

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

enchantment

**ROOSEVELT COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

AUGUST 2022

A Famous Bite

The Owl Bar in San Antonio has a long history of making the New Mexico's best green chile cheeseburgers

Page 14



Janice Argabright is the fourth generation of her family to manage the Owl Bar. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARILYN CONWAY

GMCS 2022 - 2023 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Independence Day
07/4/2022

JULY '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JANUARY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Students Return
01/2/2023
Report Cards
01/06/2023
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
01/16/2023

First Day of School
08/11/2022

AUGUST '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Parent Teacher Conference
02/06/2023
Presidents' Day
02/20/2023

Labor Day
09/5/22
Parent Teacher Conference
9/12/2022

SEPTEMBER '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

MARCH '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Spring Break
03/13-17/2023
End of Third Quarter
03/10/2023
Report Cards
03/24/2023

Fall Break
10/13-14/2022
End of First Quarter
10/12/2022
Report Cards
10/21/2022

OCTOBER '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

APRIL '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Navajo Sovereignty Day
04/24/2023

Veterans Day
11/11/2022
Thanksgiving Break
11/21-25/2022

NOVEMBER '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

MAY '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Memorial Day
05/29/2023
Last Day of School/End of Fourth Quarter
05/26/2023
Report Cards
05/31/2023

Winter Break
12/19-23/22
12/26-30/22
End of Second Quarter
12/16/2022

DECEMBER '22						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNE '23						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

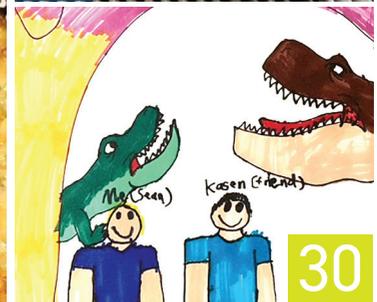
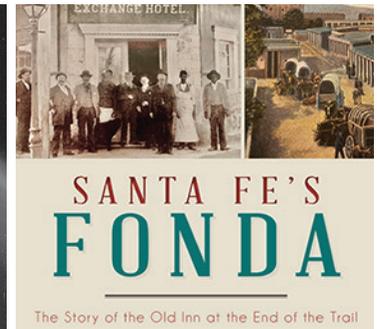
Juneteenth
06/19/2023



August
2022

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We live in the Land of Enchantment ...

We are *enchantment!*

Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

Lower your water heating costs by using less hot water. Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy—and money—used for heating water, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to buy a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are Energy Star-certified.

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Take a photo of you holding
YOUR MAGAZINE AND WIN!

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

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

Email to: enchantment@nmelectric.coop

Congratulations to Lucinda Chavez, who took her March 2022 edition of *enchantment* to Dollywood for a birthday celebration. Lucinda says she checks the youth art page every month, hoping to see a winner from her hometown.

Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative member Lucinda Chavez wins \$20!



enchantment

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view from enchantment

By Keven J. Groenewold, CEO

New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association



County Fairs Return

In late summer or early fall, most states have a time-honored ritual. Here, after the warm doldrums have given way to the late summer monsoons and before the school buses start their weekly schedules, most everywhere in New Mexico people gather at the county fair. In fact, about 3,200 county fairs happen every year in this country. This is a tradition that was put on hold the last couple of years in many places.

County fairs become the heart and soul of our communities in late summer. From the exhibit halls to the livestock show arena, events that are entertaining and critical to the fair have been entrusted to young people. Months of work have gone into preparation for these events; the children have been tending to their animals before and after school since the start of the year, feeding, grooming, and teaching them to walk on a leash or halter.

When the time for judging arrives, the boys and girls lead their animals into the judging arena. Steers, pigs and sheep strut around in a circle. After all the parading, the judge makes a decision. Purple, blue and red ribbons are handed out as the judge selects the grand champion and reserve grand champion.

And then, at last, the main event: the Junior Livestock Auction. This is what it all comes down to. All the community leaders fill the bleachers as the children once again lead their animals into the show arena. The bidding starts slow and then gains momentum. In some cases the bidders have as unique a style as the animals being auctioned.

From a hardly distinguishable nod to a wild bark, bidders run up the prices. At some point, the bidding becomes more about paying tribute to a young person's

hard work than the meat the animal provides. These experiences give children a taste of the spotlight and help develop leadership qualities.

Your local co-op didn't need a steer; they'll save the meat for a future co-op event. However, it is this involvement in the community that brings the meaning of the local fair home. With time donated by everyone—from ring hands to the auctioneer—and let's not forget Mom and Dad—the summer tradition lays a moral foundation for our youth.

This is also a time when your local FFA and 4-H chapters show their stuff, from food stands to exhibits at the fair. The county fair is a social and professional networking opportunity for young people. Skills can be learned that better prepare young people for their chosen career path or may open up new pathways.

Every possible thing that can be canned, baked, knitted or grown has a category. Whether you are into jams or pies, hand-stitched clothing or crochet, watercolor or oil paints, there is an entry number awaiting you. It is a great way to meet people with common interests. You may join a new quilting club or be asked to join other similar contests.

And what would a county fair be without entertainment. After a busy day exhibiting, it is time to kick back and relax—maybe listen to a good local country or Spanish band. You can also put in your earplugs and enjoy a little stock car racing or the fan favorite tractor-pulling contest.

Wherever your interests lie, the county fair has something for everyone. So, go check it out this year. You may take a liking to deep-fried Twinkies or turkey legs and, along the way, rekindle old friendships or make new ones. 



The Tau Herculid meteor shower on May 31, 2022, is seen from space during a five-minute exposure. COURTESY OF ZHUOXIAO WANG, YANGWANG-1 SPACE TELESCOPE, ORIGIN SPACE

Transitioning scenes

Since close to the beginning of this year most of the planet activity in our skies has taken place in the hours before and during dawn. For a couple of months, there were nearly no bright planets visible during the evening hours. Finally, in August the scene of that activity starts transitioning into the hours before midnight.

Saturn is already rising in the southeast as darkness falls, and Jupiter follows along about two hours later, with both worlds remaining high and easily visible throughout the rest of the night. Saturn is at “opposition”—directly opposite the sun in the sky—on August 13, and Jupiter is similarly placed during the latter part of September. Meanwhile, Mercury is also visible during the evening hours but remains very low above the horizon during dusk and

is not easy to see.

Mars rises around midnight and remains visible in the eastern sky throughout the morning hours, growing ever brighter as it approaches its own opposition late this year. The planet Venus is also visible in the eastern sky during dawn, but after being a morning-sky beacon for the past six months, it is gradually sinking into the twilight and will disappear within another month.

