

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

**ROOSEVELT COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

DECEMBER 2021

Santa's Helpers

Marine Toys for Tots helps make sure children have toys for the holidays.

Page 14

The Toys for Tots program has distributed more than 600 million toys since 1947. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION

Happy Holidays!



GALLUP-McKINLEY
COUNTY SCHOOLS



Winter Break
December 20th-31st
(no school)

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We live in the Land of Enchantment ...

We are *enchantment!*

Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

Are you heading out of town during the holidays? Remember to unplug any electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, such as TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers, use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they are not in use.

How to contact *enchantment*



Phone
505-982-4671



Email
enchantment@nmelectric.coop

Facebook
facebook.com/enchantmentnmreca

Mail
614 Don Gaspar Ave.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Community Events
events@nmelectric.coop

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Email to: enchantment@nmelectric.coop

Congratulations to ...

Otero County Electric Cooperative member Paulette Click, pictured enjoying her copy of *enchantment* magazine while traveling in Kentucky with her sister.

Paulette wins \$20!



enchantment

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THE NEW MEXICO RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

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614 Don Gaspar Ave. Phone: 505-982-4671
Santa Fe, NM 87505 Fax: 505-982-0153
nmelectric.coop enchantment.coop

Keven J. Groenewold, CEO, kgroenewold@nmelectric.coop
Tom Condit, director of communications, tcondit@nmelectric.coop

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Working Together for All

Close to 42 million people get their electricity from cooperatives. The people who receive this service—members of electric cooperatives just like you—are as varied as America itself.

They live in the country, towns and cities, and they work in offices, on farms and ranches, or telecommute. They use computers and tractors and send their kids to public, private and charter schools. The holidays these folks observe are just as varied.

No two cooperatives face identical challenges. Their communities and states have widely differing pressures and business risks. Their trustees have their own opinions about the best strategies for their organizations. Members have differing opinions of the co-ops, as well. This represents democracy at its finest.

Some remember when their co-op first brought electricity to their ranches and the difference it made in their lives. Others take electricity for granted and never think about the early days of the cooperative effort. Many members believe you never fix what's not broken—you just need a tweak from time to time. Others will tell you if your business isn't constantly evolving, it is destined to wither and die.

Co-ops work hard to provide reliable and affordable power to rural consumers across America. Investor-owned electric utilities may make the same claim to commitment as they provide service to cities and more densely populated areas. However, many times their measuring stick is their shareholders' profits.

With a co-op, you get standards that go beyond power lines and electric meters. These standards—the cooperative principles—define the values that guide our work, our relationships with our members and our relationships with our communities.

Our values are simple enough. We are member-owned businesses, and any customer can be a member no matter their lot in life. Members have an economic stake in their cooperative, and we operate independently on their behalf. We owe them honest information about our operations, and we cooperate with other cooperatives to better serve the communities in which we live. The voice of the member needs to resonate.

An electric cooperative is like a tree with a single trunk and hundreds of branches with thousands of leaves at the ends and along the way. In our case, the trunk is our commitment to serving our members and communities above all else.

The trunk carries the enormous weight of the entire tree. Our



Co-ops are like trees, with many individual branches, connected to one strong trunk. ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY ANTONDOM

endurance will be tested as we watch the constant changes in our industry. If we stay true to our commitment, we will survive and our members will prosper.

Regardless of our different individual points of view, we are all still member-owners. These views can be shared in a collaborative and educational manner. That is how we truly learn from one another. The melding of many ideas may just give us the strong outcomes we all desire.

As we approach this holiday season, let's stop for a moment and review our year. We have overcome much turmoil. As we lean on each other for strength and reassurance, we can be resolute in our future for 2022.

As co-op owners, we are in this together, striving for the same goals. We need unity to achieve these results. As we know, the branches and leaves of any two trees are not identical, yet they stand together to create a forest. Unity, without conformity, is what will keep our co-op forest healthy.

Happy holidays, everyone. Here's to a wonderful and safe end to your year. 🍷

Early Winter Views

Neighboring planet Venus dominates the western sky during and after dusk in early December, as it has for the past few months. After about mid-month, Venus will start falling rapidly toward the western horizon. It will disappear into the dusk just after the start of the new year, pass between the earth and sun in early January, and reappear in our morning sky later that month.

