

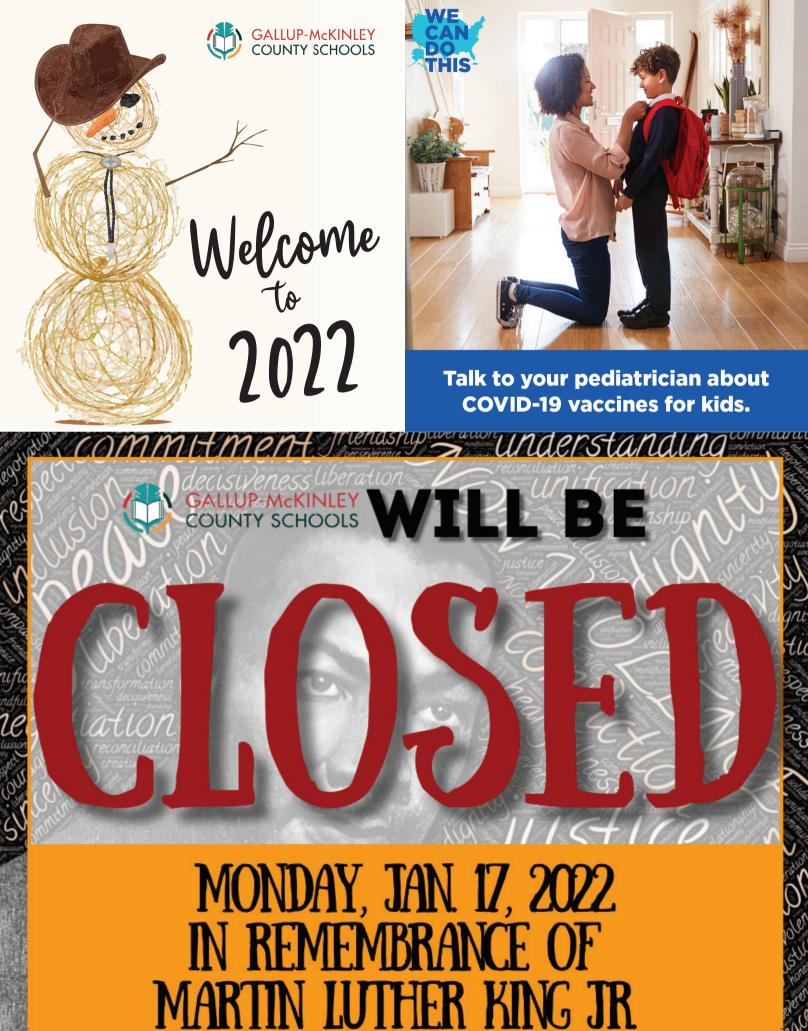
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JANUARY 2022

Ghost Town Hunter

John Mulhouse offers insight into many of New Mexico's well-known ghost towns. **Page 14**

The church in Taiban, New Mexico, is author John Mulhouse's favorite ghost town structure. PHOTO BY JOHN MULHOUSE

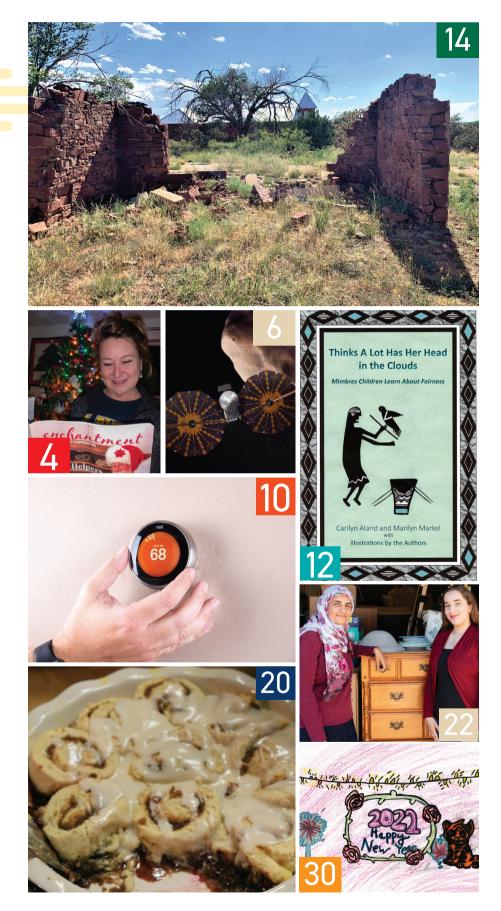


JANUARY 2022

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Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month—or as needed—to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system. Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.



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Congratulations to ...

Sierra County Electric Cooperative member Laurie Pino, pictured enjoying her December copy of *enchantment*.

"I'm so excited!!" Laurie writes. "I really do enjoy reading every publication from cover to cover. The information is always relevant and useful."

Laurie wins \$20!



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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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Off and Running in 2022

The late North Carolina State Wolfpack coach Jimmy Valvano once said, "No matter what business you're in, you can't run in place, or someone will pass you by. It doesn't matter how many games you've won." So, we close the books on 2021 and look to 2022 and all the opportunities it presents.

As we look back on 2021—the year that was—it was anything but typical for co-ops. There were successes and setbacks. But through it all, we kept our focus on keeping the lights on. We began the year with a completely virtual legislative session. Our advocacy was conducted through Zoom and social media.

New Mexico co-ops are well on their way to meeting RPS compliance of 40% in 2025 and 50% in 2030. We are going to meet these requirements in a reliable and affordable manner.

The cooperatives' annual meeting circuit usually begins in March of every year and ends in September. The annual meetings in 2021 were mostly conducted as drive-thru events. They still included co-op updates, food and door prizes. We said goodbye to parting friends and hello to new ones as the members exercised their right to choose the leaders and decision-makers for their co-ops. We also unfortunately lost some co-op family members to the pandemic.