August is the time of year for the annual Perseid meteor shower, which peaks August 12 or 13 and normally produces in excess of 60 meteors per hour. This year, however, the moon is full right around that same time, and this in turn will drastically reduce the number of meteors a sky-watcher might see. There are a few other, weaker

showers active this time of year, including the Delta Aquariid shower that peaks in late July, that might produce meteors at other times of the month. But we will have to wait until next year to see a strong display from the Perseids.

Three months ago, this feature mentioned the possibility of a moderately strong shower appearing from the constellation Hercules near the end of May, the result of debris from a dim comet known as 73P/Schwassmann-Wachmann 3. It turned out a shower did indeed occur, but wasn't especially strong, briefly producing at most about 30 meteors per hour. The parent comet is visible in our sky this month but will only be visible low in the southwest after dusk and will require at least a moderate-size backyard telescope to be seen. 

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 so it weighs only 47.2 lbs. It features one-touch folding and unfolding - when folded it can be wheeled around like a 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



Available in Green, Black and Blue (shown)



The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

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? Call now, and find out how you can get a **Zinger** of your very own.



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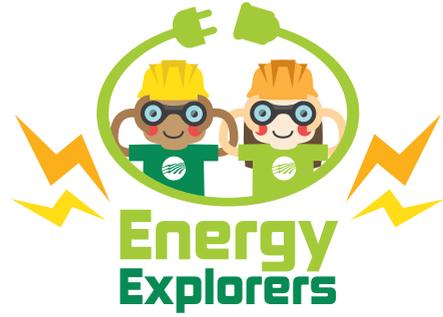
The Zinger and Zoomer Chairs are personal electric vehicles and are not medical devices nor wheelchairs. They are not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. They are not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle



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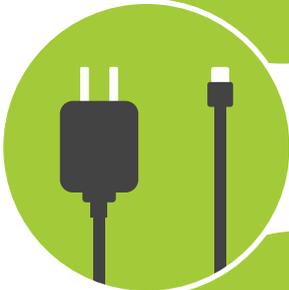
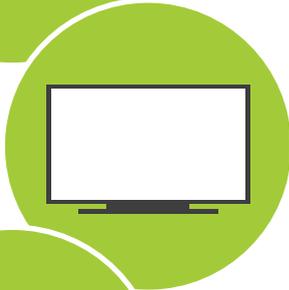
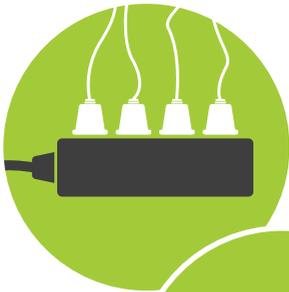
ELECTRONICS WORD SCRAMBLE

You can be more energy efficient by turning off unused electronics. Many electronics consume energy even when they're not being used. Unplug them to save energy.



Unscramble the letters below to reveal electronics you can turn off when not in use.

Use the pictures for clues and check your work in the answer key.



1. NEPOH EHGRAC

2. MGAE NOESCLO

3. LCAEB XBO

4. EWROP PRTIS

5. ONSILEETIV

WORD BANK

Power strip Television Game console

Cable box Phone charger

ANSWER KEY: 1) PHONE CHARGER 2) GAME CONSOLE 3) CABLE BOX 4) POWER STRIP 5) TELEVISION

Now, THIS is a Knife!

This 16" full tang stainless steel blade is not for the faint of heart —now **ONLY \$99!**

In the blockbuster film, when a strapping Australian crocodile hunter and a lovely American journalist were getting robbed at knife point by a couple of young thugs in New York, the tough Aussie pulls out his dagger and says "That's not a knife, THIS is a knife!" Of course, the thugs scattered and he continued on to win the reporter's heart.

Our Aussie friend would approve of our rendition of his "knife." Forged of high grade 420 surgical stainless steel, this knife is an impressive 16" from pommel to point. And, the blade is full tang, meaning it runs the entirety of the knife, even though part of it is under wraps in the natural bone and wood handle.

Secured in a tooled leather sheath, this is one impressive knife, with an equally impressive price.

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 *Down Under Bowie Knife*.

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 *Down Under Bowie Knives* for this ad only. Don't let this beauty slip through your fingers at a price that won't drag you under. Call today!

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Compact
Binoculars**
-a **\$99 value-**
with purchase of
Down Under Knife



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



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California residents please call
1-800-333-2045 regarding
Proposition 65 regulations
before purchasing this product.



Not shown
actual size.

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Ready, Set (Your),

Thermostat



We want our homes to be comfortable year-round. Once we understand how to optimize our thermostats for energy efficiency, we can find the balance between comfort and affordability. PHOTO BY MARK GILLILAND/PIONEER UTILITY RESOURCES

Q: How do I adjust my thermostat to use less energy and still be comfortable?

A: Heating and cooling accounts for about half the energy used in a typical home, so it is a great place to use less energy. Your thermostat can help reduce wasted energy.

Read on for information on thermostat types, common operational misconceptions and best practices you can start today.

Types of Thermostats

Mechanical thermostats are easy to control by adjusting a dial or sliding switch. The downfall is you must make temperature adjustments manually, which is easy to forget to do. They are inefficient because they typically heat or cool the home beyond the set point.

If your cooling is set to 72 degrees, a mechanical thermostat may cool your home to 70 degrees before it turns off, wasting energy. Then it might not come on again until the home reaches 74 degrees. That four-degree temperature change is noticeable and can lead people to adjust the thermostat setting down even more, which wastes

additional energy.

Some mechanical thermostats contain mercury. To determine if yours does, remove the front plate and look for small glass bulbs. If your thermostat contains mercury, replace it and find a way to properly recycle it.

Digital thermostats are more accurate and efficient. Some are programmable, which is a great option for people who don't have internet or don't want their thermostat data tracked.

Smart thermostats—which require an internet connection—are Wi-Fi-enabled and can be controlled using a smartphone app. Programming is easier, and you can track and manage use and temperature data. However, that data is shared with the manufacturer.

Smart thermostats can learn your preferences and set a schedule that automatically adjusts the temperature. Some have geofencing, which adjusts the temperature based on your smartphone's distance from home.

Misconceptions

A common misconception is the higher you turn your thermostat up or down, the faster your home's temperature will change. Turning your

thermometer up to 90 degrees to heat your home faster is like repeatedly pushing the elevator call button and expecting it to come faster.

It's likely you will forget you adjusted it and waste energy by heating or cooling the home more than necessary. Set your desired temperature for heating and cooling or program your thermostat so you don't make extreme adjustments.

