3 tablespoons aged balsamic vinegar 1 16- to 20-ounce
 - l6- to 20-ounce bag frozen mixed vegetables

1 medium-sized red potato Salt and pepper, to taste 2 tablespoons dried basil 3 tablespoons olive oil

4-5 tablespoons sliced, crushed almondW

One or two hours prior to preparing vegetables, peel and slice onion into o thin rings. Place in lidded container, and sprinkle with balsamic vinegar. Seal lid and toss to coat. Marinate for a minimum of one hour in refrigerator.

Heat oven to 400 F. Lightly spray a large, rimmed baking sheet with cooking spray.

Cut potato in half, then thinly slice halves. Place in large mixing bowl. Add frozen vegetables, basil, salt and pepper. Toss with olive oil. Place coated vegetables on prepared baking sheet. Sprinkle marinated onions on top of vegetables, lightly stirring to incorporate. Drizzle remaining marinade on top.

Bake for 40 minutes, or until potatoes are slightly soft and vegetables are lightly charred, stirring every 10 minutes.

To serve, place vegetables in baking dish and sprinkle with almonds.





Longtime Employee Honored

A dedication ceremony was held March 25, 2022, in memory of Sonny Parra, who recently died. The ceremony was held at Central New Mexico Community College Rio Rancho Campus. Family, friends and fellow lineworkers attended.

Sonny served Columbus Electric and its members for more than 40 years. He began his career out of high school as an apprentice lineworker. With hard work and dedication, he worked his way up to operations manager. Sonny's commitment to excellence was an integral part of CEC's success. He led his line crew with care and compassion, passing on his knowledge of the industry to many. He was always helpful to our members, no matter the time of day. Sonny's strong work ethic and desire to be of service to others has touched us all.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends.



ABOVE: Friends and family attended a training site dedication ceremony that honored the life and service of Columbus Electric Cooperative's Sonny Parra. BELOW: Pat Valdez and Cade Standifer address attendees at the dedication ceremony for Sonny, who died recently.



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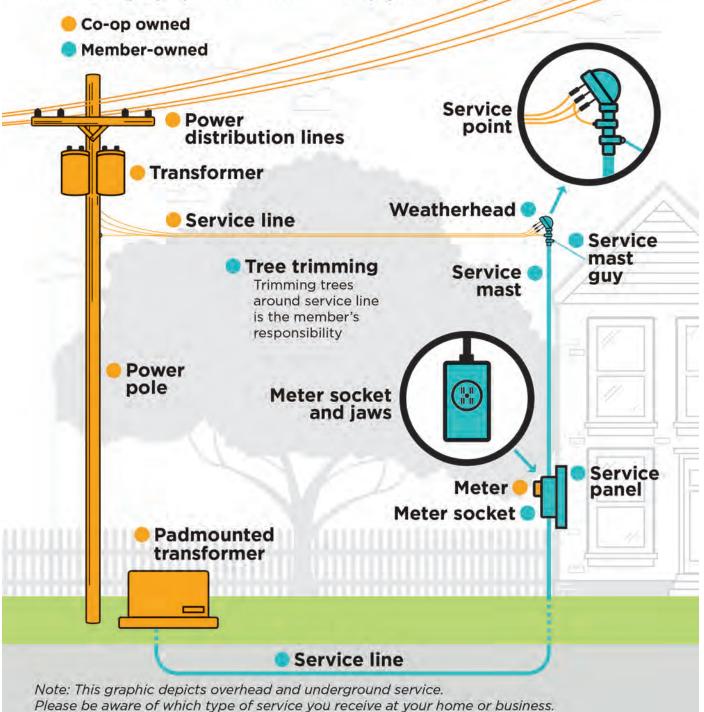
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Who Owns What? Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in **gold**) and the member (in **blue**). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to member-owned equipment.



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Broker has over 50 years 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

FENCE LAKE, 295 PINE HILL

ROAD, 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom home on just over 60 acres, well, outbuildings, corrals, abundant wildlife and scenic views. \$250,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. 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

PIE TOWN, 0 LOU LOU LANE, WILD HORSE SUBDIVISION. Lot

just over 20 acres. Great views. Vacant land. \$29,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

TUCUMCARI - WEST OF UTE

LAKE. East of Quay Road Al. Seven 40 acre (more or less) parcels with lake and mesalands views. One of the seven lots is west of Quay Road Al 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

Deadline

1. Due the 7th, one month prior. Ex: Ads due May 7 for the June issue.

Good to Know

- 1. Only members of New Mexico electric cooperatives may place ads.
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- 2. Email: enchantment@nmelectric.coop

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CONCHAS, 204 CONCHAS

PLACE, 2-bedroom, 2-bath home with great views of the lake. Upper level has kitchen and deck. Tall carport for RV or boat. Two car garage. \$189,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. 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

DATIL, COYOTE TRAIL, BLUEBIRD ROAD AND SUGARLOAF TRAIL. Sugarloaf

Mountain Subdivision. (SOLD, LOTS 241, 268, 269). 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

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

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

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.

