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# Women in Energy

Women help power electric cooperatives around New Mexico Page 14

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#### THE NEW MEXICO RURAL ELECTRIC

**COOPERATIVES** provide 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 Cooperatives 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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#### Congratulations

to Julie Junod, a Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative member, who posed with her February enchantment

Julie Junod wins \$20!



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General Manager Antonio Sanchez Jr.

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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.



#### **Operating Heavy Machinery?**

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

First rule: Look up! Before carrying anything tall around your yard—like a ladder—know where the overhead power lines are located. Also:

- Most local laws require you to leave a clearance of at least 10 feet from power lines (depending on voltage) when you're operating machinery. Best practice: Give your machinery twice the required clearance to minimize the electrical risks. The manufacturer of your equipment might recommend even greater clearances. Follow those guidelines.
- If a chore requires you to work near a power line, enlist the help of a friend or family member to watch you work an alert you if you're getting too close to the line. If your helper is going to take over the job for a while, stop and reevaluate the safe clearances. Talk about safety plans so anyone who is operating equipment on your property is aware of necessary clearances.
- Use highly visible ground markers to alert your helpers that they're near overhead power lines. Use maps or diagrams to show the

- location of power lines when planning or performing work.
- Machinery such as irrigation pipes, grain augers, silos, drill rigs, cranes, loaders, and excavators can easily contact a power line if you change the position or elevation. Always lower machinery before relocating it.
- Designate areas for high-risk operations such as elevating machinery. Evaluate machinery height before work begins when the tools are well clear of power lines.
- Check power tools for rust and cords for fraying before each use. Never store tools outdoors.
- Carry pipes horizontally—and get a partner to help you. If you try it on your own, you'll wind up carrying the pipes vertically, which makes them more likely to contact a power line.
- Never touch a downed power line—always assume it is live. If your vehicle or tractor or anything you have in tow comes into contact with a power line, do not exit the vehicle. Call Farmers' Electric at 575-762-4466. We urge you to enter this number in your contact list on your phone. You could also dial 911. We can disconnect the line in order for you to safely leave your vehicle. It's always better to be safe than sorry.

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#### **Four Tips for** Winter Safety



It's no surprise that winter months bring increased potential for fire risks and electrical safety hazards. This makes sense because during the coldest months, consumers are using additional electrical devices and appliances, like space heaters, electric blankets and portable generators.

The National Fire Protection Association estimates 47.700 home fires occur each in the United States due to electrical failure or malfunction. These fires result in 418 deaths. 1,570 injuries and \$1.4 billion in property damage annually.

This winter, safeguard your loved ones and your home with these electrical safety tips from the Electrical Safety Foundation International.

- 1. Don't overload outlets. Overloaded outlets are a major cause of residential fires. Avoid using extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliance connections—they should be plugged directly into a wall outlet. If you're relying heavily on extension cords in general, you may need additional outlets to address your needs. Contact a qualified licensed electrician to inspect your home and add new outlets if necessary.
- 2. Never leave space heaters unattended. If you're using a space heater, turn it off before leaving a room. Make sure heaters are placed at least 3 feet away from flammable items. It should also be noted that space heaters take a toll on your electric bills. Using a space heater for just 6 hours a day can increase your electric bill by as much as \$20 per month. If you are using them throughout your home, it may be time to upgrade your home heating system.
- 3. Inspect heating pads and electric blankets. These items cause nearly 500 fires every year. Electric blankets that are more than 10 years old create additional risks for a fire hazard. Inspect your electric blankets and heating pads—look for dark, charred or frayed sports, and make sure the electrical cord is not damaged. Do not place any items on top of a heating pad or electric blanket, and never fold them when in use.
- 4. Use portable generators safely. Unfortunately, winter storms can cause prolonged power outages, which means many consumers will use portable generators to power their homes. Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. For portable generators, plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator. Start the generator first, before you plug in appliances. Run it in a well-ventilated area outside of your home. The carbon monoxide it generates is deadly, so keep it away from your garage, doors, windows, and vents.

#### Annual Meeting Date Set

We look forward to visiting with you Saturday, May 18, 2024, at the cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting of Members.

This meeting will be held in House, New Mexico, at the House High School gym. Prizes will be awarded, and lunch will be served following the business

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.



May 18, 2024 - House High School Gym - House, New Mexico



#### THE ENCHANTED CEO

By Charise Swanson New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives

2024 Legislative Update

Bills discussed in this legislative session include:

SB 45, Broadband Infrastructure SB 43, Utility Easements for Broadband

I write this Thursday, February 15, the last day of the second session of the 56th Legislature in Santa Fe. It has been a hectic yet rewarding few weeks as we have worked through several bills that could have negatively affected our member cooperatives.

Two of those bills are SB 45, Broadband Infrastructure; and SB 43, Utility Easements for Broadband. New Mexico is prioritizing the implementation of broadband across the state in our unserved and underserved areas. In 2021, the state created the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion.

OBAE is seeking approximately \$675 million from a federal grant to assist in this endeavor. While this is a start toward acquiring the money needed to connect all New Mexicans to broadband—areas primarily in rural New Mexico—it is far from the total needed for completing a project of this magnitude. To get ready for broadband deployment, we must prepare our current infrastructure in rural New Mexico, most of which is owned by our cooperative members.

In many cases, this means poles must be replaced, fiber must be installed and new pole attachment agreements need to be executed. We have worked in collaboration with OBAE, rural telecommunications companies and other utilities for several months on the planning stages.

We are grateful for these relationships. We are working diligently to ensure our electric cooperative members have input and can help guide the prioritization process and beyond. We also must protect our membership and ensure our members do not directly or indirectly

subsidize any costs associated with the upgrades needed for the deployment of broadband across the state.

There were many discussions during this session with our legislators and other interested parties about the two aforementioned bills. One bill originally would have specified what the cooperatives could charge for pole attachments. The second bill could give a public utility the right to use or share any utility easement that exists on a parcel of land for purposes of communications infrastructure, even if the existing easement does not provide for that specific type of use.

These bills were written in such a way that cooperatives could not support them, due to concerns about the potential impacts on you, the members. As advocates for your cooperatives and you, we all worked to ensure our voices were heard.