Many people believe it takes more energy to heat or cool a house instead of leaving it the same temperature. The larger the temperature variance between inside and outside, the more energy your system uses.

Setting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day can save up to 10% a year on your energy bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Best Practices

Use these DOE heating and cooling tips to add efficiency

and savings to your home:

- Set your thermostat to 68 degrees in the winter when you are home and awake, and cooler at night or when you are away. Set it to 78 degrees in the summer when you are home and awake, and warmer at night or when away.
- Upgrade to a programmable or smart thermostat that automatically adjusts the temperature throughout the day and when you leave the house.
- When on vacation, set your thermostat to 55 degrees in the winter and 85 degrees in the summer.
- In the summer, fans allow you to set your thermostat about 4 degrees warmer without feeling it. Remember, fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave a room.

Use your thermostat to optimize energy efficiency and find a balance between comfort and affordability. 



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

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To me, it’s the best sleep chair I’ve ever had.”**

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



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Our **Perfect Sleep Chair®** does all that and more. More than a chair or recliner, it’s designed to provide total comfort. Choose your preferred heat and massage settings, for hours of soothing relaxation. Reading or watching TV? Our chair’s recline technology allows you to pause the chair in an infinite number of settings. And best of all, it features a powerful lift mechanism that tilts the entire chair forward, making it easy to stand. You’ll love the other benefits, too. It helps with correct spinal alignment and promotes back pressure relief, to prevent back and muscle pain. The overstuffed, oversized biscuit style back and unique seat design will cradle you in comfort.

Generously filled, wide armrests provide enhanced arm support when sitting or reclining. It even has a battery backup in case of a power outage.

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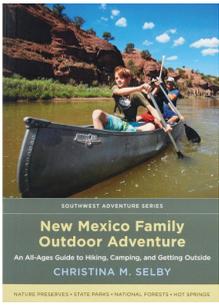
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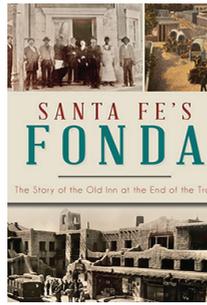
New Mexico Family Outdoor Adventure

As August inches forward and hot days give way to milder temps and cool evenings—and the throngs of tourists ebb—our

state's great outdoors beckon us for an epic adventure. You're set up for success with Christina M. Selby—a naturalist, photographer and science writer based in Santa Fe—as a guide.

Whether your passion is hiking, climbing, biking, camping, bird watching, fishing or seeking out cultural attractions, planning helps. With this practical guidebook organized geographically and graded for difficulty and age-appropriateness, you have the benefit of gear lists, applicable advice, maps, photos and pro tips to help you make the most of New Mexico's most alluring outdoor destinations.

By Christina M. Selby
University of New Mexico Press
unmpress.com



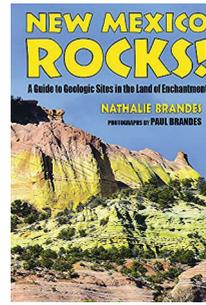
Santa Fe's Fonda

Throughout New Mexico's early Spanish centuries, travel throughout the region was heavily restricted. Those who defied the Spanish law that forbid outsiders

from entering were often locked up, and even tortured. It wasn't until Mexican independence in 1821 that this enchanting land was open to the flood of traders from the United States making their way along the Santa Fe Trail.

In his latest paperback chronicle, Dr. Allen R. Steele takes a break from his downtown Santa Fe oral history tours to offer a deep dive and a loving ode to one of the nation's oldest hospitality corners at the southwest corner of the ancient Santa Fe Plaza.

By Allen R. Steele
The History Press
arcadiapublishing.com



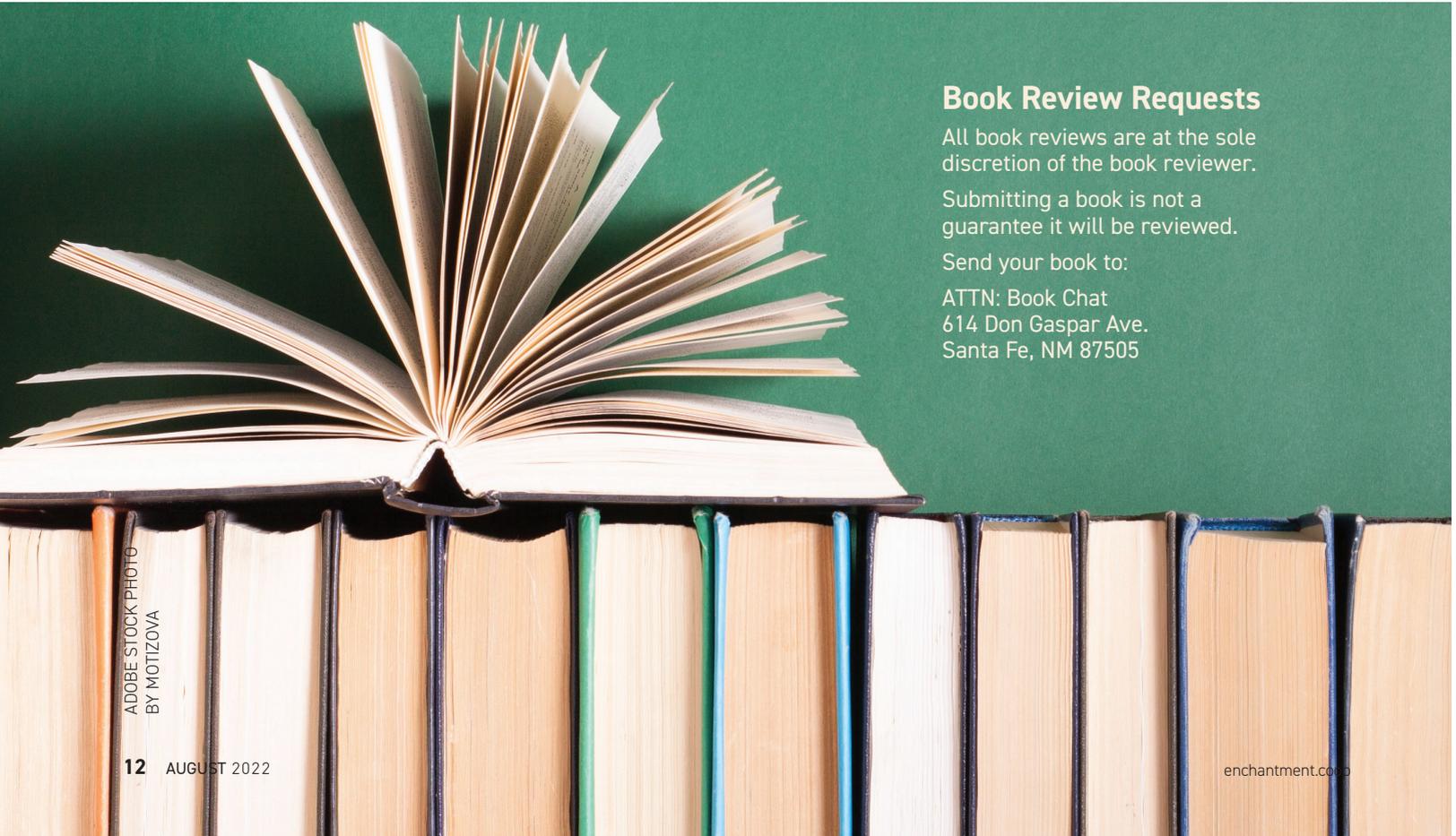
New Mexico Rocks!