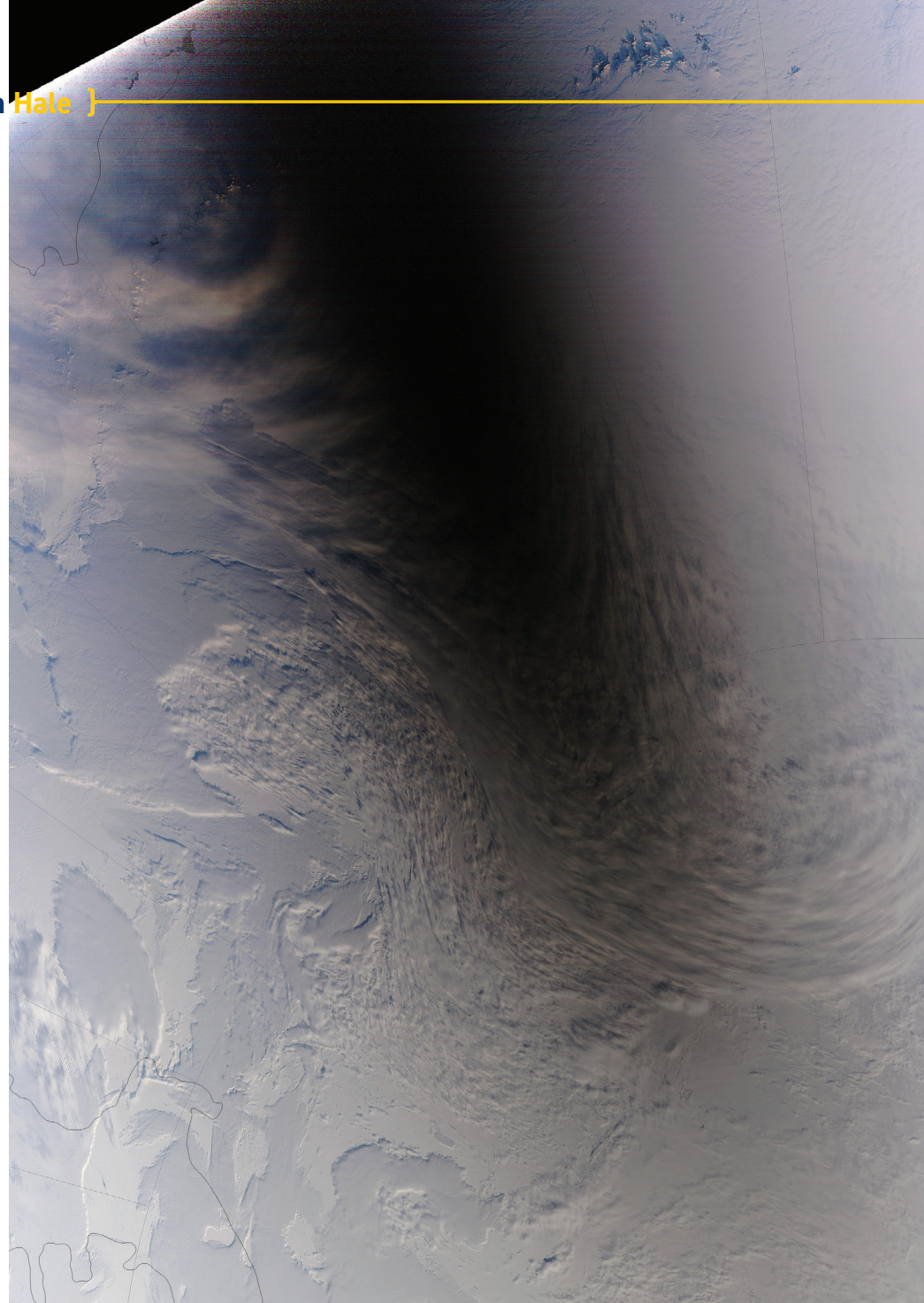
As Venus makes its descent, our solar system's other inner planet, Mercury, passes by it late this month. Mercury will make an appearance in our evening sky in January.

Two other bright planets are also visible in our December evening sky: the giant worlds Jupiter and Saturn. Both are visible in the southwestern sky after sunset and set a few hours after the end of dusk. Saturn leads the brighter Jupiter by about an hour and a half.

The one planet visible in the morning sky is Mars, which climbs out of the dawn early this month. Currently, it is on the far side of the sun and relatively dim. Throughout the next 12 months, Mars comes much closer to Earth and brightens dramatically as it approaches opposition—directly opposite the sun in the sky—late next year.

Comet Leonard—discovered early this year—will be visible in the morning sky early this month. It passes between Earth and the sun just before mid-December and before entering the evening sky. On December 18, Leonard passes just 2.6 million miles from Venus. It will be close to that world low in the southwest. It will travel southward and disappear below the horizon within the following few days.

Comet Leonard should be visible with



The moon's shadow falls across Antarctica during a total solar eclipse. This image was taken by NASA's Aqua satellite during the eclipse November 23, 2003. PHOTO COURTESY OF JACQUES DESCLOITRES, MODIS RAPID RESPONSE TEAM AT NASA/GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER.

binoculars and may possibly be bright enough to see with the unaided eye. If it has a lot of dust—and early signs indicate it does—then it might become even brighter due to a phenomenon called “forward scattering” of sunlight. Dust and ice crystals scatter and amplify light coming from behind the comet, creating an effect similar to a dusty windshield during a sunset drive.

A total solar eclipse will cross Antarctica on Saturday, December 4. Unfortunately, no part of this eclipse will be visible in North America. In one isolated region of Marie Byrd Land on Antarctica, totality will take place at local midnight, where any present life forms will witness slightly less than two minutes of the total-eclipsed midnight sun. 📺

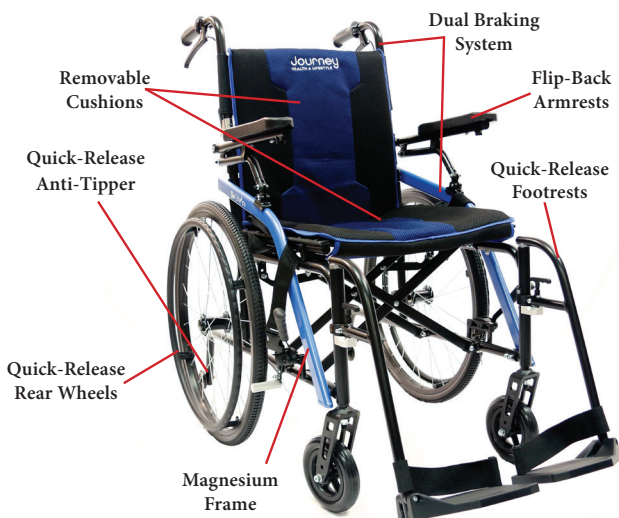
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Large and In Charge

Stay alive by staying away from electric substations

By Joseph Hathaway

You may live near or drive by an electric substation each day and not give it much thought unless you happen to be a utility employee.

Although they look like something that could transform into a giant-sized, building-stomping futuristic robot, substations play an important role in providing safe and reliable electricity to your work or home.

Fenced-in substations are part of the electrical generation, transmission and distribution system. Transformers are contained inside many of them. As the name implies, their job is to transform voltage from high to low or vice versa, depending on its location on the distribution path.

Besides transformers, substations usually house switches, protective devices and control equipment. In large substations, circuit breakers are used to interrupt any short circuits or overloads.

Substations are fenced away from the public because they



Substations are fenced off to protect the public, because they contain high voltages in close quarters.

PHOTO COURTESY OF OREGON TRAIL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

contain high voltages in close quarters, creating a potentially dangerous situation for those not trained on the hazards associated with a substation.