In Washington, we saw a few things accomplished in Congress. A new infrastructure bill eases some of the restrictions under which co-ops must operate. Congress passed a wide-ranging, bipartisan infrastructure bill, which includes billions of dollars for broadband deployment, electric vehicle infrastructure, cybersecurity, grid resiliency and clean energy development including programs at the Department of Energy.

As Congress continues to negotiate the separate "reconciliation" package, we are advocating for the inclusion of RUS repricing legislation, direct pay for energy



tax incentives, and a voluntary USDAbased clean energy transition program. Investing in our energy infrastructure is vital to ensuring that electric cooperatives can continue to do what we do best provide reliable, affordable power to 42 million Americans. As Congress continues to work on this proposal, we look forward to staying engaged to ensure the priorities of rural America and electric co-ops are incorporated and addressed.

For 2022, we have many things on our horizon. The legislative session begins in three weeks. One of the renewable energy development tools implemented by the state several years ago was a production tax credit for renewable generation. This year, the legislature will entertain incentives to foster hydrogen as a generation fuel.

We can see state Grants for Infrastructure Deployment that creates and provides \$42.5 billion for the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment Program. States will distribute the money in accordance with the National Telecommunications Information Administration and statutory rules prioritizing a focus on rural areas.

Wildfire mitigation is going to be on the front lines. With our continued drought, wildfires become more and more of a danger. Federally, wildfire events have been added to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation program, specifically allowing funds to be used to install fire-resistant wires and infrastructure, and underground wires.

As New Mexico co-ops, we are developing wildfire mitigation plans. These should be completed in 2022. We are also working with the state forestry division to implement vegetation management programs to protect our forest lands.

In unity with all other electric co-op consumers around the state, ask your legislator to work with electric cooperatives to keep electric bills affordable. Get involved in this effort by contacting your legislator today.

So, best wishes for the New Year. We will continue to run on your behalf and, hopefully, we do not get passed.

New Year Offers New Views

An artist's conception of NASA's Lucy spacecraft encountering the Trojan asteroid Patroclus and its moon Menoetius in 2033. IMAGE COURTESY NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER (CONCEPTUAL IMAGE LAB), ADRIANA GUTIERREZ

The New Year 2022 begins with the brilliant planet Venus, having dominated our evening sky for the past few months, making a farewell appearance low in our southwestern evening sky before disappearing into the dusk within the next couple of days. Within the next week, it will pass between the Earth and the sun, then cross over into our morning sky.

Meanwhile, our solar system's other inner planet, Mercury, is visible during dusk throughout the first half of January.

The two largest worlds in our solar system, Jupiter and Saturn, are about to bring to an end the appearance they have been making in our nighttime skies over the past several months. Both planets are low in the southwestern sky after dusk, with Saturn leading Jupiter by about an hour and a half. Saturn disappears into twilight by the end of January, and Jupiter will do so the following month.

The Red Planet, Mars, rises in the east shortly before dawn at the beginning of January, then gradually climbs higher into the morning sky during the next several months as it approaches opposition directly opposite the sun in the sky—near the end of 2022. By the end of January, it is joined in the morning sky by Venus, which will shine brilliantly in the predawn hours for the next few months.

The Quadrantid meteor shower—one of the strongest of the annual meteor showers—reaches its peak Monday, January 3. The actual peak of the shower takes place during the afternoon hours here in New Mexico, but several meteors may appear low in the northwestern sky during the early hours that evening.

Two NASA missions to asteroids have been launched recently. The Lucy mission, launched October 16, will make a gravity-assist flyby of Earth this coming October that will help propel it to some of the Trojan asteroids that travel in the same orbit as Jupiter later this decade and early next decade.

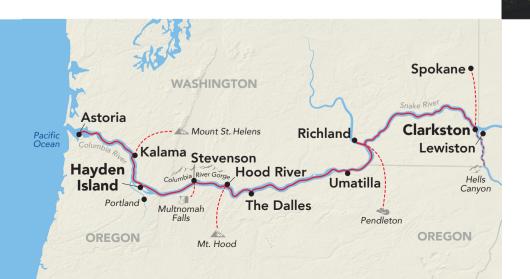
The Double Asteroid Redirection Test mission, launched November 24, will impact the moon Dimorphos of the small near-Earth asteroid Didymos this September in an effort to test techniques for deflecting Earth-approaching asteroids, should that ever be necessary. **AMERICAN CRUISE LINES**

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Entrepreneur Recognized for Efforts

NMSU alum Richard Leza inducted into university's Hall of Fame

By Cassie McClure

Businessman and New Mexico State University alumnus Richard Leza is the third inductee in the NMSU Entrepreneur Hall of Fame by NMSU's Arrowhead Center and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies.

A virtual reception was held December 16 to recognize Richard.

"Being recognized for my entrepreneurial accomplishments is my ultimate reward," he says.

Born in Laredo, Texas, Richard's family moved to Placitas—a colonia of Hatch where he spent his childhood as the fourth of 10 children to a single mother. He worked in the fields picking crops and was the only member of his family to finish college.

Richard believes in encouraging young minorities to reach for higher education, especially if they have a business idea they think can work. He was a co-founder, president and chairman of Hispanic-Net, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a network of successful Hispanics that would improve and enhance entrepreneurial opportunities for Hispanics in high-tech.

"Be determined and believe in yourself," Richard says. "It may take many years, but it's sweet when you are holding a winner."