From supervolcano calderas to young basalt flows and cinder cones, no U.S. state aside from Hawaii has been so dramatically shaped by volcanic eruptions as New

Mexico. A compendium on geologic attractions authored and photographed by two passionate geologists, this guide offers a wealth of earthy insight. Did you know the limestone caverns at Carlsbad were made by sulfuric acid and not groundwater? Or that Georgia O'Keefe could spy the white cliffs of Plaza Blanca from a window of her Abiquiu home?

Serious rock hounds will delight in this geo-travel guide to 60 geologic sites, while curious excursionists will dig the approachable maps, figures and photos that reveal how New Mexico's most iconic formations, mountains, mines, lakes and petroglyphs came to be.

By Nathalie Brandes
Photographs by Paul Brandes
Mountain Press
abebooks.com



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A Famous Bite



The Owl Bar in San Antonio has a long history of making New Mexico's best green chile burgers

Story by Dixie Boyle

When traveling Interstate 25 south of Socorro, the perfect location to stop and have a burger and cold drink is at San Antonio's Owl Bar & Café. The bar has long been known for its friendly service and green chile cheeseburgers, which have won multiple awards as the best in New Mexico. The business claims to have sold the state's first green chile cheeseburger.

The Owl Bar & Café is a popular stop for birders visiting the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge and New Mexicans from throughout the state.

Frank and Dee Chavez opened the Owl Bar in 1945 in the grocery store of Dee's father, Jose Miera. In 1948, the couple developed the tasty green chile cheeseburger recipe that is still used today.

From the beginning, the Owl Bar was a draw, known for its giant hamburgers and free Western movies on Saturday night. In addition to food, the Owl sold block ice, keg beer and soda pop. Frank was known for his generosity and never turned down a person in need. He gave away hundreds of meals.

The 25-foot mahogany bar greeting visitors as they enter the Owl Bar was originally located in the mercantile business of A.H. Hilton—the father of Hilton Hotels founder Conrad Hilton. Hilton's store burned to the ground in 1945, but not before the historic bar was salvaged by residents and carried by hand to its current location inside the Owl Bar.

Frank purchased pool tables and set them up in the back room, and the game became popular among regulars.

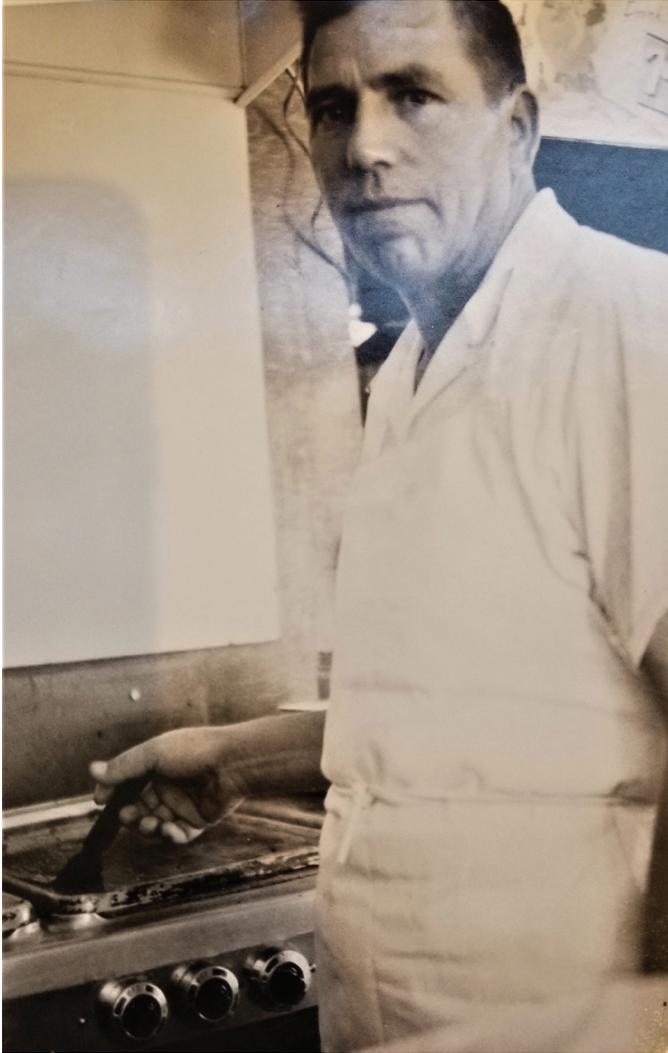
In the spring of 1945, San Antonio was invaded by a group of men claiming to be gold prospectors exploring the Rio Grande Valley. They rented rooms from Jose and played pool most evenings at the Owl Bar. When the group left the bar one evening in July, they told Jose to take all the bottles and glasses down from the bar and to expect to see something he had never seen before the following morning.

It was a surprise when everyone realized the men had not been searching for gold but preparing to detonate the world's

LEFT: Janice Argabright is the fourth generation of her family to manage the Owl Bar. ABOVE: The Owl Bar's green chile burger.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARILYN CONWAY





CLOCKWISE, FROM LEFT: Frank Chavez opened the owl bar in 1945, with his wife, Dee. Owl Bar customers pin dollar bills to the wall. The money is donated to a charity each year. The Owl Bar was originally an addition to the grocery store run by Frank’s father-in-law, J. E. Miera. PHOTOS OF FRANK AND GROCERY COURTESY OF JANICE ARGABRIGHT. DONATION PHOTO COURTESY OF MARILYN CONWAY

first atomic bomb. The scientists and technicians working on the Manhattan Project were some of the Owl Bar’s first customers.

Decades ago, a businessman attached his card on top of a dollar bill to the wall. Before long, a tradition began as visitors pinned dollar bills to the wall with their names, where they were from or a brief message.