Your public power provider reminds you:

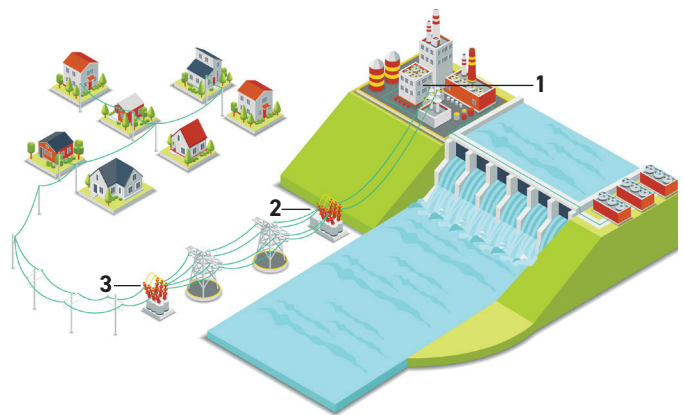
- Never go near substations.
- Teach children to never go near a substation or climb its fence to retrieve a ball or pet. Let them know they should always stay away and tell a parent or adult, who should report incidents to the proper utility.

• In general, teach children from a young age about the dangers of electricity.

• If a transformer near your home catches on fire, do not try to put out the fire yourself. Water and electricity don't mix. Call 911 to report the fire.

• If you see an issue with or notice something unusual about a substation, transformer or power line, contact your cooperative immediately. Never try to address a problem yourself.

- If you see someone inside



There are three types of substations: 1, step-up; 2, step-down; and 3, distribution.

a substation who does not look like they belong there, contact your cooperative immediately.

Once you understand the safety tips, there are a few fun facts to know about electrical substations. There are three types: step-up, step-down and distribution.

A step-up substation receives electric power from a nearby generating facility—such as a dam that produces clean hydropower—and uses a large power transformer to

increase the voltage so it can travel from distant locations.

Step-down substations receive power from the transmission system and use a large power transformer to decrease the voltage to distribution voltages so power can be distributed throughout the town for end-users.

Distribution substations are located near end-users. These substations change voltages to lower levels to power homes and businesses.

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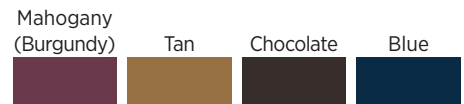
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Where Can I Find the Most Energy Savings?

Loose-fill insulation is the most common and preferred type of insulation for your attic floor. PHOTO COURTESY OF OWENS-CORNING

Q: Our energy bills seem higher than they should be, but I'm not sure where to start looking around my home for opportunities to save energy. Do you have any suggestions?

A: Many products and services claim to provide maximum energy efficiency, so knowing where to start can be a challenge. Fortunately, our monthly bills can help identify areas to maximize energy savings.

For most homes, energy use is highest in the winter and summer, when temperatures are extreme. To get an idea of how much more you are spending during high energy use months, total your average energy use for the months when you use the most energy, then subtract the average amount you use during “shoulder months”—when you barely use your heating or cooling system, typically during fall and spring.

The most likely reason for the difference in energy use is heating and cooling your home. If someone says switching to a new heating or cooling system could save you 20%, they likely mean you can save 20% on heating or cooling costs.

Every home is different. A small percentage of homes include uncommon energy uses, such as a well pump, swimming pool or a home business that requires more energy than heating or cooling. Typically, heating and cooling your home are by far the largest energy uses.

Sealing air leaks is one of the least expensive energy-saving measures, delivering the most bang for your buck. Beyond that, cutting heating and cooling costs depends on your situation.

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more energy tips, go to collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.




If you have an older propane or oil furnace, replacing it with an energy-efficient heat pump might be your best investment. If you already have a relatively efficient furnace or air-conditioning unit, insulating your attic could be the next most cost-effective measure, followed by insulating exterior walls, or the crawl space or basement.

Replacing windows is a high priority for many homeowners, and new windows can certainly add value to your home. However, this can be a costly project, making it difficult to justify solely based on potential energy savings. If your windows are old and leaky, it could be worth the investment. Do your research so you fully understand the project's costs and benefits.

After you have found ways to reduce your heating and cooling costs, where else should you look for energy savings? Your next largest energy use is likely water heating. A few low-cost measures include repairing leaky faucets and insulating the first 6 to 10 feet of hot-water line. Installing low-flow showerheads can save water and reduce energy use. Check Consumer Reports for reliable comparisons and reviews of energy-efficient showerheads.

If your water heater is more than 10 years old, it is likely time to consider how and when to replace it. You can buy a traditional water heater that uses the same fuel you are using now. However, there are several other options, including heat pump water heaters, tankless water heaters and even solar water heaters. Do some research before your water heater breaks so you know your options.

Appliances and lighting account for a smaller portion of your energy use. As you replace older appliances and lighting, look for options that include the Energy Star label. You should also review energy use information found on the EnergyGuide label.

We hope this information will help you find areas to save energy at home. Consider enlisting the help of an energy auditor, who can provide an overall assessment of your home's efficiency. 

Stand Up Straight and Feel Better

Discover the Perfect Walker™, the better way to walk safely and more naturally



It's a cruel fact of life, as we age, gravity takes over. Our muscles droop, our bodies sag and the weight of the world seems to be planted squarely on our shoulders. We dread taking a fall, so we find ourselves walking less and less—and that only makes matters worse.

Well, cheer up! There's finally a product designed to enable us all to walk properly and stay on the go. It's called the Perfect Walker, and it can truly change your life.

Traditional rollators and walkers simply aren't designed well. They require you to hunch over and shuffle your feet when you walk. This puts pressure on your back, neck, wrists and hands. Over time, this makes walking uncomfortable and can result in a variety of health issues.

That's all changed with the Perfect Walker. Its upright design and padded elbow rests enable you to distribute your weight across your arms and



shoulders, not your hands and wrists, which helps reduce back, neck and wrist pain and discomfort. Its unique frame gives you plenty of room to step, and the oversized wheels help you glide across the floor. The height can be easily adjusted with the push of a button to fit anyone from 4'9" to over 6'2". Once you've reached your destination you can use the hand brakes to gently slow down, and there's even a handy seat with a storage compartment. Plus the Perfect Walker includes Stand Assist™ handles which make standing from a sitting position simple and easy. Its sleek, lightweight design makes it easy to use indoors and out and it folds up for portability and storage.