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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

SAN MARCIAL, 27A WINCHESTER

ROAD, Willow Springs Ranch Subdivision, 432 acres in the foothills of the Chupadera Mountains. Close to I-25. \$390,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

SEVEN ACRES IN ARROYO SECO NEAR ESPANOLA, ABC The Law

Road. Property has a 1,200 sq. ft. double wide mobile home and 2,500 sq. ft. garage with two 12' stall doors. Private well. Zoned for commercial small manufacturing. \$350,000. Call 505-690-3135 for more information.

TWO 80' TIERED LEVEL LOTS IN CLOUDCROFT. Upper lot, \$95,000. and lower lot, \$90,000. Electricity, water and sewer at property's edge. Lots are 140 yards from center of town. Good for cabin, mobile home or RV parking. Village maintained road. Call 915-479-0522 for more information.

SUMNER LAKE, 225 INDIAN PLACE, SALE PENDING, 3-bedroom, 2-bath home on 20 acres with the edible view of Pecce Live 1 alogy. Custom built \$30,000 acres of the accellation, 575-45602,000 P.u. Stout, broker, NMREL 17845, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

SPRING CANYON RANCH, 3.74 ACRES OF VACANT LAND IN QUEMADO, NM. Electric and water on the property. Storage shed. \$39,000. Call 520-490-0010 for more information.

FOR SALE VACANT LAND IN EDGEWOOD, BERNALILLO

COUNTY, located near I-40 and Mountain Valley, 2 1/2 surveyed acres. Fully fenced, great views, electricity on site and coop water available. \$50,000. Call 505-250-4489 or 505-301-0096 for more information.

SOCORRO HOUSE FOR SALE BY OWNER, 3-bedroom, 1-bath. Move-in condition with city utilities. Plenty of parking and storage space. Fenced yard, stucco exterior, vigas and beautiful cactus garden in front. Quiet neighborhood. \$175,000. Call 570-582-8223 for more information. No texts.

160 ACRE EL MORRO HOME,

4-bedroom Karsten home with steel roofs, garage, gate at state highway, fenced, 30 acres of forest, well, septic, power, internet and 500 gallon owned propane tank. Call 831-917-3151 for more information. View at: http://lsbra.2pi.biz

WATER DOWSING AND

CONSULTING, 46 years of experience. Proven success. In Lincoln County, will travel. Call Elliot Topper at 575-937-2722 for more information.

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

Vehicles

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 at 505-469-0181 in Moriarty, NM for more information.

1959 INTERNATIONAL PICKUP

TRUCK, \$2,000. or best offer, not running. Nice project for someone. Have title. Call 505-979-2057 for more information.

CAR PARTS FOR SALE: 1955

Chevrolet rear bumpers, heater controls, chrome headlight bezels, taillight bezels and lens, no fenders or hood. 1934 Ford, three window coupe parts, one complete hood, front and rear bumpers with brackets. Two Model-T pickup beds. One complete 1936 pickup bed, rolling. 1958 Chevrolet Impala, one hood bar and extension kit, park light pods. 1940 Ford, four door deluxe complete car, not running. Call 575-770-3589 any evening from 6pm till 10pm. In Taos, NM.

youth art

June's Topic: Draw horses racing. The Belmont Stakes is in June.

July's Topic: How do you celebrate July 4? Draw your celebration with family and friends.

Send Your Drawing By mail: Youth Editor 614 Don Gaspar Ave.

Santa Fe, NM 87505 By email: enchantment@nmelectric coon

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. DON'T FORGET THESE ITEMS!

Honoring Silver Star Recipients Congratulations to the Winners!



Lily Montoya • Age 8 Mora-San Miguel Electric Cooperative



Cassidy Robinson • Age 5 Otero County Electric Cooperative



Tatiana Ledezma • Age 7 Central Valley Electric Cooperative



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ELECTRIFY AND SAVE

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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