When the bills began disappearing and more were stolen in a burglary, the Owl started donating the money to charity. In 1982, the bar made its first donation, totaling more than \$7,000. Since then, it has given between \$1,500 and \$2,000 each year to Carrie Tingley, New Mexico Boys & Girls Ranches and other children’s charities during the Christmas season.

Tragically, Frank was murdered in 1976 when he interrupted a robbery at his residence. His wallet and three guns were taken. His unopened safe was found outside.

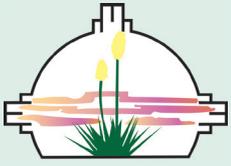
After Frank’s death, his and Dee’s daughter, Rowena, and her husband, Adolph Baca, took over management of the Owl Bar.

They ran a successful business for more than 40 years and even opened a second restaurant in Albuquerque, the Owl Café, in 1987. The Bacas were recognized in 2018 by the New Mexico Restaurant Association with the prestigious Restaurateur of the Year Award—the highest honor a restaurant owner in New Mexico can achieve.

Adolph and Rowena retired in 2018 and turned over the business to their daughter Janice Argabright, a retired schoolteacher and former associate superintendent with Socorro Public Schools. Janice is the fourth generation of her family to manage the café and bar. She plans to continue the friendly service started by her great-grandfather 77 years ago.

She is off to a good start. In 2020, the business was named the Best Small Town Restaurant in New Mexico by Reader’s Digest.

Take exit 139 off Interstate 25 at San Antonio the next time you have a craving for one of the state’s best green chile cheeseburgers and eat at the historic bar that helped make it famous. 



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Jerry Partin

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Portales, NM 88310

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575-359-1651

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rcec@rcec.coop

Website
www.rcec.coop

Office Hours
8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (M-F)
Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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Board Meeting

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

Roosevelt County Fair Is August 23-28

Come to the Roosevelt County Fair and see the Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative booth in the merchants building. The fair runs from Tuesday, August 23, through Sunday, August 28.

Day passes are \$8 for adults, \$6 for children aged 5 to 17 and free for children 4 and younger. Season passes are \$30 for adults, \$20 for children 5 to 17 and \$5 for youth exhibitors.

Visit rooseveltcountyfair.com for the schedule of events.

August Job Anniversaries

Colt Banister, 4 years
Tillman Stevens, 3 years
Chris Valdez, 3 years



Get Ready For School on the Tax-Free Holiday

Tax-Free Holiday is August 5-7. Use this chance to shop local and get students ready to head back to school. Shop local, and shop Portales!

RCEC Recipe Contest

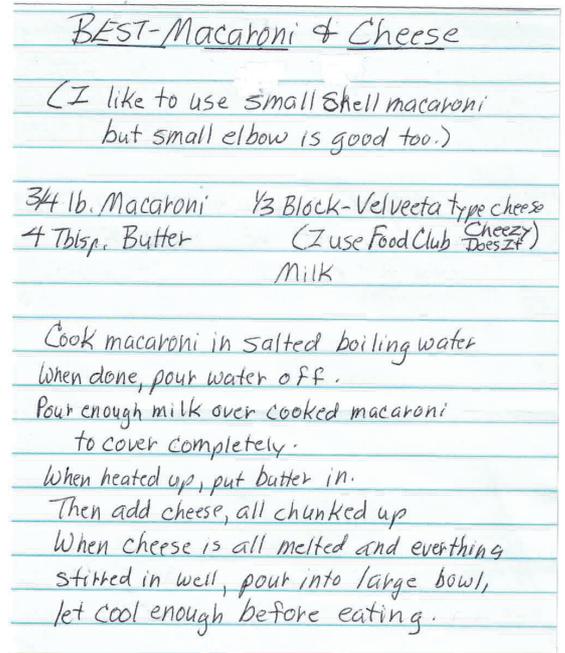
Calling all cooks! We've run out of recipes, and need your favorite recipe to print in our monthly newsletter and magazine.

Submit your recipes by either email to members@rcec.coop, mail to P.O. Box 389, Portales, Attn: Janice, or bring them to our office at 121 N. Main Street, Portales.

Winners will have their recipe featured in our monthly newsletter and enchantment magazine, plus receive a \$20 credit on their electric bill. RCEC will draw a name on the 15th of each month from August through December.

Give Janice a call at 575-356-4491 if you have any questions.

The August winner is Janie Phillips and her recipe for the best mac and cheese. Congratulations Janie, you will have a \$20 credit on your August bill.



Energy-Efficient Irrigation Strategies

By Maria Kanevsky
and Chasity Anderson

Agriculture is the backbone of our country. Keeping farmland well-irrigated is crucial for agricultural producers. Farm irrigation methods and technologies can maximize productivity while minimizing costs.

Energy-efficient irrigation methods help farmers curtail energy and water use while growing crops, reducing operating costs and increasing productivity. When choosing irrigation methods and technologies, the most important aspects to consider are cost, return on investment, convenience and minimization of risks.

One of the easiest ways to maximize energy efficiency is to use electric motors in place of old, inefficient diesel motors. Typically, electric motors are about 90% efficient, while diesel motors are between 30 and 40% efficient.

Switching to electric motors means cost savings in the long run for farmers. Electric motors also have lower maintenance needs and can be used with a variable frequency drive irrigation system, which helps reduce both energy and water expenses.

A VFD is an electronic phase converter, allowing an irrigation motor designed for three-phase power to run on a single-phase line. The VFD varies the frequency and voltage supplied to the motor, thus varying the motor's speed and saving energy in the process. VFD systems allow farmers to pump water at different rates, which maximizes irrigation throughout the day.

Since there are many benefits from using electric irrigation motors, most U.S. farmers have switched from diesel motors—although pairing the motor with a VFD system is still a relatively new agricultural trend.

Variable rate irrigation technology has also improved irrigation system efficiencies. Water application rates can be adjusted or shut off along the mechanized irrigation system's length.

Much like fertilizing where it is needed, water can be tailored in the same way. VRI uses technology to prescribe a specific amount of water for certain areas of the field.



Irrigation system efficiency is an ongoing process that needs regular monitoring. After five years, irrigation pumps are typically evaluated for performance. This evaluation can help operators decide whether to invest in improvements to the existing pump or replace it.

Irrigation pump tests usually assess the pump's discharge pressure, lift, water flow and power input. Regular testing ensures the pumps work as efficiently as possible.

Upgrading irrigation hardware also can improve the system's performance. Replacing leaky sprinklers, for example, can save a significant amount of water.