While these two bills did not pass, we recognize we need to proactively be part of the solution for deploying broadband across New Mexico. We will continue to work with our broadband partners and legislators to identify the most effective deployment paths to connect all New Mexicans. We will also continue our advocacy work to ensure legislation and regulation do not impede your rights or your pockets.

I want to personally thank our senators and representatives who, through their persistence and perseverance, make a difference every day in our legislature for the people of New Mexico.

Thanks to all our cooperative leaders and employees, more than 800 strong in this great state, who live to serve our communities and keep the lights on.





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#### **Spring-Cleaning Tips to Use Less Energy**

By Miranda Boutelle

**Q:** What energy-saving tasks I can add to my spring-cleaning list?

**A:** Spring is a great time to refresh, clean and enhance energy efficiency at home. By adopting simple yet effective energy-saving strategies during our spring-cleaning routines, we can create an efficient living environment that may also lower our utility bills and extend the life of our heavily used appliances.

Be sure to include these spring-cleaning tips to add some energy savings to the job.

Check the filter in your heating, ventilation and air conditioning system. Even though it's out of sight, don't leave it out of mind. Your furnace worked hard during the winter. Ensuring your HVAC system has a clean filter is a low-cost and easy way to protect your equipment and maximize efficiency. A dirty furnace filter can cause your system to work harder than necessary, decreasing efficiency and shortening the system's life.

Have your air conditioning serviced and professionally cleaned. Both the indoor and outdoor units should be cleaned. Dirty refrigerant coils reduce efficiency. This also applies to heat pumps and ductless heat pumps, also known as mini-split systems. A technician can check refrigerant levels and refill or make repairs if necessary.

Schedule HVAC service in the spring. HVAC contractors get busy responding to calls during the summer heat. Scheduling cleaning services for your air conditioning in the spring can ensure the work gets done before the rush and even save you money. Some HVAC contractors offer special discounts for cleaning services in the milder months, which helps fill their schedules and keep their technicians working.

Clean window AC units. Window AC units can get dirty, too. They can be cleaned with the proper tools, cleaning agents and know-how. Always unplug the unit before cleaning it, and wait until it is completely dry to plug it back in again. Take the time to clean it properly in the spring before you need it in the summer.



Clean light fixtures and fixture covers. Cleaning can brighten your space by removing dust and grime collected during the winter. While you are at it, check your bulbs and replace any incandescent or compact fluorescent lights with energy-

compact fluorescent lights with energysaving LEDs. Although they tend to cost a little more, LEDs last longer and use less

Buy good LEDs. Good-quality LEDs are expected to last 30,000 to 50,000 hours, according to the Department of Energy. A typical incandescent lamp lasts about 1,000 hours, and a comparable CFL lasts 8,000 to 10,000 hours. To put this into everyday use, if you have an LED light on for 10 hours a day, it can last 13 years compared to only about three months for incandescent bulbs and about two-and-a-half years for CFLs.

Don't forget the oven. A clean oven heats more evenly and quickly, providing better results and lower energy use. A clean oven window allows you to see the food and how it's cooking without opening the oven door, which wastes energy.

Clean and seal windows. If cleaning windows is on the list, check the seals and sash locks to ensure they close tightly. Check for any areas that need caulking or sealing to reduce drafts. Sealing around windows contributes to year-round comfort in your home. Clean windows also allow more light into the home,

ABOVE: While cleaning light fixtures and fixture covers, check your bulbs and replace any incandescent or compact fluorescent lights with energy-saving LEDs. RIGHT: Replacing your furnace filter is a low-cost and easy way to protect your equipment and maximize efficiency. PHOTOS BY MARK



reducing the need to turn on lamps and overhead fixtures.

Spring is the ideal time to declutter, deep clean and implement practices that not only tidy our homes but also reduce energy consumption, contributing positively to our homes' energy efficiency and saving money on energy use.



Miranda Boutelle has more than 20 years of experience helping people save energy. She has worked on energy-efficiency projects from the Midwest to the West Coast. Today, Miranda is chief operating

officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy-efficiency company.

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Comet Nishimura, a somewhat bright comet that was visible late last summer, as it appeared September 5, 2023. During late March and early April, comet Pons-Brooks should exhibit a similar appearance when viewed with binoculars. IMAGE COURTESY OF MICHAEL JAEGER

## Comets in the Night

The planetary show we've been enjoying in the evening sky since the latter part of 2023 still has a few more months to run, although only a few planets remain visible. The primary performer is Jupiter, which is high in the western sky at the end of dusk and sets an hour or so before midnight. Throughout the back half of March, Mercury is also visible in the early evening during dusk, setting around the end of twilight.

Our morning skies are almost totally devoid of planets this month, with the ones that are visible not rising until after the beginning of dawn. Mars continues its slow climb into the morning sky but remains low in the east, while Venus continues its descent deeper into twilight. Saturn, which passed on the far side of the sun at the end of February, has a close conjunction with Venus on the morning of Thursday, March 21, but this event takes place very low in the dawn and will be hard to see.

On Sunday night/Monday morning, March 24-25, the moon passes through the outer portion, or "penumbra," of Earth's

shadow, creating a small eclipse. Mid-eclipse takes place shortly after 1 a.m. MDT. For perhaps an hour on either side of that time the moon will appear grayish and hazy compared to the full moon's normal appearance.

We have an interesting comet visiting our skies this spring. Comet Pons-Brooks returns approximately every 70 years, and was last seen in 1954. It was discovered in 1812, although recent studies have found it to be identical to comets recorded by skywatchers in 1385 and 1457. It was possibly recorded by Chinese astronomers as far back as A.D. 245.

Comet Pons-Brooks has been visible in backyard telescopes since the late summer of last year. During March, it can be seen in our evening sky as it travels through the constellations of Andromeda, Pisces and Aries. On Saturday evening, March 30, it is close to the star Hamal, the brightest star in Aries. Throughout March it should be easily detectable with binoculars. By month's end, it should be dimly visible with the unaided eye.

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At only 26 pounds\*, the Journey Air Elite combines lightweight portability with world class performance. It's simple to use joystick and powerful dual-motor drive system enables you to zip around quickly and safely. It's easy to maneuver, never tips, fits easily through doorways,

and can go right up to a table or desk. Once you are done, just one pull on the seat handle folds it up. There's a fold-down back to make it even easier to stow and store. It features flatfree tires and rear anti-tippers for added convenience and safety.