Winners are what Richard created during his time in the Silicon Valley in California. He was founder, chairperson and CEO of RMC Group Inc. and AI Research Corp. RMC was a management consulting firm. AI Research Corp. was an active venture capital firm specializing in business-to-business software, information technology and medical analytical software applications. The firm specialized in early-stage investments with a marketfocused approach for creating long-term commercial products.

Through more-than 40 years in finance,



Richard Leza has been chosen as the third inductee of the NMSU Entrepreneur Hall of Fame. In this photograph, he receives a separate award—the 2021 James F. Cole Memorial Award for Service—at this year's NMSU Distinguished Alumni Dinner. NMSU PHOTO BY JOSH BACHMAN

manufacturing, engineering, medical devices and application software, Richard provided initial seed and first-round capital, hands-on guidance to management teams, and strategic assistance to his portfolio companies. He was an entrepreneur and investor in many technology startups, including Flex Star Corp., the first automatic testing equipment corporation for hard drives; Optimal Learning Corp., the first interactive educational software company; EndoTherapeutics Corp., the first disposable surgical trocars for minimally invasive surgery; and CastaLink Inc., an initial provider of real-time web-based supply chain collaboration solutions for mid-size companies.

He retired from Exar Corp. after serving 10 years as chairperson and three times as interim CEO. Exar designed, developed and marketed high-performance analog mixedsignal integrated circuits and advanced subsystem solutions for many industrial markets. The company sold to MaxLiner in May 2017.

Richard says he is proud of his educational background, including attending East Los Angeles College and earning a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from NMSU, a master's degree in business administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and an honorary doctorate from NMSU.

"Richard was one of my students in the early 1970s, and I followed his career over the years and maintained fairly close contact," says retired NMSU faculty member Kenneth R. White, who joined with NMSU Civil Engineering Department Head David Jauregui to nominate Leza to the hall of fame. "He has supported the department and college greatly over the last 20 years.

"He has a proven record of accomplishments in successful startup ventures, developing winning strategies, transforming ailing businesses into profitable enterprises, building worldclass teams and developing revolutionary products. In addition, through the formation of industry differentiated products and strategies, he has created outstanding shareholder value. Leza has also given entrepreneurial lectures for the department and college and has been the Distinguished Alumni for the College of Engineering. He received the 2021 James F. Cole Award for Service to the university, and has served on department and college advisory boards."

Kathryn Hansen, director and CEO of Arrowhead Center, says Richard was selected from a pool of outstanding nominees by the Arrowhead Innovation Network Advisory Council.

"He is an exemplary mentor for students who aspire to an entrepreneurial journey," Kathryn says.

Richard's advice to other budding entrepreneurs? "Business doors don't open easily," he says. "You got to push them open."

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energy sensel Miranda Boutelle



The Power of Energy Efficiency

Q: Do energy-saving measures in my home make a big difference?

A: For the average household, it depends on your home's efficiency and your habits. Your energy use is based on your home's equipment and how you use it.

You might already have an efficient home and good energy use habits, or you might have room for improvement.

Energy keeps us comfortable in our homes. Our monthly bills are the associated costs for this energy use. To make energy-saving measures work in your home, it comes down to preventing energy waste while maintaining personal comfort.

Let's take it back to the basics and see if we can find opportunities to save energy in your home. Filters, LEDs and thermostat settings are great places to start.

Filters. If your home has a forced-air system, you have a filter. The filter needs to be checked regularly and replaced when it is dirty. A dirty filter can cause heating and air-conditioning systems to use 15% more energy, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Since heating and air conditioning make up almost half of your energy use, replacing your filter regularly or when it looks dirty is a habit that can reduce energy waste.

LEDs. Upgrading your lighting to LEDs

is a simple, low-cost way to cut energy use. Depending on your budget, you can do it all at once or change bulbs out over time. If you are going to replace a few at a time, prioritize the lights you use the most.

There are many LED options available. One major variation is color temperature, which is listed on the packaging in Kelvin. I recommend 2,700K because it is similar to incandescent lighting. I also suggest Energy Star-rated products because they meet strict quality and efficiency standards, use up to 90% less energy and last 15 times longer than standard incandescent bulbs.

Setting your thermostat. It's amazing how much difference a few degrees can make. By adjusting your thermostat to your home habits, you can save year-round on heating and cooling costs.

For winter months, the DOE recommends setting your thermostat to 68 F when you are home and dialing it back 8 to 10 degrees when you leave the house or go to sleep. For summer, the recommendation is 78 degrees when you are home and 8 to 10 degrees warmer when you are away.

Using a programmable or smart thermostat allows you to set the temperature according to your schedule.

Making these small changes in your routine helps improve your energy efficiency while maintaining comfort in your home.

The New Voice of Energy Efficiency

Hello! I'm Miranda Boutelle, director of operations and customer engagement



at Efficiency Services Group. Our company partners with electric utilities to provide energy-efficiency services to members. I have dedicated my career to helping people improve their home's efficiency.

I fell in love with energy efficiency at a manufactured home in Wisconsin 20 years ago. I worked as a weatherization technician at a nonprofit that provided efficiency services to seniors, people with disabilities and income-eligible people. That's where I met Joan.

Joan worked at a factory making Christmas presents. She was rarely comfortable in her single-wide manufactured home during Wisconsin winters, and her energy bill was a large portion of her income. While working on her home, the HVAC crew found the ductwork was set up for a double-wide. There was a large hole underneath the furnace meant to heat a section of the home that did not exist. Joan was unknowingly heating the space under her home and the surrounding cornfields for years. Our crews sealed up the 12-inch hole and weatherized her home.

When we checked in a few months later, Joan welcomed us with open arms and snickerdoodles. Since we completed the work, she saved enough on her electric bill to buy Christmas presents for her grandchildren. Imagine that: a grandmother who works at a factory making Christmas presents who couldn't afford to buy them.