Many new agricultural technologies are part of the precision agriculture industry—an approach to farm management that uses information technology to ensure crops and soil receive exactly what they need for optimum health and productivity. The goal is to ensure profitability, sustainability and protection of the environment. Examples include autonomous tractors, crop-monitoring drones and robotic milking or weeding machines.

In addition to irrigation technologies, fields can be monitored via

Wi-Fi-connected sensors. After placing sensors throughout their fields, farmers can track conditions using smartphones or computers.

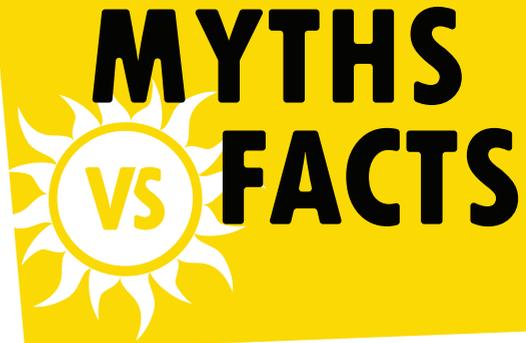
Sensors capture data on light, humidity, temperature and moisture. That data goes to a server to be analyzed, then is sent to the farmer through the smartphone app. The technology allows farmers to set automatic timers for their irrigation systems remotely.

Factors to consider with this technology are cost, range, bandwidth and power.

As technology improves, there will be new opportunities to support the agricultural sector. Replacing technology that uses on-site fossil fuels—such as propane and gasoline—with technology powered by electricity will help improve energy efficiency and further protect the environment.

Publicly owned utilities are proud to support their agricultural consumers and will continue to help them determine opportunities to improve and meet their energy-efficiency goals.

Summer ENERGY Efficiency:



MYTH: When I'm not home, keeping my air conditioner at a lower temperature throughout the day means it doesn't have to run harder to cool my home when I return.

FACT: Save energy by setting your thermostat to a higher temperature during the day. Lower it when you return home. Better yet, install a smart thermostat and set up a schedule.

MYTH: Closing vents on my central air conditioning system will boost efficiency.

FACT: Closing vents can cause the compressor to cycle too frequently and the heat pump to overload. You also use more energy.

MYTH: Bigger is always better when it comes to cooling equipment.

FACT: Too often, cooling equipment isn't sized properly and leads to higher electric bills. An HVAC air conditioner that's too large for your home will not cool evenly and might produce higher humidity indoors.

MYTH: Energy-efficiency improvements are expensive.

FACT: Even small changes in your home can provide significant savings. Swapping incandescent lightbulbs with LED bulbs and caulking around windows and doors is inexpensive but makes a big difference in your electric use.

MYTH: Running ceiling fans when I'm at work keeps my house cooler.

FACT: Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. A ceiling fan makes you feel cooler, allowing you to increase the thermostat by a couple of degrees. When you leave a room, turn off ceiling fans. 

SACRED STONE OF THE SOUTHWEST IS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



Centuries 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 the exceptional blue stone, each stabilized vibrant cabochon features a unique, one-of-a-kind matrix surrounded in Bali metalwork.

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- Silver-finished settings

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Happy Grilling

Outdoor kitchens, grills and smokers are calling, and grilling in August just seems right. Creative ways to add a freshly grilled touch to just about any culinary art is not only possible, but delightful. Outdoor cooking is not for meat alone; just about any food can be smoked or grilled with a little creativity.

Salmon is an effective carrier of healthful Omega 3, and vitamins B and D, and research suggests vitamin B promotes brain and heart health, while controlling inflammation. Add the yogurt sauce, and the health benefits increase in our Grilley Dilly Salmon with Yogurt Sauce recipe. Smoked Maize Delight is adapted from a recipe used by Native Americans along the Rio Grande in the early 1900s. Maize Dulce (sweet corn) was a variety of corn found in pueblos, coming from small ears with yellow and white grains or kernels. In some traditions, sweet corn was treated with reverence. And who says dessert can't be grilled? The taste of grilled pineapple not only adds a unique twist on an old standard recipe, but the added benefit of not needing to flip our Grilled Pineapple Right-Side-Up Cake takes the difficulty level away.



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

Grilley Dilly Salmon with Yogurt

- | | |
|--|--|
| 4 6-8-ounce salmon filets,
rinsed
and patted dry | ½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper |
| 2 tablespoons olive oil,
divided | ½ cup Greek yogurt
½ teaspoon minced garlic |
| ¼ cup fresh chopped or dried
dill weed, divided | 1 teaspoon lemon juice |

Heat the grill to medium heat. Brush salmon filets with half of the olive oil, and sprinkle salt and pepper on each. Brush the grill rack with the remaining half of oil.

Grill the salmon filets. Turn them over after three to four minutes, sprinkling half of the dill on the grilled top side. Grill until the filets are at the desired doneness. Move them from the grill to a serving plate.

In a small bowl, mix the yogurt, garlic, and remaining dill and lemon juice until blended. Serve the salmon while warm, with sauce on the side.



Smoked Maize Delight

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 15-ounce cans
creamed corn | 4 green chiles, peeled
and diced |
| 3 eggs, beaten | 1 teaspoon sugar |
| ½ cup grated cheese | Salt/pepper to taste |
| 4 green onions, diced | |

Lightly spray an oven-safe 8-by-8-inch baking dish with olive oil spray. Warm up the smoker to medium heat, using oak or hickory wood chips. If the smoker is not used, warm the grill to medium heat.

Mix all the ingredients together, and place the mix in a prepared pan. If the grill is used, cover the dish with foil.

Smoke or grill the dish in the covered smoker or grill for approximately one and a half hours or until the center is firm. If desired, cooking can be completed in a microwave or oven by removing the dish from the smoker or grill after 30-45 minutes. Microwave it on high in five-minute increments or bake in a 350-degree oven, uncovered until the center is firm.



Grilled Pineapple Right-Side-Up Cake

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 white cake mix, plus
mix ingredients | ¾ cup brown sugar |
| 2 cans sliced pineapple,
drained, juice reserved | ½ cup (1 stick) butter |
| 1 tablespoon cooking oil | Maraschino cherries,
sliced in halves |

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees, and spray two 9-inch round or a 19-by-13-inch baking pan(s) with butter-flavored cooking spray. Heat the grill to medium heat, brushing it with oil.

Prepare the cake mix according to instructions, and bake it until a toothpick comes out clean.

While the cake is baking, melt the butter in a small saucepan and add brown sugar. Stir until the sugar is dissolved and then remove it from the heat.

Remove the cake from the oven, and cool it approximately 20 minutes on a cooling rack.

While the cake cools, brush the pineapple slices with some of the brown sugar mixture, reserving the remainder.