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# POWER at Your Fingertips

Millennial. We are the generation born between 1981 and 1996, the first to reach adulthood in the new millennium.

We are known as the generation that started the social media boom. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg is a millennial, as are Instagram founders Mike Krieger and Kevin Systrom and TikTok developer Zhang Yiming. My generation has integrated digital technology into our daily lives more than any other generation.

Social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram and TikTok help us keep up with all our friends. We network with professional peers on LinkedIn, can shop 24 hours a day with Amazon, and stream all our favorite shows on Amazon Prime, Netflix, Hulu and YouTube. Need a date to fill that gap in your personal life? There are apps for dating, such as Tinder, Bumble and Hinge. Something for every generation is available online today.

Technology has reshaped electric cooperatives as well. Did you know your local electric cooperative offers an incredible app to put you in control of your energy? Every electric co-op in New Mexico has either an app or an online portal connecting you with your co-op and giving you the option to monitor your energy use and manage your account.

The app my co-op uses is called SmartHub. Other co-ops have different names for their systems. Contact your utility for more

information.

I like that SmartHub gives me the ability to monitor my home's energy use. It even helped us identify an issue with our water heater.

How did an app identify an issue with a water heater? I'm glad you asked. Last spring, our energy use nearly doubled over the course of several days with no changes to the basic air conditioning or heating settings in our home. We contacted a plumber to have them check our water heater, and the plumber found a heater element had failed. The water heater was running continuously and using far more energy. We were lucky to catch this issue within a day or two and correct the problem.

SmartHub provides members with an easy online payment portal to make payments 24 hours a day and the ability to notify the electric cooperative of a service issue or power outage. I can quickly use the app to report a power outage.

You can sign up through SmartHub to receive outage updates or general messaging through text, push notifications, email or phone calls. With these notifications, I better understand when I can expect our power to be restored after an outage. This is a digital feature I have come to appreciate and rely on during severe weather conditions.

Check if your local electric cooperative offers SmartHub or another similar mobile app. It is a useful tool for everyone, not just for millennials.



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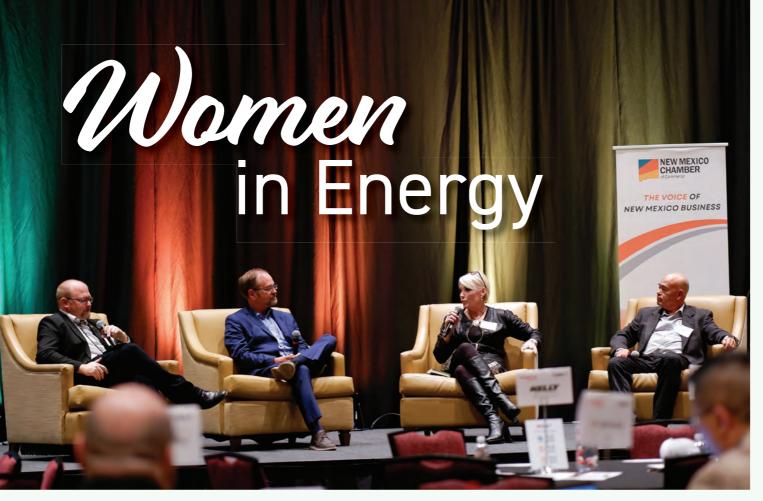




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Come See Us!!!



Charise Swanson, speaking at a New Mexico Chamber of commerce event, is the first woman in NMREC history to serve as its CEO.

#### Women help power electric cooperatives around New Mexico

#### By Lonnie Tucker

March is National Women's History Month. The New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives would like to recognize and honor the women who have blazed a trail and are making history in the utility industry. These women are leaders in our cooperative world and are navigating the road to success in the Land of Enchantment.

Most of the electric cooperative roles across the nation have traditionally been filled by men. In the past couple of decades, women have broken traditional barriers to successfully achieve leadership and other specialized positions within electric cooperatives.

In New Mexico, women make up about 23% of our cooperative workforce. We are privileged to have a woman leading

our rural electric cooperative association and two women leading local electric cooperatives.

Charise Swanson is the first woman in the 80-year history of NMREC to become chief executive officer. Charise joined NMREC at the end of 2022, bringing more than 18 years of experience in the utilities industry and more than 30 years of leadership experience in multiple capacities.

"I'm excited for the opportunity to work with such dedicated leaders and employees across this great state," Charise



work so hard to advance our communities and our co-ops, while ensuring we keep the lights on."

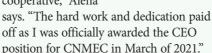
Charise knows leadership inside and out and has served most recently as a mentor for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Women In Power program. The program includes one-on-one and peer mentorship, along with leadership conversations that address key topics women face as they progress in their careers. Charise recently mentored Kassi Mortensen, the new chief executive officer of Duncan Valley Electric Cooperative in Arizona and one of our associate members.

"I am amazed at the talents and skills of up-and-coming leaders like Kassi," Charise says. "I am grateful to have opportunities like these to share knowledge and lend support where I can. What I love the most, is I get to learn, too."

Alena Brandenberger, CEO of Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative, started her cooperative career in 1996 as an accountant in the co-op's Mountainair office. In 1999, Alena

was promoted to accountant/office manager, and three years later became the chief financial officer.

"I served as CFO for Central New Mexico for 20 years, and during this time I worked extra hard to learn about every aspect of our electric cooperative," Alena



Denise Barrera is the first female general manager in the 83-year history of Sierra Electric Cooperative in Elephant Butte. Denise has more than 45 years of experience in the utility industry.

"I enjoy the challenges we face on a daily basis in our industry," Denise says. "The largest project in my career at Sierra Electric Cooperative is forming the partnership with Ethos Broadband to bring fast, reliable internet to our cooperative service territory and members.

> This was also the most gratifying project, as

I witnessed how this technology improved the



Brandenberger, **CEO of Central New** Mexico Electric Cooperative

lives of our members."

Cooperatives are expanding their

searches for prospective senior staff, which has led to a noticeable uptick in the hiring of female-and particularly young female—CEOs and general managers. In 2022, NRECA reported there were about 90 women currently listed as electric cooperative



Denise Barrera, General Manager of Sierra Electric Cooperative

CEOs. We are thrilled to have two in our

Electric cooperatives offer a wide assortment of careers in the following areas: administrative, accounting, finance, communications, data management, dispatch, engineering, energy management, facilities maintenance, fleet mechanic, human resources, heavy equipment operator, marketing, government affairs, GIS technician, legal, lineworker, member service, meter technician, information technology, records information, staking engineer, substation technician, supply chain management, safety and training coordinator and more.