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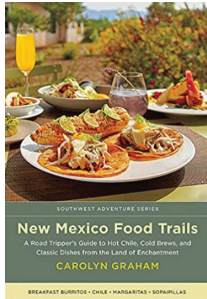
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New Mexico Food Trails

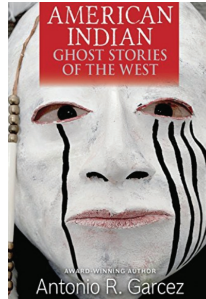
The best way to use this book is to never leave home without it. Make a home for it among your most beloved travel or food books.

There are a few ways to use this book. Let the book point you toward specific interests, say “diners and dives,” “traditional treats,” or “foodie jaunts and quick escapes,” or you can head straight to the index to find restaurants profiled in the town you’re dining in.

It’s no secret New Mexico has an incredible food culture to explore, though Graham—a food and travel journalist who was born in Las Cruces with “green chile in her blood”—is an exceptional guide.

I turned straight to a section about one of my favorite restaurants, located less than 2 miles from my front door, only to slam down the book moments later and holler out, “I did not know they serve avocado pie there!”

By Carolyn Graham
University of New Mexico Press
unmpress.com



American Indian Ghost Stories of the West

Whereas so many books from this genre contain eerie but cheeky stories—usually second or thirdhand accounts—Garcez’s

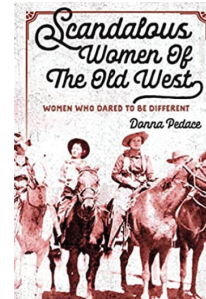
anthology stands head and shoulders above to elevate his collection of first-hand accounts of spiritual and uncanny encounters to something altogether extraordinary.

These are not campy stories. Garcez, an award-winning author, has painstakingly collected personal accounts shared by present-day Native Americans for readers to thoughtfully explore. As a Native American himself, he delivers uncommon sensitivity and depth to matters that strike at the nature of reality. You simply must hold this book to behold its magic.

The geographical and historical context laid out before each vignette is profoundly both concise and exhaustive—truly the best descriptions of Southwestern locales I’ve seen.

If I were in the business of assigning stars to books, I’d give this book all the stars.

By Antonio R. Garcez
Red Rabbit Press
amazon.com



Scandalous Women of the Old West

Living in the West, my hunch is you can quickly bring up a vision in your mind’s eye of a legendary Western archetype.

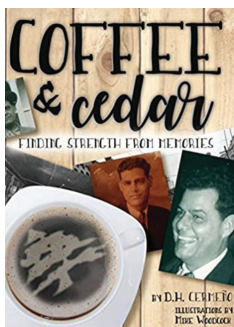
It probably doesn’t take much imagination to whip up a caricature of a warrior Apache, soiled dove or a Victorian socialite. But how much do most of us really know about those who stood just 150 years ago where we stand today?

Pedace brings to life the often overlooked and misunderstood tales of 10 Western women.

Retire stereotypes and meet instead Lozen, a gifted medicine woman and war shaman who led the vulnerable from disaster and helped mastermind strategies that kept her people from harm. Or peel back a century of gossip to see the worlds of Augusta Tabor, a famed “grand woman of Colorado.”

Pedace offers entertaining anecdotes, stories and accounts that celebrate these Western women.

By Donna Pedace
amazon.com



Coffee and Cedar: Finding Strength From Memories

My son is in the first grade. His many passions include Legos, reading, soccer and bey blades (don’t ask!) to name a few. He’s just as quick to list his favorite princesses—Moana and Rapunzel—as his favorite books. Some of his interests make him more curious to classmates.

It was only a month ago when two boys felt compelled to inform him that he wears “girl” shoes to school. My son was prepared for this situation and let his classmates know there is no such thing as girl shoes or boy shoes. There are only shoes.

Yet still, the encounter stung.

All this was on the forefront of my mind as I read aloud, with my children drawn close to my sides, this touching tale of a grandfather who raises his grandson to have the courage to maintain trust in his own talents, interests and thinking.

Over and over, we hear the grandfather say,

“el sol no se tapa con un dedo,” which translates to “the sun is not covered with a single finger.”

This gorgeous insight, passed through four generations over the course of this story, proves especially helpful to young David, our story’s protagonist, when he’s taunted and teased endlessly at school for his spirited interests in acting, singing and Charlie Chaplin.

Touchingly illustrated, this book flows, conveying big ideas and heart without excess.

As I turned from page 21 to page 22, my daughter sighed, “I love this book.” When we finished, 17 pages later, my son weighed in with, “That was a special book.”

By D.H. Cermeño
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Santa's Helpers

Marine Toys for Tots helps make sure children have toys for the holidays

By Margaret Nava

The Marines' blue dress uniform with red trim is the only U.S. military uniform incorporating all three colors of the U.S. flag. Reserved for formal or ceremonial occasions, it exemplifies the core values of honor, courage and commitment by which Marines live.

While known for their willingness and determination to keep fighting until victory is assured, Marines also have a soft spot for helping children.

In 1947, when Marine Corps Reserve Maj. Bill Hendricks couldn't find an organization to donate his wife Diane's handmade Raggedy-Ann doll to, she urged him to start his own charity.

Recruiting friends and co-workers at Warner Brothers Studio in Los Angeles, Bill and his fellow Marine reservists placed bins outside movie theaters.

They collected and distributed 5,000 toys to needy children.

Seeing the difference a handful of Marines could make, Marine reserve units nationwide implemented Toys for Tots campaigns the next year.

In 1948, Walt Disney got into the action, creating the first national Toys for Tots poster. It included a smiling Santa and the now-famous Toys for Tots train logo.

Soon, celebrities such as John Wayne, Charlton Heston, Bob Hope, Jimmy Durante and Doris Day endorsed the program.

The Marine Toys for Tots program helps deliver the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to America's less fortunate children. By 2020, the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots program had collected and distributed more than 600 million toys to 270 million children.

In 2016, the Toys for Tots Foundation authorized a new branch of the Marine Corps League—a congressionally chartered group of Marine and Fleet Marine Force Navy veterans—to deliver toys to children in the Luna County area.

The Deming/Luna County Marine reservists and American Legion Bataan Post Four want to make sure no family needs to worry about affording presents each winter. In its first year operating, the post delivered gifts to 800 children ranging from newborn to 18 years old.