Grill the pineapple about three minutes on each side or until grill marks appear. Once the marks appear, move it to a plate.

Stir the reserved pineapple juice into the brown sugar mixture until it's incorporated.

Poke the semi-cooled cake with bamboo skewers, and spoon half of the reserved brown sugar mixture on top of the cake, allowing to seep into the holes.

Place the grilled pineapple slices on top of cake, placing one-half of a cherry in the center of each slice. Brush the pineapple with remaining the brown sugar mixture.

Let the cake cool completely, and serve it from the pan(s). If desired, the cake may be frozen for later use.





Buying Your First Home?

By Robin Howard

If you are in the market for your first home, let's start with the good news: There are several national and state-sponsored programs designed to help first-time homebuyers make their dreams a reality. These programs offer perks such as low or no down payments, forgivable down payment assistance and relaxed credit score requirements.

To qualify, there are income and home price limits, credit score requirements and a required home buyer education course.

If you don't know your credit score, visit annualcreditreport.com for a free report.

A first-time homebuyer is anyone who:

- Has never bought a home.
- Hasn't owned a principal residence for three years.
- Whose spouse or co-applicant meets

those criteria.

- Is a single parent who only owned a home with a former spouse.
- Is a displaced homemaker who only has owned with a spouse.

Good Credit? Score a Low-Down Payment Loan

There are four national programs for first-time homebuyers. The conventional mortgage program lets buyers with credit scores



ADOBE STOCK IMAGE BY TIERNEY

can qualify for an FHA loan if you have a 10% down payment. If your score is 580 or higher, you could be eligible for a down payment as low as 3.5%. If you are a veteran, the VA loan program offers loans with no down payments and no minimum credit score.

Set a Budget

No more than 30% of your gross annual income should go toward mortgage expenses, including mortgage payment, property taxes and association fees.

For example, if your household income is \$30,000 and you qualify for a 30-year fixed interest loan with a 3.5% down payment, a home price of \$175,000 would be within the 30% rule.

Saving for a Down Payment

If you are ready to buy a home, saving for a down payment can seem daunting. Depending on your credit score and the type of loan you apply for, you need between 5% and 20% of the purchase price, plus closing costs.

Start exploring loan programs early so you know how much of a down payment you need. While saving for a 20% down payment of \$35,000 can feel overwhelming, saving \$5,000—or 3%—is more attainable.

There are two approaches to saving for a down payment: Grit your teeth and save as much as possible, as quickly as possible, or save steadily without too much disruption to your lifestyle.

There are good reasons to endure short-term discomfort to save quickly. If you are getting married, expanding your family, have to move or want to take advantage of low interest rates before they rise, enduring drastic reductions in your budget can be worth the sacrifice.

The fastest way to save money is not to spend it. Look at your budget for small ways to save. They add up quickly.

Improve Your Credit Score

If your credit is below 580, or you want to get to 620 to get the best loan terms possible, you can quickly improve your credit score by following these tips:

- Nothing improves your score faster than paying your bills on time. It is the

single most important factor.

- If you can make multiple small payments throughout the month, you will improve your score by decreasing how much credit you use.
- Ask your credit card company for an increase in your credit limit, but don't use it.
- Review your free credit report for errors and dispute them. Even one mistake can bring down your score.
- Don't close any credit cards, even if you pay them off.
- Build credit by using a secured credit card or becoming an authorized user on a card of a friend or relative who is responsible and has a good credit score. You don't have to use the card or even know the number for it to work.

While you save, improving your credit score as much as possible can help you score the lowest interest rate possible. A low-interest rate can lower your monthly payment or give you more buying power.

Get Prequalified and Preapproved

The first step in the loan process is to get prequalified for a loan as soon as possible. It can give you a good idea of how much you will qualify for, your interest rate and how much of a down payment you will need.

Prequalification is different than preapproval, but having ballpark figures from a loan professional is more accurate than using an online calculator.

Before you seriously start house hunting, get preapproved. Preapproval usually comes with a locked-in interest rate for a set period. It can shed light on errors or problems with your credit report while there is still time to fix them.

Once you are ready to start house hunting, engage an experienced real estate agent you can trust.

Always get a home inspection. The inspection is one of the most critical milestones of homeownership. Be sure to attend the inspection. Follow the inspector and ask questions. It is a great chance to get to know the interior workings of your home. 

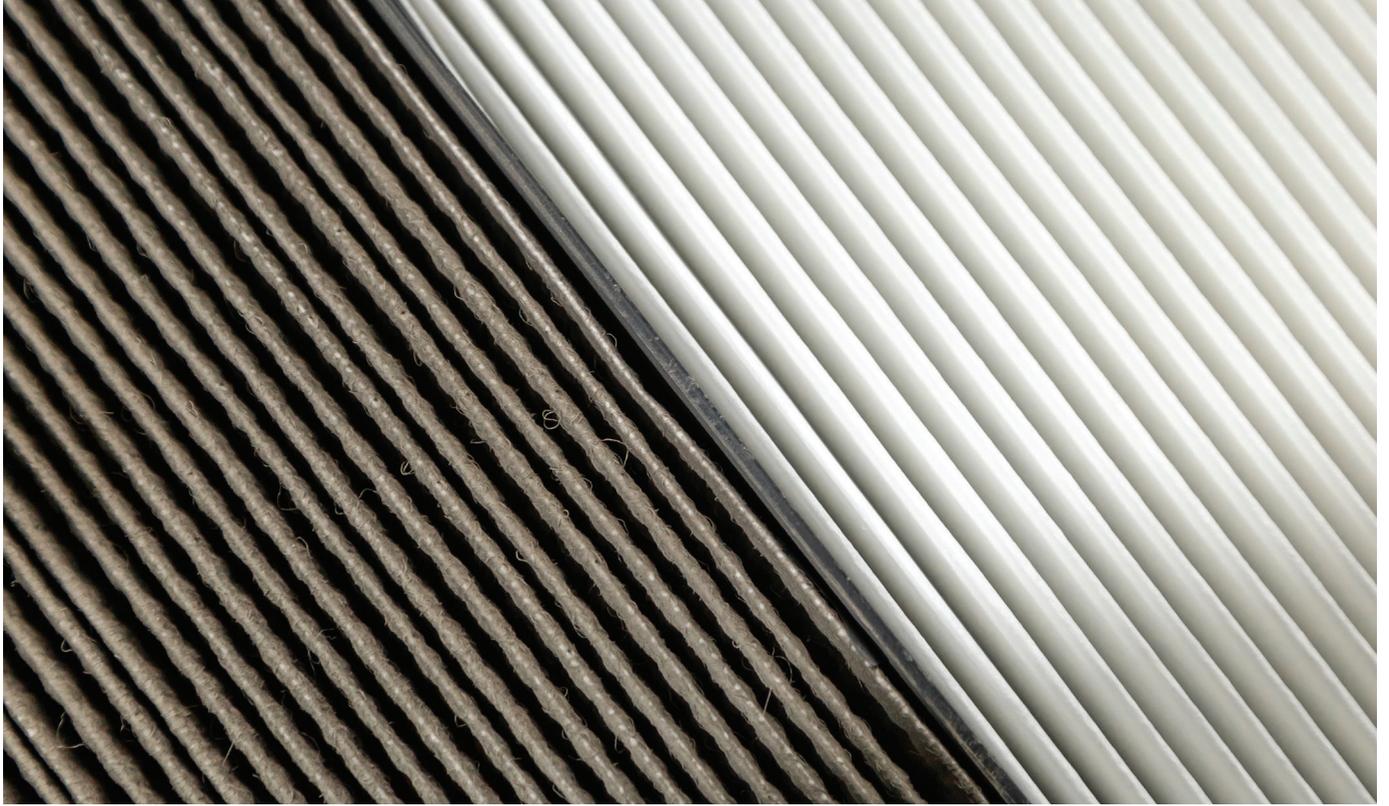
For more information, visit https://www.hud.gov/states/new_mexico/homeownership/buyingprgms