We are seeing more of these roles being taken on by women. Across New Mexico, we have 15 electric cooperatives and two generation and transmission cooperatives as members of New Mexico's Rural Electric Cooperatives, all of which have women in leadership roles and nontraditional roles, such as information technology, regulatory and operations.

As you begin each day in March by turning on your lights in the morning, take a moment to think about the women in the electric industry across New Mexico who brighten each day by delivering your electricity. On behalf of the NMREC, thank you for your service.

ADOBE STOCK GRAPHIC BY VECTORMINE





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#### **HEATING & COOLING WITH HEAT PUMPS**

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, when paired with proper insulation, an electric heat pump can save over 30 percent on your heating and cooling bills compared to conventional HVAC systems. Here are some advantages of a heat pump:

- One system to heat your home (even in sub-zero temperatures) and cool during warmer months
- Eliminate potential carbon monoxide exposure from combustion byproducts
- Costs substantially less to heat your home than propane or electric baseboard heat

#### **POWER UP YOUR GARDENING TOOLS**

Electric garden tools can last longer and are emissions-free, meaning you'll smell the scents of summer, not the smell of exhaust. Plus, with modern technology, they are just as effective as gas-powered alternatives. Just charge the battery and go!

- Low maintenance no oil changes or need to treat fuel, change spark plugs or filters.
- No need to purchase and store gasoline
- Electric models are lightweight and easy to handle

#### **SAVE WITH AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV)**

Sales of light-duty electric vehicles rose by 43% in 2020. On average, EVs have a lower cost of operation over their lifespan, and buyers are taking notice.

- Less maintenance
- Increased savings compared to gasoline
- Fun to drive because of torque

#### **REBATES FOR YOUR HOME**

Contact your local electric co-op or public power district to find out more on available rebates and incentives

Follow along as Mark Faulkenberry shares his firsthand experience with an electric truck

Greetings! My name is Mark Faulkenberry, I am the vice president of marketing for Western Farmers Electric Cooperative. WFEC is a generation and transmission co-op that provides electricity to four New Mexico co-ops.

For the past five years, I have been promoting electric vehicles to our member cooperatives and their consumers. The only problem is that I had not been living what I've been preaching.

For a long time, I drove a GMC internal combustion engine pickup as my company vehicle. Recently, management approved the purchase of an all-electric Ford F-150 Lightning.

I am not your normal driver. I drive more than 30,000 miles per year all over rural Oklahoma and New Mexico. Before approving the purchase, my CEO told me to "drive it everywhere you go and communicate the good ... bad ... and ugly that you experience."

Over the next 12 months, I will use this column to convey my experience in transitioning from a traditional combustion engine vehicle to driving an EV. That experience should be interesting as I am a 63-year-old man and about half redneck—meaning not only are we going to drive this truck, but we are also going to use this truck.

My challenge is to pique your interest with a few paragraphs and ask that you use the QR code to the Western Farmers website for better details on my journey.

First up: Do your homework! Use the QR code to find out what homework I did before deciding which electric vehicle to

#### **Home Charging**

As of this writing, I still don't have my home charger installed. The sooner, the better—working through the extreme cold during January was challenging. But I used workplace and public charging, coupled with the 110-volt mobile charger that came with the vehicle, to do my job, and I didn't get stranded anywhere.



The charger installation process can be slow. I started the process right after Thanksgiving last year, well before purchasing the vehicle.

First, this took place over the holidays enough said. Second, it took more than two weeks for my electric utility to determine which service upgrades were needed. The truck would add an additional 19.2 kilowatts of load, and we evaluated the utility's rate options.

Third, it took a month to work through the process with Ford's preferred nationwide installer, a company called Sunrun. After receiving their quote and picking myself up off the floor from the price shock, I acquired competitive bids on the installation and selected a local installer.

Currently, my installer is coordinating a date with my electric service provider to make the necessary service upgrades on the same day as the charger installation. If I'm lucky and the stars align, maybe I'll have it installed before spring.

Mark Faulkenberry is vice president of marketing for Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, a generation and transmission utility. Any views, thoughts and opinions expressed in Mark's Miles are solely those of the author and do not reflect the views, opinions, policies or position of Western Famers Electric Cooperative, its member cooperatives or their consumers.

#### SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION





Tenturies ago, Persians, Tibetans 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 the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features a unique, one-of-a-kind matrix surrounded in Bali metalwork. You

could drop over \$1,200 on a turquoise pendant, or you could secure 26 carats of genuine Arizona turquoise for just \$99.

Your satisfaction is 100% guaranteed. If you aren't completely happy with your purchase, send it back within 30 days for a complete refund of the item price.

The supply of Arizona turquoise is limited, don't miss your chance to own the Southwest's brilliant blue treasure. Call today!

#### Jewelry Specifications:

• Arizona turquoise • Silver-finished settings

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<sup>\*\*</sup>Complete set includes pendant, chain and earrings.

#### Recipes from the Frontier

To celebrate Women's History Month, this month's recipes are adapted from mid-1800s historical cookbooks from both U.S. Army wives as well as those from early log cabin days. These women survived on the frontier by learning to use simple ingredients from the gardens or a general store—if near enough—to create satisfying meals for their families. Women settlers were strong and intuitive in caring for the needs of their families. Often, generous Native American women became teachers of using what was readily available to feed families.

Prairie soda biscuits are not complicated, but once made, they may become a staple for any meal. The trick for making flaky biscuits? Fold the dough as described in the recipe. The size of the biscuit depends on the baker.

What can be more simple than hash? There are many ways to make hash, but our perky sausage and beef hash is a starter recipe for cooks to add any other vegetable or meat desired.

And for dessert, our pioneer apple stack molasses cake is a simply beautiful and enjoyable treat that uses fundamental ingredients. We make it easier than our early pioneer women could by using prepared apple pie filling.

As an early settler saying goes: May your friends be many, your troubles few and all your sausages long!



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 burn and at home in the kitchen, where she enjoys making new creations.

#### **Prairie Soda Biscuits**

11/2 cups flour 1/2 cup whole wheat flour 1/2 teaspoon baking soda 1/2 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon cream of tartar 4 tablespoons butter, cold 1/2 to 3/4 cup milk

Preheat oven to 400 F. Prepare a baking sheet by lining with parchment paper and lightly spraying with butter-flavored cooking spray.