"I think back to what it's like to see your Christmas tree and nothing placed under it," Thom Barry, lifetime member of the Marine Corps League and commander of the American Legion Bataan Post Four, wrote in a 2019 article in the Deming Headlight. "No child should have to experience that. Making sure each child has a toy to put under the tree can give them a better outlook on life and help them realize that people in this community really do care about them."

During the next couple of years, the post's distribution of toys was a cheerful

occasion complete with visits from Santa Claus, music, food, excitement and Marine Corps reservists in dress blues serving as Santa's helpers.

"Toys for Tots has been a blessing to us in the past and provides Christmas," says Nancy Gomez, organizer of the annual Christmas on the Plaza event in Columbus. "In addition to toys and treat bags for kids, the Columbus Chamber of Commerce provides necessity baskets, usually made up of items that cannot be bought with SNAP benefits like soap, shampoo and body lotion for the adults. No one leaves empty-handed."

When the pandemic hit, dress blues and Santa suits were replaced with camouflage and blue jeans. Contactless drive-up and home delivery replaced in-person distribution.

In 2019, the Deming/Luna County Toys for Tots Campaign distributed more than 1,800 toys to 900 children. Because of restrictions due to COVID-19, numbers were lower in 2020.

However, the Toys for Tots Foundation distributed more than 20 million toys



TOYS FOR TOTS



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

Walt Disney designed the first national Toys for Tots poster in 1948, left. The 1992 poster shows Santa with Marine dress blues. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION



ABOVE: The Marine Toys for Tots program has distributed more than 600 million toys since 1947. PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION. **RIGHT:** Thom Barry, right, commander of the American Legion Bataan Post Four, and volunteer Dick Hoezee load Toys for Tots donations onto a pickup. PHOTO COURTESY OF BILLY ARMENDARIZ/DEMING HEADLIGHT

to 7.4 million children nationwide—an organization record.

“As our nation’s economy continues to improve, there will still be many families who will not realize this improvement immediately,” Marine Toys for Tots Foundation Vice President of Operations David Cooper said earlier this year. “There is still a great demand for help, and the United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots program will meet that demand and accomplish the mission.”

Toys may not be what Christmas is all about, but they do bring a big smile to children’s faces. You can become one of Santa’s helpers by donating toys, money or time to Toys for Tots. After all, every child deserves a toy for Christmas.

For more information, visit www.toysfortots.org or call Thom Barry at 575-494-4000. Monetary donations may be made at www.toysfortots.org, under ways to donate. To volunteer with Deming/Luna County Toys for Tots, email thombarry51@gmail.com.

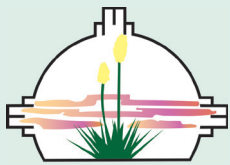


Deming/Luna County Toys for Tots

This winter, United States Marine Corps reservists and volunteers will set up drop-off bins for new, unwrapped toys for children outside local banks, the Deming/Luna County Chamber of Commerce, the Luna County Visitors Center, Peppers Supermarket and other local businesses requesting bins. Donations can be placed in the bins until December 18.

Monetary and virtual toy donations may be made online at www.toysfortots.org/donate. Families in need of toys can register up to six children by visiting www.toysfortots.org/request_toys or by contacting the Deming/Luna County Toys for Tots center at deming-nm.toysfortots.org or 575-494-4000.

Toy distribution will begin around 10 a.m. December 19 in Deming and at the annual Christmas on the Plaza event on December 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Columbus.



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General Manager

Antonio R. Sanchez Jr.

Address

121 N. Main St.
Portales, NM 88310

Telephone

575-356-4491

Fax

575-359-1651

After Hours

575-356-4492

Email

rcec@rcec.coop

Website

www.rcec.coop

Office Hours

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

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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.



2022 Scholarship Applications Open Now

Applications for the RCEC high school and returning college student scholarships are available at www.rcec.coop and in local high school counselors' offices.

Applications must be returned to the RCEC office at 121 N. Main Street by 5 p.m. Friday, January 7, 2022.

Good luck with your applications!

Job Anniversaries

Felicia Powell, 12 years

Toby Zertuche, 1 year



Important Account Information

Make sure Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative has your up-to-date contact information. Correct information allows RCEC to reach you regarding billing, your monthly enchantment magazine and capital credits. RCEC is working toward offering members the option for paperless billing, and the ability to send text and email messages and reminders. For help updating information, call or visit the RCEC office to talk with a customer service representative.

IMPORTANTE INFORMACION DE SU CUENTA

RCEC esta pidiendo a nuestra membresia que mantenga su informacion de contacto actualizada. Es importante que podemos comunicarnos con usted acerca de su facturación, su revista mensual de encantamientos y el reembolso de sus creditos de capital. Estamos trabajando para ofrecer a nuestros miembros la opción para facturación electrónica y la capacidad de enviar mensajes de texto y correo electrónico y recordatorios. Llamenos o visitenos con cualquiera de nuestros representantes de servicio al cliente y estaremos mas que felices de ayudarlo a actualizar su información de su cuenta.

New Distributed Generation Rate Rider

Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative successfully filed and implemented rate changes—or riders—to ensure members installing distributed generation systems continue to pay their share of the costs of construction, operation and maintenance of the RCEC electric system incurred by the co-op to serve these members. Distributed generation systems include, but are not limited to, solar panels and small wind generators.

The proposed changes are to RCEC's Rate No. 1: General Service; Rate No. 2: Commercial Service; and Rate No. 3: Irrigation Pumping and Dryer Service. These changes will enable customers with distributed generation systems to continue to reduce their monthly bills for wholesale power generation and transmission costs while still paying their share of fixed costs incurred by RCEC to make service available to distributed generation system owners.

Under the new rate riders, each general service, commercial service, and irrigation pumping and dryer service distributed generation accounts will be subject to a facility charge and a meter-read billing charge. The facility charge will vary depending on the size of the distributed generation system installed.

RCEC recognizes members have made significant investments in distributed generation systems. Therefore, members who have installed or applied to RCEC to install a system prior to October 1, 2021, have been grandfathered in for the life of the system, or as long as the original members who installed the system remain the owners. If you have questions or are curious about these new rate riders, call RCEC at 575-356-4491.