After that experience, I was hooked. Making that kind of difference in someone else's life changed my life. I look forward to sharing my energyefficiency advice with you.

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Finally . . . a better mobility solution than Scooters or Power Chairs.

The *Zoomer's* versatile design and 1-touch joystick operation brings mobility and independence to those who need it most.

If you have mobility issues, or know someone who does, then you've experienced the difficulties faced by millions of Americans. Simple tasks like getting from the bedroom to the kitchen can become a time-consuming and potentially dangerous ordeal. You may have tried to solve the problem with a power chair or a scooter but neither is ideal. Power chairs are bulky and look like a medical device. Scooters are either unstable or hard to maneuver. Now, there's a better alternative . . . the Zoomer.

My Zoomer is a delight to ride! It has increased my mobility in my apartment, my opportunities to enjoy the-out-of-doors, and enabled me to visit the homes of my children for longer periods of time. The various speeds of it match my need for safety, it is easy to turn, and I am most pleased with the freedom of movement it gives me.

Sincerely, A. Macon, Williamsburg, VA

After just one trip around your home in the Zoomer, you'll marvel at how easy it is to navigate. It is designed to maneuver in tight spaces like doorways, between furniture, and around corners. It can go over thresholds and works great on any kind of floor or carpet. It's not bulky or cumbersome, so it can roll right up to a table or desk –





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lightweight aluminum frame makes it durable and comfortable. Its dual motors power it at up to 3.7 miles per hour and its automatic electromagnetic brakes stop on a dime. The rechargeable battery powers it for up to 8 miles on a single charge. Plus, its exclusive foldable design enables you to transport it easily and even store it in a closet or under a bed when it's not in use.

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your lifestyle? Call now and find out how you can have your very own Zoomer.

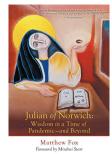
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Julian of Norwich: Wisdom in a Time of Pandemic and Bevond

Have you ever heard of Julian, the English mystic of the Middle Ages who emerged from her deathbed

with no less than 16 revelations? Julian of Norwich lived through the bubonic plague mostly as an anchoress-someone walled into a cell to live a life of prayer and contemplation?

Her manuscripts weren't published for 300 or so years after her death. Her big idea—acknowledging god as mother and calling for balance between divine feminine and sacred masculine-was pretty dangerous right up until about now.

And still, I do know many of you have heard of Julian, and certainly many more readers know the book's author. Matthew Fox. This theologian, activist priest and author of more than 38 books offers this incredible deep dive, especially relevant during our current global pandemic.

Fox is best known for promoting the famous-Thomas Aquinas, Meister Eckhar and the like—and other nearly forgotten mystics and prophets who champion the earth and stand for justice.

Fox describes Julian, who spent her entire life during a pandemic as a "stunning thinker, a profound theologian and a mystic, a fully awake woman, and a remarkable guide with a mighty vision to share for 21st century seekers."

Fox does not take on any specific religious distinction or denominational dogma to deliver wisdom and unflinching optimism as a means to light our own spiritual paths out of our era's dark night of the soul. Fox is a skilled writer, and his storytelling is lighthearted, despite all the weight of pandemics-both Julian's and ours. His telling of Julian is one that many readers may find delight in.

By Matthew Fox iUniverse Matthewfox.org



Thinks A Lot.

This is no easy task for Thinks A Lot. After all, she can see what others cannot in the clouds. But no one, maybe especially Thinks a Lot, knows what to do with that gift just vet.

Throughout the course of this tale, Thinks A Lot and her cousinsthe Mimbres children central to this captivating story-learn how "equal" and "fair" are not the same thing. This and other lessons are made more vivid by iconic and authentic Mimbres illustrations, the same illustrations made famous by prehistoric Mimbres pottery.

Clouds—the fifth in a series authored by New Mexican writers and twin sistersgoes a long way to teach the importance of developing good character traits and how to demonstrate ethical behavior. It also provides an excellent opportunity to expose children to the creativity and culture of the Native American Mimbres people of the American Southwest.

The authors use creative license in their use of a talking stick held on occasion throughout the story-they disclose there is no actual evidence of talking sticks used in Mimbres culture. The invitation to readers is to use a talking stick for discussion following the reading as a means to facilitate a style of communication that embodies both active listening and respect.

By using the tradition of a talking stick, children (err, everyone) can benefit from the practice of allowing all viewpoints to be honored-just one of Thinks A Lot's many timeless messages.

By Carolyn Alarid and Marilyn Markel Sunstone Press sunstonepress.com

Thinks A Lot Has Her Head in the Clouds

"Thinks A Lot! You have your head in the clouds. Your eyes need to stay on the ground if you want to learn from me," savs Grandmother to

Thinks A Lot Has Her Head in the

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What Kind of Woman

I keep this collection of poems on my bedside table. I may not be the only one. Kate Baer's first time out in published poetry

put her on the top of the New York Times best-seller list for paperback trade fiction, a feat nearly unheard of for firsttime authors of the genre. Even more mind-boggling: She wrote the bulk of What Kind of Woman in her minivan parked outside her local Panera Bread.

She's the poet I need right now. Is she the poet you need, too? Perhaps, but not definitely. I shudder to think of poetry written for an audience of everyone, and you should too!

What Baer offers are sublimely raw takes on issues most personal to her. Her specific musings on desire, motherhood, intimacy, friendship, consumerism, secrets kept and secrets told leap from each page with the intimacy usually reserved for text messages sent from your dearest friend meant only for you to see.

Bv Kate Baer Harper Perennial Harpercollins.com

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States (March)



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Ghost Town Hunter

By Jim Winnerman

hile he was living in Augusta, Georgia, in 2003, John Mulhouse began photographing abandoned buildings.