Place flours, soda, salt and cream of tartar in a mediumsized bowl. Stir to incorporate.

With a fork or a pastry cutter, cut in butter until the mixture resembles crumbs.

Add enough milk to form a stiff dough.

Turn out the dough on a floured surface, and knead until firm. Pat into a rectangle. Fold the dough over in thirds and pat down again until the dough is approximately ½-inch thick. Repeat folding and patting.

Cut biscuits out with a biscuit cutter. Place on the prepared baking sheet, and bake until golden on top, approximately 15 minutes. Tip: If a biscuit cutter is not available, use the top of a floured drinking glass.

Makes 10 to 12 regularly sized biscuits or six larger biscuits.



#### **Perky Sausage and Beef Hash**

1/2 pound ground sausage of choice

1 pound ground beef

1 onion, finely diced

3 potatoes, washed and finely diced

1½ teaspoons cayenne pepper

Salt and pepper to taste

Place meat and onion in a large skillet. Fry until meat is cooked, then drain fat.

Stir in potatoes, cayenne pepper, salt and pepper. Add enough water to cover the mixture. Cover skillet and cook until potatoes are softened and most of the water is evaporated, approximately 30 minutes.

The hash can be served over corn bread or biscuits, alongside eggs, or creamed.

#### To Cream:

After the hash is cooked, drain the excess water and sprinkle ½ cup flour on hash while in skillet. Stir until the flour coats the hash. Add enough milk to cover, stir and bring to a simmer. Stir frequently until the mixture has thickened, adding water to thin to desired thickness and pepper as desired.

Makes 3 to 4½ cup servings.



#### Pioneer Apple Stack Molasses Cake

½ cup milk

1/4 cup shortening

¼ cup butter, softened

1/2 teaspoon baking soda

1 egg

½ cup sugar

1/2 cup molasses

11/2 cups flour

⅓ cup whole wheat flour

1 15-to 20-ounce can prepared apple pie

sup poudor

1/4 cup powdered sugar to garnish

Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease a large, rimmed baking sheet with butter.

In mixing bowl, mix milk, shortening and butter until well blended. Add baking soda and egg. Mix well.

Add sugar and molasses. Mix until smooth.

Stir in flour and continue with whole wheat flour until the dough is stiff. With lightly floured hands, divide into three equal lumps and form each lump into a baseballsized ball. Pat on a lightly greased baking sheet until flattened to approximately an inch.

Bake cakes until a pick comes out clean, approximately 12 to 15 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool.

Place one layer on a serving platter. Spread ¼ can of apple pie filling on the first layer. Place a second layer on top, spreading another ¼ can of pie filling on the added layer. Top with a final layer and cover with remaining pie filling, allowing the filling to drizzle off the sides. To garnish, sift powdered sugar on top.

Makes six to eight slices, depending on size.



#### THE MARKET PLACE

#### **Animals**

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**BLACK ANGUS BULLS** - thick easy fleshing, low maintenance bulls. Range raised at high elevation. Trich and fertility tested. Low birth weight and Herd bulls available. 18-month old bulls available now starting at \$2,600. Yearling bulls available in the spring starting at \$2,200. Call Bobby Salvo at 575-642-0962 for more information.

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**CHAROLAIS BULLS FOR SALE.** 2 yr old's. Trich and Fertility tested. 2 yr old's at \$2,200. Yearlings at \$1,800. Tucumcari. Call 575-815-8155.

**97 SOONER 3 HORSE TRAILER.** Grants, NM. Excellent condition, clear title, pics available upon request. \$15,000 OBO. Call 505-658-5566. Leave message if no answer please.

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#### SUNSET SADDLES OFFERS CUSTOM

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**SICKLE MOWER FOR ALLIS.** Chalmers IB for parts or restoration. Model ACN 6 S#268. Used by the highway Dept. in the 30s - 50s for mowing the sides of the road. Mounts on the side of the tractor. Asking \$250. Call 505-384-4027.

#### **Great Finds**

**BUYING OLD STUFF:** Gas pumps and parts 1960's or earlier, advertising signs, neon clocks, old car parts in original boxes, motor oil cans, license plate collections, Route 66 items, old metal road signs, odd and weird stuff. Fair prices paid. Have pickup, will travel. Gas Guy in Embudo, 505-852-2995.

RAILROAD ITEMS WANTED: Kerosene lanterns, brass locks, keys, badges, uniforms, bells, whistles, and pre-1950 employee timetables. Always seeking items from any early New Mexico railroad, especially D&RG, C&S, EP&NE, EP&SW, AT&SF, SP or Rock Island. Call Randy Dunson at 575-760-3341 or 575-356-6919.

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**FOR SALE:** Stained glass grinder, saw, tools, glass & lead. \$350.00. 575-356-4529.

#### **BEAUTIFUL 1929 WOOD/COAL STOVE.**

Enameled cast iron art-deco in red/green. 30X45X22. Very solid, minor blemishes. Good for store, large room. Not air tight. Orbon Tileona Circulator #244.

**UNM 1926 ANTIQUE** art annex entry doors. 2-32" x 8' doors, 2-16" x 8' sidelites. Rustic oak with beveled glass. State historic 1988. \$2,200. Email pmichaelchavez@gmail.com. 505-269-5175.

#### **Real Estate**

**CONCHAS, 631 CONCHAS DRIVE, MOTIVATED SELLER,** 3bd/2ba home with detached garage and 30x40 boat storage. All Electric \$180,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

**CONCHAS, 626 HIDDEN PLACE,** Three adjoining lots with electricity, septic and community water \$50,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

#### CLOVIS, 809 S. PRINCE, PRICE REDUCED,

Vacant land just under 5 acres south of the intersection of Brady and Prince Streets.