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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
- 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

Third Annual Gifts From the Kitchen

The saying, “It’s the thought that counts,” brings gift-giving to a new level during the holiday season. Gift-givers of all ages show that the time and effort to prepare one-of-a-kind creations brings unique joy to both the giver and receiver. Making children and adult togetherness time in the kitchen is nothing but a plus. The recipes below are not only gift-worthy, they are simple to prepare.

Peppermint Shortbread Cookies take a standard cookie to a new level with their white chocolate and peppermint caps. The extra candy melt can be welcome additions to S’mores in a Jar. Not only will children enjoy concocting S’mores in a Jar but, as George and Arlo show, the results are delicious and fun to roast on a chilly evening. Interestingly, the Date-Walnut Bread recipe is adapted from a recipe featured in a 1960s “Hints from Heloise” column from former First Lady Pat Nixon. Happy holidays, merriest of Christmases and let’s get cooking!

Date-Walnut Bread

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1½ cup dates, pitted and chopped | 2 tablespoons butter, softened |
| 2½ cups boiling water | 2 eggs |
| 1 tablespoon baking soda | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 1¼ cups chopped walnuts | 4½ cups all-purpose flour |
| 2 cups sugar | 2 teaspoons vanilla |

Bring water to a boil. Stir in baking soda until blended. Soak dates in the water solution for 30 minutes.

Heat oven to 300 F. Lightly spray eight small or two standard loaf pans with butter-flavored cooking spray. Lightly dust with flour.

While dates are soaking, in a large bowl cream sugar and butter together, adding eggs and vanilla until well blended.

In another bowl, mix flour and salt together. Alternate adding flour mixture and date mixture into sugar mixture until just blended. Stir in walnuts.

Pour batter into prepared pans and bake until a toothpick comes out clean when inserted—generally, 1 hour for large loaves and 20-25 minutes for small loaves. Loaves may be frozen.



S’mores in a Jar

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Wide-mouth, pint-sized canning jars | Large marshmallows |
| Graham crackers | Chocolate bars |
| | Bamboo skewers |

Break graham crackers and chocolate bars in half.

In the bottom of the jar, alternate graham crackers and chocolate bars vertically until the first layer of the jar is full.

Place four large marshmallows on top of graham cracker layer. Seal jars and decorate as desired, adding skewers.



Peppermint Shortbread Cookies

2½ cups all-purpose flour

½ cup sugar

½ teaspoon salt

2 sticks (1 cup) plus 3 tablespoons cold butter, cut in small cubes

12 ounces vanilla flavored/white chocolate candy coating

2-3 tablespoons shortening

Soft peppermint candy, crushed

Heat oven to 325 F. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar and salt. With a pastry cutter or fork, cut cold butter into flour mixture until it begins to crumb. If necessary, add a tablespoon of butter at a time until a ball can be formed. Shape dough into two balls.

On a lightly floured surface, roll one ball into a square about ½-inch thick or to desired thickness. Cut with knife or fluted edge into small rectangles. Repeat with second ball.

Place cookies on prepared baking sheet and bake for 12-14, minutes or until edges are slightly browned. After baking, allow cookies to set on baking sheet for 2 minutes; remove from baking sheet onto parchment paper to cool completely.

While cooling, melt white chocolate candy coating in a double boiler. Add enough shortening to make melted coating smooth. Place peppermint candies into a zip-lock bag and gently crush with a rolling pin.

Dip cooled shortbread cookies halfway in melted chocolate; shake excess chocolate off each cookie. Place on parchment paper and sprinkle coated end with peppermint candy. Gently press candy into coating and allow cookies to cool completely before packaging. May be stored in an airtight container.

With remaining melted chocolate, mix crushed candy into chocolate, spread on parchment paper until approximately ½-inch thick and allow to cool. Use in S'mores in a Jar or to snack!



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.



Weaving Past Into Present

NMSU's Heritage Wool Project connects the threads of tradition with modern artistry

By Amanda Bradford

Standing before a loom built more than a century ago by his grandfather, Richard Trujillo passes a shuttle wrapped with wool yarn through the weft as a unique design begins to take shape before him.

Richard, a master weaver in Chimayo, is one thread in NMSU's Heritage Wool Project, which brings together students and faculty in the Animal and Range Sciences and Family and Consumer Sciences departments to highlight the history and importance of the wool industry in New Mexico.

"The Heritage Wool Project is an initiative to reestablish the connection between NMSU and the sheep producers in the state," says Jennifer Hernandez Gifford, associate professor of animal and range sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. "New Mexico ranks 16th in the U.S. in sheep production. Wool sheep do well in the state because they are hardy, but wool production has dwindled some, due to the loss of the wool incentive and predation issues. We want to make sure we don't lose the heritage of the wool industry in the state."

Jennifer trains undergraduate and graduate students in research and sheep production. NMSU is one of the last land-grant universities where animals are raised and maintained on campus. It is a draw for many students eager to work with livestock in preparation for careers in agriculture or veterinary medicine, she says.

While Jennifer's students learn more about wool processing after shearing NMSU's flock of Rambouillet sheep and preparing about 1,000 pounds of fleece for processing into custom-dyed yarn, students in the Family and Consumer Sciences department's fashion merchandising and design program learn how to manage a



Savannah Willingham, fashion merchandising and design senior, left, worked with Assistant Professor Kelley Cleary Coffeen and master weaver Richard Trujillo last spring to create the rug design for the New Mexico Heritage Wool Project. NMSU PHOTO BY JOSH BACHMAN

collaborative textile design project, using that yarn to create a unique woven rug celebrating New Mexico's culture and NMSU's legacy.

Savannah Willingham, a senior in the program, worked closely with Kelley Cleary Coffeen, a college assistant professor in Family and Consumer Sciences; and with Richard, a graduate of NMSU's College of Arts and Sciences; to create the design for the rug, which features a color palette that includes NMSU's distinctive crimson shade.

Kelley met Richard while researching the weaving process in northern New Mexico.

"As I spoke with him, he shared that he was an NMSU alum," Kelley says. "I knew we should collaborate on a project in the future combining his weavings with our fashion merchandising and design program."