"I felt they were once important to somebody and that they must be preserved, if only in a photo," he says.

John was still taking pictures of neglected structures in 2009 when he moved to Albuquerque. He soon discovered the New Mexico landscape and the Southwest was a treasure of not only deserted buildings, but abandoned towns.

His hobby took a new direction.

John has visited more than 100 ghost towns scattered across the Southwest. Most are in New Mexico and are the focus of his book "Abandoned New Mexico: Ghost Towns, Endangered Architecture and Hidden History."

He says there are a few major reasons a village "goes ghost."

In the late 1800s, gold, silver and other minerals attracted people to the Western frontier. At the same time, cattle ranches of the western Plains needed to reach railheads to ship their herds east, and steam locomotives needed to stop to take on water. As a result, railroad depots became the impetus for establishing many small towns.

Once the mines played out and cattle were no longer moved by rail—and railroads shifted to diesel power—the towns slowly became shells of what once held so much promise.

A common definition of a ghost town is a place that has substantially fewer people than when its population was at its peak, and a town that has largely lost the reason it was established.

John says when he visits a ghost town, such as Negra, New Mexico, he feels a unique sense of peace. "The wind might be blowing through an old homestead with rusted farm implements scattered around," he says. "You can imagine what a particular kind of fairly simple life was like many decades ago."

John says favorite buildings emerge for him, even in their state of abandonment .

"Yeso, New Mexico, is quite intact even after being founded more than 115 years ago in 1906," he says. "Many empty houses still line the streets, and the Hotel Mesa remains standing, even if gutted."

His favorite building is in Taiban.

"I absolutely love the First Presbyterian Church there," John says. "Although it is of fairly basic construction, the design and location on a small rise on the eastern Plains is stunning. Visiting it is like seeing an old friend, even as I sadly track its decay year after year.

"There is also a two-story adobe building in Guadalupe that was the Juan Córdova store and dance hall. It is lovely and standing in the shadow of Cabezon Peak."

Several buildings also remain in the mining town of Lake Valley, which was founded in 1878 when silver was discovered. The discovery led to founding Bridal Chamber Mine. Almost overnight, the tiny frontier community blossomed into a busy and reportedly violent settlement.

John says silver mining ceased long ago, but wonderful buildings remain. The Bureau of Land Management restored the schoolhouse and chapel. Other buildings in Lake Valley have been stabilized to slow further deterioration. They are featured as part of a self-guided interpretive walking tour.

John says it is unusual to find a ghost town only inhabited by ghosts. Often, people still live there.

When there are residents, John warns some can resent having their communities classified as ghost towns. It is important



to get permission to visit and photograph beyond public places.

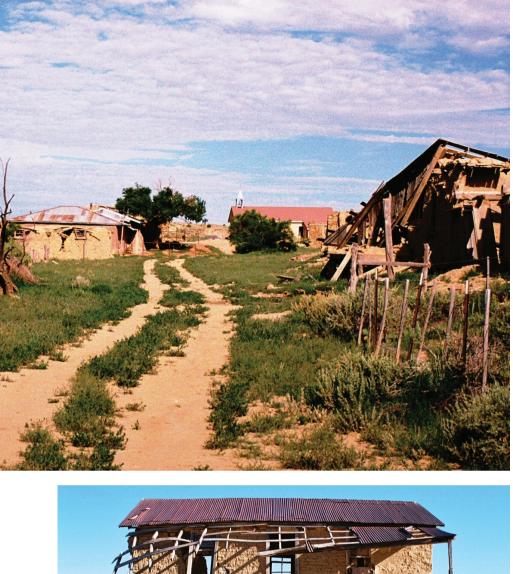
"Remote towns that are still occupied can be a little challenging because you're clearly an outsider in a place that typically does not see strangers in town," he says. "I find people that are enthusiastic about having a conversation regarding regional history and memories of the town and how their family came to be there, but also some people are not so happy to see someone walking around uninvited. They may well tell you to go elsewhere in no uncertain terms."

Even in the already unusual world of ghost towns, John says the town of Cuervo stands apart. It became a ghost town three times.

Far from being off the beaten path, the abandoned village sits nestled in the desert a few hundred feet off Interstate 40 in full view of thousands of cars and trucks passing daily.

Founded when the Chicago, Rock Island and Gulf Railroad reached the location in 1901, the tracks attracted cattle ranchers who settled the area. The railroad siding was abandoned in 1910.

An expected economy based on the railroad was lost before it could become





ABOVE: While the ruins in most ghost towns are few and scattered, in Cabezón, New Mexico, many abandoned buildings are surprisingly close together. TOP: Often when a roof remains it prolongs the life of the structure below, such as this building in Guadalupe, New Mexico. The two-story adobe building is thought to date to 1905, and local lore is that it was the home and store of Juan Córdova. PHOTOS BY JOHN MULHOUSE

firmly established.

Offered a lifeline when historic Route 66 was aligned through the center of town in 1926, Cuervo rallied. Gas stations and stores were built to cater to newly arriving travelers. The town grew to include two churches and two hotels as the population peaked at 300 people. By 1946, however, the Depression and World War II decimated tourism, and only 150 people remained.

Another opportunity for rebirth arrived in the 1960s when an Interstate 40 exit ramp was added at Cuervo. But the fourlane slab of limited-access concrete sliced through the middle of the community like



Find a Ghost Town Near You

To see a listing of ghost towns by state and a map of their locations, visit these sites, www.ghosttowns.com or www. geotab.com/ghost-towns.

To keep up with John Mulhouse's travel, visit https://cityofdust.blogspot.com or https://www.facebook.com/cityofdustnm.