Commercial Potential. \$135,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

MILAGRO, 0000 PECOS SPUR, Portrillo Creek Ranch Subdivision. PRICE REDUCED 164 acres. Wide open space for livestock and/or homesite. Close to I-40. \$84,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

#### **MOUNTAINAIR, 0000 CLIFFORD TRAIL ROAD,**

(aka Torrance County Road BO22) Just over 132 acres north of Mountainair with views of the Manzano Mountains. One hour to Albuquerque. \$105,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

DATIL, 85 NORTHERN TRAIL, Sugarloaf Mountain Subdivision, Two lots totaling just over 13 acrees. Small cabin. Great view of Sugarloaf Mountain. \$45,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

**DATIL, 0000 2 CRISWELL ROAD.** 40 acre tract for \$24,000. Off grid living or hunting. Big Mesa Realty 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, Broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

**DATIL, 0000 2 RED** Feather Well Roadm 40 acre tract for \$24,000. Off grid living or hunting. Big Mesa Realty 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, Broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

**LAKE SUMNER:** Two .75 ac Lakefront/Park front lots, 1 house the other vacant. New approved septic \$125,000. for both. ASPEN Lane 575-263-3681.

**DATIL, 0000 3 HERRINGTON CANYON ROAD, PRICE REDUCED,** 40 acre tract for \$19,000. Off grid living or hunting. Big Mesa Realty 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker, NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

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#### THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING IN DEMING?

Call Heather Wood at Lamplight Realty, LLC 575-936-4100 or cell 575-494-6331, e-mail heather@lamplightrealty.com or visit the website at www.lamplightrealty.com

**PIE TOWN, SOUTH OF WILD HORSE SUBDIVISION** near Goat Ranch Road, Two tracts (east). 20 acres for \$12,000 and 40 acres (north) at \$24,000. Off grid living or hunting. Big Mesa Realty 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker, NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

**CANADIAN RIVER-WEST OF UTE LAKE,** East of Quay Road AI, Six 40 acre (more or less) parcels with lake and mesalands views. Call for appointment to show and pricing. Big Mesa Realty 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker, NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

**GLADSTONE, 4386 SPRINGER** Highway (US 56-412), SALE PENDING, 3bd/2ba home with 36x45 barn and 2 open livestock sheds/lean-tos. Two wells, (one is solar) \$260,000. Big Mesa Realty 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker, NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

**SAN MARCIAL, 27 WINCHESTER ROAD,** Willow Springs Ranch Subdivision, Just over 702 acres in the foothills of the Chupadera Mountains. 3bd/2ba southwestern style home. Beautiful mountain views and sunsets. Close to I-25. \$1,249,000. Big Mesa Realty 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker, NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

SANTA ROSA, 1070 BAR Y ROAD, Hollywood Ranch Subdivision, Three parcels (18,19,20) totaling just over 41 acres. Perimeter fencing and road. Water and electricity. \$125,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

**TUCUMCARI, 10445 STATE ROAD 104, SALE PENDING,** 10.53 acres (total of two tracts) one with septic. well. Close to electricity and community water \$60,000. Big Mesa Realty 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker, NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

**TUCUMCARI, 0000 QUAY ROAD 63.4,** Tu-Cam Subdivision, Two one acre lots to sell together for \$10,000. Close to Tucumcari Boulevard. Big Mesa Realty 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker, NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

**TUCUMCARI, 1120 S SARATOGA,** just over 1 acre along US 54 (Mountain Road). City water nearby. \$20.000. Big Mesa Realty 575 456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker, NMREL 17843, 575 760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

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437 STATE RD, LOS OJOS, NEW MEXICO. Year round living access, fully & completely furnished + wood stove. Very well maintained 2008 MFD. 1 bed, 1 bath home on 5.05 acres, W/ pond. Fenced for Horses, fenced yard for pets, 14'x40' attached covered deck, w/ deck wood stove & 70" Flatscreengreat entertainment area. Home has attached double carport that is connected to Deck & patio, -All connecting- 1 Large metal constructed- Snow covering- home, deck, patios, w/ cooking pit. Forced air furnace, 120v A/C. Rutheron water, septic system. Beautiful views of Brazos mountains. 20'x40' shop, 10'x 16' overhead door. 48" deep concrete 8" foundation & floor, 5/8 " solar board walls & roof w/ pro panel. 100 amp elec.service, FULL RV (30/50amp) hookups & pad, Custom built 1800's style walk-in smokehouse. Additional 12'x 24' prefab cabin, finished & insulated, double windows & porch, with wood stove & electrical, 2 attached wood storage sheds, 4 cords pine/ 2 cords oak w/property. Lots of winter Elk & Deer!! A Must see for all the Amenities! Asking \$289K. Call for Showing or Pics, 785-249-4156 or 505-977-7987.

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Huge horse barn with three stalls, 1.5 acres of land, 4-bedroom, 2.75 bath, 2,542 approximate sq. ft. Contact Nick Ceccacci at 505-206-4119 or visit MLS #1041671 for more information.

**DOWNTOWN CHAMA.** Two large adjoining residential lots for sale. Excellent location. Walk to rodeo grounds and Village Park to enjoy Chama Days festivities. All utilities available. Owner financing. Selling for \$32,000 and \$30,000 each. Discount for cash purchase. Call Rick at 505-300-6148 for details.

IN TOWN CHAMA HIGHWAY FRONTAGE. Half acre prime commercial highway frontage for sale. Property comes with small office type building with electric service installed. All other utilities available at street. Commercial possibilities or use as family gathering for Chama Days. Selling for \$89,500. Owner financing. Discount for cash purchase. Call Rick 505-300-6148 for details.

PROPERTY FOR SALE BY OWNER: 240 acres 8 miles SW of Estancia, Torrance County, NM. \$180,000. Additional 240 acres available nearby with water rights for a portion of the acreage, price to be determined. Call 575-626-2591 for more information.

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Due the 7th, one month prior.
 Ex: Ads due March 7 for the April issue.

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- 2. We reserve the right to reject any ad.
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#### Questions?

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# We've Found the Most Beautiful Endangered Species

Theirs sold at auction for \$226,000. Ours is JUST \$29! Curious? Read on!

To art nouveau jewelers at the turn of the last century, nothing was more beautiful than the dragonfly. In the dragonfly's long body and outstretched wings, jewelers found the perfect setting for valuable stones. These jewelers' dragonfly designs have become timeless statements of style; a dragonfly pendant designed by French jeweler René Lalique recently sold at auction for \$226,000. Inspired by his stunning artistry, we've crafted our Dragonfly Nouvelle Collection, an elegant jewelry set for JUST \$29!