Thus emerged a vision to interweave each aspect of the process and create a product that is uniquely NMSU, from raising and shearing the sheep to designing and creating a beautiful product imbued with meaning. When finished, the rug will be displayed in Gerald Thomas Hall to promote the New Mexico Heritage Wool Project.


"We want this project to excite people about owning a piece of New Mexico's wool heritage and NMSU's legacy in it," Jennifer says. "We hope it kicks off a continued interest, as we develop more wool products like stadium blankets, hats and scarves."



Richard is working with NMSU faculty and students to create a woven rug celebrating New Mexico's culture and NMSU's legacy. COURTESY PHOTO

Richard is pleased to work on a project that emphasizes the importance of New Mexico's weaving tradition.

"This project is very much about my cultural heritage," he says. "Weaving was always in my life and my ancestors' before me. My grandparents and those before them raised sheep. They sheared the sheep for wool, cleaned and carded the wool, spun the wool into yarn and wove blankets and rugs to be used or sold."

"It is good to see that NMSU's College of ACES is promoting this activity, as it has a very long tradition in New Mexico." 

The first NMSU-branded wool products will be available soon. To learn more about buying NMSU wool products, follow the NMSU West Sheep Unit on Facebook or contact Jennifer Hernandez Gifford at jgifford@nmsu.edu.

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Empowering Employment

NMSU to offer mastery certificate programs to help fill gaps in New Mexico hospitality industry

By Alyssa Lockman

Restart New Mexico will pay for a group of New Mexico residents to take three content mastery certificate programs offered through New Mexico State University to address skills gaps in the hospitality and tourism industry.

The hospitality and tourism industry has endured unprecedented hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many businesses have faced reductions in revenue while enduring additional expenses to help make their businesses safe for consumers and travelers.

As the industry begins to recover, it now faces a second crisis: a lack of workers to open and operate hotels, restaurants and other tourism businesses.

To address these skills gaps and prepare employees to enter the hospitality and tourism workforce, the NMSU School of Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management—in conjunction with the NMSU Office of Digital Learning—has been awarded funding from Restart New Mexico to develop and deliver three content mastery certificate programs.

Each certificate will consist of three online courses, which can each be completed within four weeks. The courses will carry a digital badge, with the certificate achievable within 12 weeks.

The badges provide hospitality and tourism employers confidence that job candidates and employees have achieved the desired skills and competencies. Following completion of the three-course

Essentials of Customer Service

COURSES START NOVEMBER 8, 2021



Restart NM will pay the cost for a group of New Mexico residents to take three content mastery certificate programs, focused on addressing skill gaps in the hospitality & tourism industry.

- Course 1: Overview of Customer Service Essentials**
- Course 2: Customer Service Skills**
- Course 3: Service Failures, Recovery, and Loyalty**

 ON-DEMAND

series, students will receive a content mastery certificate from NMSU.

All three courses will be offered entirely online through NMSU On-Demand.

The first set, “Essentials of Customer Service,” focuses on customer service for the hourly worker.

The second set, “Customer Service Essentials for Supervisors and Managers,” covers supervision and management for excellent customer service.

The third set, “Essentials of Food and Beverage Operations,” addresses food and beverage skills and competencies necessary for the high-demand positions of fast-food and counter workers, cooks and food prep, and waiters and waitresses. New Mexico food handlers’ certification is included.

The funds from Restart New Mexico pay for a group of New Mexico residents to complete each of the three certificate programs. The certificate programs are available to nonresidents as well, but require payment.


For all courses, applicants must read and speak English fluently. Applicants will also need regular access to a computer and the internet—four to six hours a week,

spread across several days. Applicants must be at least 16 years old.

There are no additional requirements or skills necessary for the Essentials of Customer Service or Essentials of Food and Beverage Operations certificate courses.

For the second series of short courses, applicants should be employed in the hospitality industry or have completed the Essentials of Customer Service course.

The Essentials of Customer Service certificate course started November 8. The other two certificate programs start in February 2022, with students completing by May 2022. Each of the three certificate programs can be completed in 12 weeks.

It is anticipated the courses will continue to be offered as part of the long-term sustainable strategy of preparing and keeping the workforce in New Mexico. 

For more information about the project or certificates, email jhertzma@nmsu.edu. Participants will be asked to complete a brief survey. The first 25 New Mexico residents to do so will receive a promo code to complete the registration for free.

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OVERHEAD FEED BINS. 1 to 4 compartment, 12 to 48 tons. Any size free standing cattle guards, no footing needed. Emery Welding, Clayton, New Mexico. Call 575-374-2320 or 575-207-7402. Email: eweld98@yahoo.com

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JOHN DEERE TRACTOR, serial #3020, 333148T, diesel, rods with roof, no front bucket, gannon blade, brush hog and auger. \$5,900. In Moriarty, NM. Call 505-832-6061 or 505-321-9593 for more information.

VW 1600 ENGINE with 4-speed heavy duty transmission (out of VW Bus still bolted to engine) runs good, new carburetor, early 70's. \$3,300. In Moriarty, NM. Call 505-832-6061 or 505-321-9593 for more information.

Great Finds

MC COMBER ADD-A-HARNES LOOM. 4-harnesses/6-treadles, jack. Includes warping frame or reel, lease sticks, raddle and eight, ten and twelve dent reeds. Photos available. Sturdy and reliable. Very good condition. Assembled. \$1,200. Pick up in Carrizozo, NM. Call 575-648-2769 for more information.

1950 ESSICK ADOBE MUD CEMENT MIXER, 12.6 cubic feet, 1/2 yard. Well maintained. \$1,400. or best offer. Call 505-269-5175 for more information.

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.

WANTED: NEW MEXICO MOTORCYCLE LICENSE PLATES 1912-1970. Paying \$100-\$500 each. Also buying NM car plates 1900-1923. Visit NMplates.com for history and 4,500 photographs of NM plates. Bill Johnston, Box 1, Organ, NM 88052-0001. Email: Bill@NMplates.com or call 575-382-7804.

FISHING TACKLE WANTED: "Antique" lures, reels, rods, tackle boxes. Pre-1950, please. Collector paying highest prices for "Grandpaw's" tackle box. Lures \$50 to \$5,000 each. Reels \$100 to \$7,500 each. Send photos to: tacklechaser@aol.com or call Rick at 575-354-0365.