"Abandoned New Mexico: Ghost Towns, Endangered Architecture and Hidden History" by John Mulhouse is a photographic journey through the state offering a history of memorable events in many of the communities.



a knife inflicting a mortal wound. Cuervo never recovered.

"I have been to Cuervo a few times, and it is the creepiest ghost town I have ever visited," John says. "It is different because it is relatively intact, and the railroad, Route 66 and Interstate 40 remain in daily use.

"Several years ago, there were reports of unsavory activity in some of the remaining buildings. Things have settled down, but I still caution people they should not stop there. The locals left make it clear they want people to move along."

Almost as if it were a ghost itself standing proudly among the deserted buildings in Cuervo, a small red sandstone church is maintained and remains in occasional use, courtesy of the Catholic community 18 miles west in Santa Rosa. A concrete stone above the church entryway indicates it was commissioned in 1915.

Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative



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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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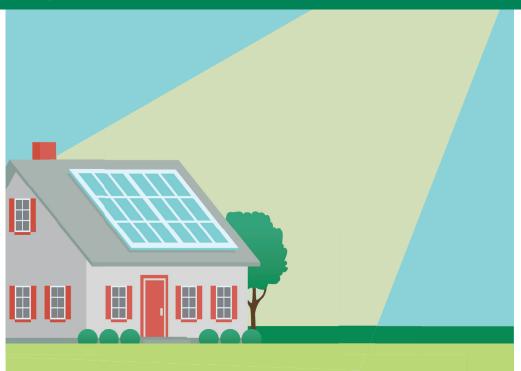
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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. in the cooperative boardroom.



Community Solar Act of 2021

On April 5, 2021, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the Community Solar Act into law, effective June 18, 2021. This act requires the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission to adopt rules to establish a community solar program no later than April 1, 2022.

The community solar program is still being developed. The law includes an opt-in provision for rural electric cooperatives, meaning rural electric cooperatives are not required to participate. However, co-ops can opt into a specific project should a co-op's board of trustees choose to.

Since RCEC is legally obligated to purchase its power from wholesale energy provider Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, the decision to opt in would be made by that organization.

RCEC is able to engage in small solar or small wind projects behind the meter, meaning the project provides power to specific members. Even then, RCEC must report these to WFEC. Behind-the-meter projects are monitored through a process called net-metering.

RCEC has received numerous calls and visits from members who have been approached by solar companies interested in attaching projects to the co-op's electrical infrastructure.

Many solar entities want to use 40 acres of land for 5-megawatt solar generation projects. That is the maximum size allowed under the Community Solar Act on a per-project basis. RCEC cannot entertain any of these community solar projects without the consent of WFEC.

Members interested in talking with WFEC about one of these projects can contact Dave Sonntag, vice president of special projects, at 405-759-2856.

Apply Now For Scholarships

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 St. by 5 p.m. Friday, January 7.

Good luck with your applications!

Job Anniversaries

Sammy Villanueva, 22 years Annette Salguero, 21 years Darrin Stroik, 12 years

T J Garcia, 2 years Cobe Correa, 1 year



Have a happy and healthy new year!

The Roosevelt County office will be closed Friday, December 31 for New Year's Eve.



2022 Youth Tour Canceled

The New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association cancelled its participation in the 2022 Government-in-Action Youth Tour due to continued health and safety concerns for our youth and all those involved in making this program a success.

RCEC's priority is always the health and safety of our members. We appreciate your patience. We want students to experience all the great opportunities Youth Tour has to offer, but with the current health and safety restrictions this wouldn't be possible.

We will keep members updated on the next Youth Tour as soon as that information becomes available.

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ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY JENIFOTO

Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint form, AD-3027, found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information rquested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; Fax: 202-690-7442 Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Green to Red, But Not Green to Yellow?

By Marisa Thompson

Questions: I still have so much green fruit ripening on my tomato plants. Should I pull up the plants by the roots and hang them upside down in the garage to finish ripening? Before the first frost in my area, I picked my yellow bell peppers while they were still green. Will they turn yellow if I keep them on a brightly lit windowsill?

-Gardeners in Albuquerque and Tucumcari

The good thing about tomatoes is they are classified as climacteric fruit, meaning they continue to ripen after being harvested as long as they are mature. Mature fruits are those with seeds that have fully developed and are viable. Ripeness refers to color, texture and flavor—aka, marketability.

Climacteric fruits such as bananas, avocados, apples, mangos and tomatoes are often picked when technically mature but not completely ripe so fewer rot during transport. Among nonclimacteric fruits are strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, citrus, pumpkins and squash. They will not ripen once harvested.

The difference has a lot to do with how much ethylene each fruit produces. Ethylene is a natural plant hormone largely responsible for fruit ripening. The group of fruits that can ripen off the vine tend to be higher ethylene producers.

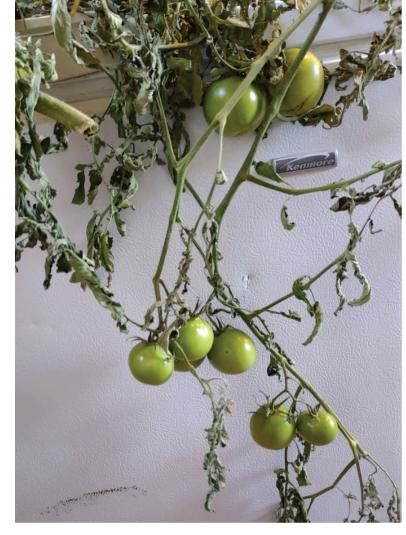
Lucky for us, tomatoes are in this group.

As Nebraska Extension Horticulturist John Porter puts it in his excellent blog post on this subject, "The only stage of maturity for nonclimacteric fruits after harvest is ... compost." See the post at https://gardenprofessors.com/ripening.