of 620 or more qualify for a conventional loan with as little as 3% down.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture loan program offers zero down-payment mortgages for homes in rural areas. You don't have to have a specific credit score to qualify, but if you have a score of 640 or higher, the process goes faster.

Not So Good Credit? No Worries

If your credit score is in the 500s, you



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY ВИТАЛИЙ СОВА

Five Tips to Better Indoor Air Quality

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates the average person spends 90% of their life indoors.

Our homes are becoming more energy efficient—they are better insulated and sealed, with less ventilation—which is great for our energy bills. Unfortunately, that is not so great for indoor air quality.

The thought of breathing in pollutants can be scary, but the truth is indoor air pollution is common and unavoidable.

The good news is there are easy ways you can improve the air quality of your home. Here are five tips to help you keep your home fresh and breathe a little easier:

Change your air filter often. Clogged, dirty filters reduce the amount of airflow and the efficiency of your heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system. When a filter becomes clogged, excess dirt and dust are sent through air ducts, adding unnecessary allergens and unwanted particles into your living space. During the summer cooling season, the U.S. Department of Energy recommends replacing your air filter every month or two. This is one of the easiest ways to promote better indoor air quality and energy efficiency.

Regularly vacuum carpet and rugs. This is especially important if you have furry friends. The cleaner the home, the healthier the home. Vacuuming carpet and area rugs once a week greatly reduces the accumulation of pet dander and dust. Frequently clean other areas that collect dust, such as drapes, bedding and cluttered areas.

Use vents to remove cooking fumes. Exhaust fans aren't just for when you burn the bacon. Fans help remove fumes emitted while cooking and eliminate unwanted moisture and odors. They may be noisy, but these handy tools can help you improve indoor air quality while you are preparing that culinary masterpiece—or

even a grilled cheese sandwich.

Get a handle on humidity. Summer months typically bring humidity. Moisture in the air can carry bacteria and other unwanted particles you eventually breathe in. Dehumidifiers remove moisture from the air, reducing the amount of bacteria, mold and other allergens.

Incorporate air-purifying plants into your living space. Several varieties of indoor plants can help detoxify your home from dust and germs found in home products, furniture and other materials. A few low-maintenance ones to consider are snake plants, aloe vera plants and pothos plants—also known as devil's ivy. These vibrant, lush plants are eye-catching and beneficial. Review care conditions and think about placement for plants you add to your home.

With a little effort, you can improve the indoor air quality of your home and breathe a bit easier, improving your health and quality of life. 📧

Enchanted Journeys

Events Around the State

Aug. 19. Sacred Heart Mission Fried Fish Dinner Fundraising Event. Friday, August 19, 11:30 a.m. – 6 p.m. 404 Burro Ave. in Village at Otero Electric Co-op Community Room. For details and cost, call 575-430-0034.

Sept. 3-4. Chama Valley Art Festival & Studio Tour. September 3, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; September 4, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Chama, NM. info@chamavalleyarts.org



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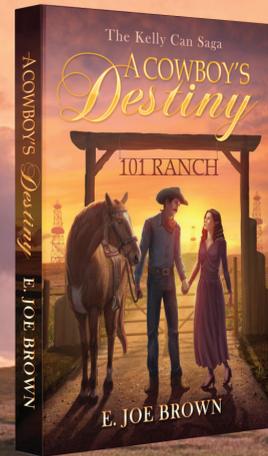
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Real Estate

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

CONCHAS, 0 AND 00 RIDGE DRIVE. Two tracts with two lots per each property (lots are 100 x 100 or .23 acre). Each tract has a permitted septic that has never been used. Electricity and co-op water nearby. \$45,000 per tract. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

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

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

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

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FENCE LAKE, 295 PINE HILL ROAD, BACK ON THE MARKET, MOTIVATED SELLER, 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom home on just over 60 acres, well, outbuildings, corrals, abundant wildlife and scenic views. **NEW SEPTIC SYSTEM.** \$250,000. 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 AI. Seven 40 acre (more or less) parcels with lake and mesalands views. One of the seven lots is west of Quay Road AI fronting Ute Lake. Call for appointment to show and pricing. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

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

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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

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

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

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. www.bigmesarealty.com

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

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

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

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youth art

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October's Topic:
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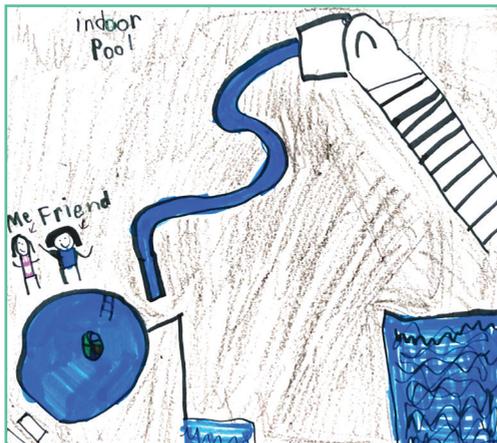
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Mountainair Sunflower Festival
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IS AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) RIGHT FOR YOU?

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

+ IS YOUR DAILY COMMUTE UNDER 330 MILES?

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

+ DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE MORE THAN ONE CAR?

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

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

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

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