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SWEDISH GLIMAKRA LOOM, strong worker, good condition. 4-harness/6-treadle, counter balance, weaves 36", optional sectional warp beam. Sold dressed with 20 yard x 25" tencel warp, tension box, reed and some yarn. Disassembled. Pick up in Las Vegas, NM. Photos available. \$3,200. OBO. Call 505-217-6169 for more information.

6X6 STEEL SQUARE TUBING, 24' long. \$210. each. Total weight per stick is 800 lbs. No delivery. Pickup only. We will load Monday thru Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. Call 505-220-0767, for more information.

SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO OLD WEST HISTORY BOOKS. Southwest New Mexico book has over 450 pages and 95 stories. \$38.95 plus shipping. Columbus and Pancho Villa book offers early history and firsthand accounts of Pancho Villa raid survivors. \$14.95 plus shipping. For more information, call 575-544-7597.

1913 NATIONAL CASH REGISTER, model 313, all brass, good condition. \$1,350. Call 505-269-5175 for more information.

WANTED: OLDER AIRSTREAM, SPARTAN, SILVER STREAK, AVION or similar style travel trailers. Any condition considered. Wrecked or gutted trailers included. Please call Rick at 505-690-8272.

Real Estate

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

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

CUERVO, 0 MESITA PASS ROAD.

148 acres in Mesita Ranch Subdivision. Beautiful mesa views, perfect for homesite and/or livestock. \$85,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

SUMNER LAKE, 0 RIVER

RANCHES ROAD, Tract 7 (at intersection with State Road 203). 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

RIBERA, 340 CR B41E. Just over 32 acres with 3-bedroom, 2-bath home, hay barn, two detached garages. Just over 20 of those acres are in alfalfa and grass hay production. Pecos River frontage and acequia water rights. Scenic views and close to I-25. \$695,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

DATIL, 464 SOUTHERN TRAIL, SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN SUBDIVISION,

5.5 acres vacant land. Scenic views of mountains and San Augustin Plains. \$8,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

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DATIL, HERRINGTON CANYON ROAD/CRISWELL RANCH AREA.

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PIE TOWN, SOUTH OF WILD HORSE SUBDIVISION/GOAT RANCH ROAD.

Two tracts. 20 acres for \$16,000 and 40 acres for \$32,000. Vacant land. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

WANTED! WORKING FAMILY

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RAMAH, 281 CANDY KITCHEN

ROAD, 42 acres (3 lots) in Lewis Ranch Subdivision. Scenic views and one hour from Grants. \$100,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

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TUCUMCARI, WEST OF UTE LAKE. Seven 40 acre (more or less) lots. Great views of Ute Lake and the Canadian River canyon lands. Starting at \$90,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

CONCHAS, 204 CONCHAS PLACE. Two story, 2-bedroom, 2-bath home with lake views, two car garage, RV port, upstairs deck, new roof in 2020. \$189,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

FENCE LAKE, 295 PINE HILL ROAD. MOTIVATED SELLER! PRICE REDUCED! 60 acres with over 2,300 sq. ft. log home, pipe corrals and outbuildings. Scenic views and one hour from Gallup. \$250,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN HISTORIC HILLSBORO, NM. Residential property located on about three acres with creek border, hillside bluffs on other, secluded and private. Improvements: two homes, four out-buildings, two wells, chicken coop and a 1955 New Moon 40 ft. trailer, intact and in good condition. Houses are one bedroom, one with studio apartment and three bathrooms, the other is one bedroom, large living room and kitchen/dining area, large bedroom and bath and detached large garage. This is a one of a kind property, easy walking to center of town. Priced to sell at \$285,000. with owner financing for qualified purchaser. Can add other rental properties in Hillsboro. Contact Dennis Franklin at 575-895-5118 or email: dennisb@windstream.net

THREE 1+ ACRE LOTS IN CAPITAN, NM with beautiful unre-stricted views of Sierra Blanca, Nogal Peak and Capitan Mountains. City water and sewer. \$115,000. each. Owner financing available. Must see to appre-ciate. Call 713-865-2265 for more information.

CHEAP COUNTRY LIVING, 1976 SINGLE WIDE. Two miles from town. Heat pump. House is all electric. Berrendo water, Berrendo schools. 3-bedroom, 2-bath. 20 x 40 shop on 2.9 acres. Asking \$49,000. Call 575-291-5263 for more information.

20 ACRES, 6 MILES NORTH OF CAPITAN, NM. Bounds Lincoln National Forest and Capitan Mountains. Stunning view of Sierra Blanca Mountains. \$145,000. Owner financing available. Call 713-865-2265 for more information.

NOGAL, TBD BARBER AVENUE. 2.89 acres in Townsite of Nogal. Co-op water and electricity nearby. \$45,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

Vehicles

1957 CHEVROLET 6400 (1 1/2 or 2 TON) WINCH TRUCK with poles, 283 V8, 4-speed with brownie. Original and in good shape. Runs. Needs brakes. \$5,900. In Moriarty, NM. Call 505-832-6061 or 505-321-9593 for more information.

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youth art

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Draw your favorite fireworks for January.

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Draw a card or heart for them.

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Santa Fe, NM 87505

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

Hooray! Winners Get Paid: \$15

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

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2. Age
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*Accepted artwork up to age 13.

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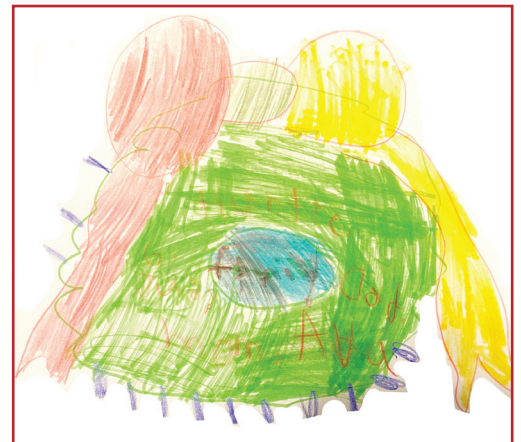
Easton Merrell • Age 11
Socorro Electric Cooperative



Emily Ness • Age 6
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