This isn't to say all tomatoes are on easy street once they are out of the garden.

"One difficulty with ripening tomatoes indoors is controlling humidity," according to an article posted on website PlantTalk Colorado. "If the humidity is too low, fruit shrivels. If the humidity is too high, fruit molds. Some gardeners simply hang the whole plant upside down in a dark, cool garage or basement to let the fruit ripen gradually. In Colorado, fruits tend to shrivel from the low humidity." See the post at https://planttalk.colostate.edu/ topics/vegetables/1831-ripening-tomatoes-indoors.

That approach for late-season tomato plants is recommended, or at least mentioned, in many blogs, articles, Facebook groups and Cooperative Extension publications around the country. However, in this vast rabbit hole, I found just as many sources asking the question, "But, why?"



Considering the bowls full of green tomatoes in my kitchen lazily reddening on their own, I am more comfortable in that second boat of skeptics. Why go through all that work?

It seems like a hassle to dig them up, remove excess soil from the root ball and drag them inside. Large tomato plants can easily weigh more than 20 pounds without even considering the weight of the fruit. Then there's more work to hang huge tomato plants from the ceiling. One blogger even suggested hanging them in your attic. I don't have an attic, but that sounds like a mess to me.

Hard work aside, what benefits could there be?

One astute gardener pointed out hanging plants might make sense for people who do not have counter space for stockpiles of ripening fruit. I imagine that, in more humid climates, storing tomatoes while still hanging on the plant might mean slower decay rates compared to those clumped together in a box.

But are there actual benefits to the fruit? Not likely.

By the time plants are pulled from the ground, tomatoes that have matured enough to ripen will continue to do so on their own, without all the fanfare. They don't even need light. Studies have shown once tomatoes reach a maturation phase called the "breaker stage" or "breaker point," the flavor does not improve by staying on the vine any longer.

You read that right. I was surprised to learn all of this, too. I will include resource links in the blog https://nmsudesertblooms. blogspot.com.

In the end, if you try the upside-down method, set aside a pile to test in a bowl or box, take photos, document the experience



These green tomatoes still on plants were brought inside before the first freeze in Tucumcari. PHOTO BY SUSANN MIKKELSON

and share what you learn.

As to the second question: Will the green bell peppers turn yellow if kept on a brightly lit windowsill? Well, we already learned fruit does not need light to ripen. While the fact about light is surprising, that is not the most interesting part of the story. The plot thickens.

Even though peppers are in the same family as tomatoes, they are nonclimacteric. Don't hold your breath waiting for those green bell peppers to become yellow. However, newer research performed around the globe and here in New Mexico has shown some pepper types to be climacteric and others to be semi-climacteric.

I was hopeful about the bell peppers. I finally ran out of steam and stopped searching when I read Porter's thoughtful remark in the comment section of his blog post that strengthens the case for nonclimacteric bell peppers: "This is how you have both green and red/yellow/orange bell peppers available at the grocery store. If they continued to ripen it would be hard to have green bell peppers.

For more gardening information, visit the NMSU Extension Urban Horticulture page at http://desertblooms.nmsu.edu/ and the NMSU Horticulture Publications page at http://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/_h. Find your local Cooperative Extension Office at https://aces.nmsu.edu/county.





ABOVE: These red-but-wrinkly tomatoes are the last of the 2,052 pounds of green tomatoes harvested October 15, 2021, at the end of the study at the NMSU Agricultural Science Center at Los Lunas. The fruit turned red within four weeks of harvest. PHOTO BY MARISA THOMPSON TOP: Yellow bell peppers picked before the first frost, when still green. Don't hold your breath waiting for those green bell peppers to become yellow. PHOTO BY ARGEN DUNCAN

on the menu I By Sue Hutchison

Recipes to Stay Warm This Winter

With single-digit temperatures and long nights, there's no time like the present to make cozy culinary fare the norm. Winter ranch workers and others whose jobs take them outdoors need a warm, homecooked meal to look forward to as winter carries forth. The following recipes come to the rescue for cooks who want to keep loved ones comfy and satisfied, while being filling and nutritious. Of note, our high protein Slow Cooker Rustic Minestrone Soup may be made as a vegetarian meal by substituting the chicken or turkey stock for vegetable stock.

While visiting friends, breakfast was cooked in a style that was both unique and very appetizing. If Huevos Rancheros are a favorite, try this month's variation, which offers an enjoyable alternative to the regular sauce. If out and about in Lincoln County, local favorite El Paraiso Mexican Restaurant serves up a similar dish. Ask for the Ranchera sauce!

In coming months, watch for a new feature in enchantment that spotlights other locally owned restaurants.

Slow Cooker Rustic Minestrone Soup

- 32 ounces vegetable, chicken or turkey stock
- 2 cups tomato juice
- 3 cups water
- 2 russet potatoes, washed, unpeeled and diced
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 15-ounce can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 teaspoons finely chopped garlic 11/2 cups small pasta, uncooked
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon thyme

- 1 teaspoon rosemary
- 1 teaspoon sage
- 1/2 teaspoon coriander
- 1½ teaspoons salt ½ teaspoon pepper
- 1 15-ounce can each: kidney beans, green beans, white beans, drained
- 1 zucchini, washed, unpeeled and diced
- 1½ cups small pasta, uncooked Parmesan cheese

Prepare 6-quart slow cooker with cooking spray. Combine the first 13 ingredients in cooker, cover, and cook on low for 6 to 8 hours.

Add beans, zucchini and pasta, stirring to incorporate. Replace the cover and cook an additional hour. Ladle into bowls, sprinkle Parmesan cheese and serve with crackers or sliced cheese.

Unused soup may be frozen.