True artisanship in Austrian crystal and yellow gold. This necklace and earring set features gorgeous multicolored enamel paired with Austrian crystals and a yellow gold finish. Ask any jeweler and they'll tell you it takes true artisanship to properly blend the blues and purples found in this enamel. While art nouveau dragonflies are hard to come by, we're helping to repopulate their numbers with this artfully stylized depiction of some of nature's smallest wonders!

#### A NEARLY \$400 VALUE FOR JUST \$29!

Buy the pendant, get the earrings FREE. If Stauer were a normal company, we'd sell the necklace and earrings for \$199 each, but because we engage the world's best artisans and cut out the middlemen to sell directly to you, we're offering the necklace for JUST \$29! Even better: If you buy within the next few days, we'll throw in the earrings for FREE! That's a nearly \$400 value for JUST \$29!

Act fast! The first time we ran this jewelry in our catalog, it sold out in a matter of days. Get this collection now before this offer goes extinct!

#### Jewelry Specifications:

- Enamel with Austrian crystal. Yellow gold finish
- Pendant: 1 ½" W x 1 ¼" H. Chain: 18" + 2", lobster clasp. Earrings: 1 ¼" L, french wire

**Dragonfly Nouvelle Collection** 

A. Necklace +\$199 \\$29\* + S&P Save \$170

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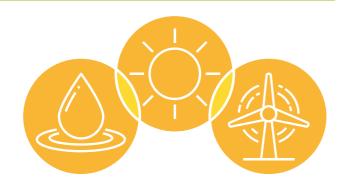
Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. DFC237-01, Burnsville, MN 55337 www.stauer.com

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES WORD SEARCH

The electricity that powers our homes is generated by a variety of fuel sources, including renewables. Renewable energy comes from natural resources, like the wind and the sun. Can you find all the renewable energy-related words in the puzzle below?



S XWE S X H OX GF Ε Α Z S K R S Ν S Q Α Т В I Q Ν R В X Н D Α S R K Т R Ε 0 G Α S S Р Α Ε Ν F R S В C Q Т R Ε Q В D Ν В X X Н R D Ν Ε Ε D Ε G Ν R Р X D Α D Ε Ζ F G Т S Α Ν Ε J Ε Н 0 G В P Ν J Ε Н R K



#### WORD BANK:

- HYDROPOWER
   GEOTHERMAL
- WIND TURBINE
   BIOMASS
- RENEWABLE
   GENERATION
- SOLAR PANELS
   SOLAR ENERGY
- WIND ENERGY

enchantment.coop MARCH 2024 **25** 



The Land of Enchantment. New Mexico is filled with stunning desert landscapes, breathtaking mountain ranges, and a diverse range of 18 national and 35 state parks, not to mention historic cities such as Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Las Cruces and Taos. New Mexico is a fusion of culture with Native American, Mexican and Spanish heritage. It is a truly unique state offering something for everyone. Here are a few local events you might want to add to your calendar:

#### March 1-3 - Albuquerque

#### National Fiery Foods & BBQ Show

Not for the faint of palate, this show in Albuquerque showcases more than 1,000 different products from the U.S. and around the world for tasting and purchase. There are cooking and barbecue demonstrations, food samples, Scovie Award-winning products (recognized as the top Fiery Food Products in the world) and 505 Food Fights, a culinary competition for charity where professional cooks and chefs from around the state perform head-to-head, creating dishes based on mystery ingredients. www.fieryfoodsshow.com

#### March 1-31 - Winston

#### **Dude Ranch Spring Break**

Spring Break in New Mexico? Yes! Spring break often conjures images of crowded beaches, long lines at theme parks and rowdy party people. Instead, consider an invitation to a whole different kind of New Mexico spring break at Geronimo Trail Guest Ranch. You won't find any obstacles standing in your way within the 3.3-million-acre Gila National Forest. Unlike many other dude ranches, it opens for the season in March, and encourages guests to take full advantage of those spring months for some of the best riding in the West! geronimoranch.com

#### March 2-3 - Mesilla

#### New Mexico Pecan Festival

Bring your family and friends to celebrate the rich culture and heritage of our beautiful state of New Mexico and the town of Mesilla. The festival is a celebration of one of the most iconic and beloved crops of the region-pecans! Come join us for a weekend of delicious food, live music, activities for all ages and, of course, pecan pie. www.nmpecanfest.com

#### March 6 and 28 - Santa Fe

#### Tamales Cooking Class & Lunch

Spend three hours learning the intricacies of making traditional tamales. This hands-on class highlights different tamale-making techniques for three types—red chile and pork: Southern Mexican chicken in banana leaf; and blue corn calabacita—all accompanied by an authentic New Mexican red chile sauce. Attendees will use these techniques to make their own tamales, share their experiences with the chef while they cook and then enjoy the tasty fruits of their labor at the end of class.

santafeschoolofcooking.com/cooking-classes

#### March 9 - Truth or Consequences

#### Second Saturday Art Hop

Since July 2005, many downtown shops, galleries and studios have opened their doors to the public from 6-9 p.m. each month for the Art Hop. If you enjoy a bit of night life and are coming to Sierra County for the weekend, time your trip to coincide with the monthly Truth or Consequences Second Saturday Art Hop and take in art (guaranteed), music (highly probable), performance (not unheard of), food (absolutely!) and other entertainment on the streets of T or C and in its downtown businesses.

sierracountynewmexico.info/entertainment/ truth-or-consequences-art-hop

#### March 21-24 - Albuquerque

#### Chicharra Poetry Slam Festival

The Chicharra Poetry Slam Festival gathers more than 70 poets from across the nation in Albuquerque for three days of poetry slams, workshops, themed readings highlighting marginalized voices and specialty showcases. All the preliminary events are free to attend. All are welcome to participate, share their craft and learn alongside these national talents. Events will occur in multiple venues across town during daytime and evening hours, so be sure to check the schedule on the event website.

www.cicadapoetryslamfestival.com

#### March 23-24 - Watrous

#### Civil War: New Mexico Territory, 1862

Fort Union National Monument, Exposed to the wind within a sweeping valley of short grass prairie and along the eroded Santa Fe Trail lie the adobe-walled ruins of the largest 19th century military fort in the region. From 1851 to 1891, Fort Union functioned as an agent of change in the New Mexico Territory and throughout the Southwest. Learn of the star fort's construction, the Battle of Glorieta Pass and more with this 60-minute program. Seating provided. Starts at 10 a.m.

www.nps.gov/foun/planyourvisit/events-calendar.htm

#### Include Your Upcoming Event

Our enchantment magazine readers asked for a local event calendar. Here is a preview of the new Around New Mexico calendar highlighting local events throughout the Land of Enchantment. Send your event details to eventcalendar@nmelectric.coop. Include the event title, date, town and a summary of the event. Include the event website address so readers can get additional event information. Submit the event notification at least 60 days before the event to meet our press deadline. Space is limited and events are run at the discretion of the editor.



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## Rethinking Energy

How using more electricity can save money and improve quality of life

#### By Paul Wesslund

Of all the world's changes the past 30 years, few are as significant as how we use energy.

In the 1990s, new drilling techniques brought a boom in natural gas production. That increase in supply cut prices so much that natural gas started replacing coal power plants, which used to generate half of the country's electricity. Concern for the environment grew, and now renewable energy produces more of our electricity than coal.

Major changes to how we use energy have also come into our homes.

If you go to the movies and forget to turn off your kitchen lights, you can switch them off from an app on your phone. If you're returning from vacation, you can adjust your thermostat from anywhere so the temperature of your home is comfortable when you get back.

Every vehicle manufacturer is racing to build electric models. Last year, Ford started producing an electric version of its bestselling pickup truck. And the F-150

isn't just being promoted as better for the environment. The ads show it running power tools on a remote job site.

Showing such benefits of electric vehicles highlights a whole new way of thinking about energy.

#### **Powering Your Home With a Truck**

For example, instead of buying a gasolinepowered pickup truck, you could consider the advantages of electric options. A traditional gas-powered model might be best for long trips, but how many miles a

# Ford's electric pickup, the F-150 Lighting Pro, can even power your home during a prolonged power outage. PHOTO COURTESY OF FORD MOTOR COMPANY

day does the truck typically travel? What would it be like to plug it in overnight and never have to visit a gas station again? What if it could also power home appliances during a power outage?

There's a name for that kind of thinking—beneficial electrification. Although that phrase doesn't easily roll off the tongue, the idea is catching on because it's basically a way to get things done better and cheaper.

There's even an organization called the Beneficial Electrification League. The group aims to improve the nation's economy by making broader use of electricity—from heating and cooling homes and businesses to deploying electric school buses and replacing diesel motors on farm irrigation systems with more efficient electric models.

The benefits of electrification, BEL says, are money savings, reduced

#### ENERGY-SAVING GADGETS AND GIZMOS

With the holidays approaching, shoppers will soon be eyeing an abundance of devices and gadgets to gift friends and loved ones—or to buy for themselves.

Ask yourself how smart you want your home to be. Smart plugs, energy-use apps and home monitors are cool devices that can help you save energy. But it helps to understand how they work to make the most of them. But as electronics get smarter, even non-tech-savvy people find them easier to use.

**Get the most bang for your buck.** The most frequently recommended energy-saving device is a smart thermostat. And that makes sense because the thermostat controls your heating and cooling, which account for the most energy consumption in your home. Smart thermostats can be programmed to adjust the heating or cooling when you're sleeping or out of the house during the day. Additional features on some models include detecting movement in a room to adjust energy use, responding to voice commands and tracking the weather.

**Do a simple energy checkup.** Take a walk through your home to identify everything that uses electricity. You'll likely notice many functions that could be managed with smart devices. If your phone sits plugged in long after it's charged, smart power strips and smart outlets can stop the electricity use when the battery is at 100%. Smart lightbulbs can be controlled with an app on your phone, saving energy and giving your home that lived-in look when you're away. Ceiling fans can automatically adjust for the best airflow, depending on the temperature. Motion detectors can turn indoor lights on and off when you enter or leave a room; even solar-powered outdoor lights can detect when you're approaching and light the way.

With just a little planning, you can make sure this gift-giving season is merry, bright—and smart.

environmental impact, improved quality of life and smoother operation of the nation's increasingly internet-connected electric grid.

Environmental impact is one of the clearest effects of switching from fossil fuel to electricity. Natural gas, coal and oil all produce greenhouse gases. Electricity uses some fossil fuels to generate power but is increasingly made with renewable energy. So switching from an internal combustion engine to an electric vehicle, for example, will reduce the burning of fossil fuels.

#### No More Gas Cans

Utilities are exploring ways to use the growing number of electric vehicles to create a more resilient electric grid. Using smart-grid analytics, all those electric cars sitting in garages and charging overnight could supply power back into the electric system during outages or when the demand for electricity is high.

Consumers can also consider beneficial electrification for their homes to see how electric options might improve quality of life. Replacing lawnmowers, leaf blowers and other yard tools with battery-powered versions would reduce noise and eliminate the need for gas and oil cans in the garage.

You might love your gas stove and heating system, but do you like it enough to pay for two forms of energy, with gas and electric bills coming due even when you're on vacation? Add to that the continual improvements in electric heat pumps that will heat and cool your home with an incredible 300% efficiency.

And if you're concerned about power outages, battery backup systems are getting increasingly powerful and efficient. Compared to a gasoline-powered generator, a battery wouldn't need to be "started up" and wouldn't emit poisonous carbon monoxide.

You may not be ready to make the switch to all electric. These shifts can take time as technology advances and costs become more competitive. However, the notion of beneficial electrification offers a new way to evaluate the tools we depend on for everyday life.

## youth

#### **April Topic:**

Draw your dream castle to live in.

#### May Topic:

#### Happy Cinco de Mayo!

Draw your favorite traditional food to celebrate the holiday.

#### **Send Your Drawing**

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

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

#### Hooray!

Winners receive a \$15 gift card.

#### Have a Youth Art Topic?

Email or mail to the addresses above, or call 505-982-4671.

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

......

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

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Artwork accepted up to age 13.

#### Happy Women's History Month! Congratulations to the winning artists who drew a picture of a woman who inspires them.

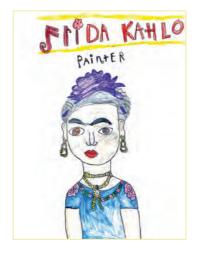
Sebastian De La Cruz · Age 5 Lea County Electric Cooperative



Emerald Gomez · Age 13 Socorro Electric Cooperative



Lily Montoya · Age 10 Mora-San Miguel Electric Cooperative



Jasmine Acosta · Age 13 **Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative** 



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