Huevos Rancheras

- 8 corn tortillas
- 8 slices thick deli turkey
- 2 cups water
- 1 cube or 1½ teaspoons chicken bouillon
- 2 8-ounce cans tomato sauce
- 1 bell pepper, cored, seeded and vertically sliced
- ¹/₂ red onion, sliced
- 1 jalapeño, cored, seeded, and diced
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin ½ teaspoon chopped garlic Salt and pepper to taste
- 8 eggs Grated cheese

In a small skillet, warm tortillas in vegetable oil. Drain on paper towels. Set aside and keep warm.

In a saucepan, heat the water and bouillon until bouillon is dissolved. Add tomato sauce, bell pepper, onion, jalapeno, cumin, garlic and salt/pepper. Bring mixture to a simmer and cook until vegetables are just soft, about 7 to 10 minutes.

In a skillet, cook eggs to desired style.

To assemble, place two tortillas on a plate, place two warmed slices of turkey on tortillas, add two cooked eggs, cover with ranchera sauce and top with grated cheese. Makes four servings.



Blackberry-Bottomed Streusel Rolls

1 16-ounce bag frozen blackberries, rinsed and thawed

Streusel:

1½ cups brown sugar, loosely packed
3 teaspoons ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground allspice
2 tablespoons butter
Dough:
2 cups flour, plus more for forming rolls
3 tablespoons sugar

1 tablespoon baking powder 1 teaspoon salt 4 tablespoons butter, softened ½ cup half & half, more or less *lcing:* 1 cup powdered sugar 2 teaspoons butter, melted 1 teaspoon vanilla 2-3 tablespoons half & half

Prepare a 10-inch, deep-dish pie plate with cooking spray. Set aside. Heat oven to 350 F.

With a fork, mix brown sugar, cinnamon, allspice and butter together until blended. Spread % of brown sugar mix on bottom of pie plate, reserving remainder for roll filling.

Spread blackberries over brown sugar mix in pie plate.

In a separate bowl, mix flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and softened butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add enough half & half to form a sticky dough.

Spoon the dough onto a well-floured surface and knead in additional flour to make workable dough. Roll dough into a rectangle, approximately ¹/₃- to ¹/₄-inch thick. Pat until rectangle edges are relatively straight.

Spread remaining brown sugar mixture on top of dough and roll from long edge tightly into a log. Pinch edges and pat ends together.

Cut into 12 slices, placing each slice on top of the blackberry layer.

Bake until rolls are slightly browned, approximately 25 minutes.

While the rolls bake, mix powdered sugar, butter and vanilla with whip until coarse crumbs form. Add enough half & half to reach icing consistency.

Cool rolls on baking rack for 10-15 minutes and drizzle icing on top. Serve warm.





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

Afghan Refugee Response Project

NMSU student, professor launch volunteer project to assist Afghan refugees

By Carlos Andres López

Hiba Muhyi was preparing to begin her senior year at New Mexico State University when horrific images from across the world started to appear on the news.

Just before the fall semester at NMSU, the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in an uprising that plunged the country into chaos and sent thousands of Afghans fleeing for their lives.

Watching the situation unfold from afar, Hiba and her mother, Rajaa Shindi, sprang into action.

Hiba, an English major, and Rajaa, an assistant professor of accounting and information systems in the College of Business, started mobilizing students and organizations across NMSU to assist Afghan refugees resettling in southern New Mexico. Together, the motherdaughter duo launched the NMSU Afghan Refugee Response project.

"As a child of immigrant parents, I'm naturally passionate about these sorts of topics and helping communities that are very similar to my own," Hiba says.

The project began as a call for volunteer translators, she says, but has since morphed into a more ambitious effort to assist long-term refugees in collaboration with the Las Cruces Muslim community, Afghan Refugee Crisis Committee, Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services, and Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains.

Since late August, more than 80 volunteers have come together to support the refugee project in various ways—from donating goods to serving as cultural mentors and translators. The group has collected more than 100 household items to furnish several temporary apartments for displaced Afghan families, and Hiba says the donations keep coming.



ABOVE: Hiba Muhyi, a senior majoring in English at New Mexico State University, speaks to NMSU students who volunteered with the Afghan Refugee Response project, which Hiba launched with her mother, Rajaa Shindi, far left, after the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in August. RIGHT: Rajaa and Hiba with donated supplies. NMSU PHOTOS BY JOSH BACHMAN

"It's been much more than just furniture donations," Rajaa says. "Our volunteers are helping these families learn English, apply for jobs, enroll their kids in school and adapt to a new society. There are so many things that they need right now, and our volunteers are making a meaningful difference in supporting Afghan refugees at a time when they need help."

Hiba says the outpouring of support from the NMSU community has surpassed her expectations.

"We've had such a great response from department heads, professors, presidents of student organizations and others asking what can they do either as an individual or a group to assist with the refugees," she says. "We've had a variety of people who are willing to do whatever they can to help and assist."

Hiba praised several campus groups for contributing to the project, including the NMSU chapter of the Association of Information Technology Professionals, Pre-Pharmacy Society, Pre-Dental Society, Black Student Organization, Student Social Work Association and the English Graduate Student Organization.

Hiba recently hosted a winter coat and blanket drive-in collaboration with



the Pre-Pharmacy Society and Pre-Dental Society.

In November, Hiba and Rajaa toured an Afghan refugee camp at Fort Bliss and met volunteers helping to resettle families.

"We got to meet some of the countless volunteers helping with donation sorting and assisting at the multiple store sites where free clothes, shoes, infant food, and other items are provided and distributed to the refugees," Hiba says. "But there is still a great need for dedicated volunteers and donations."

She says the most needed items include school supplies, closed-toe shoes, children and infant winter clothes, men's and women's winter clothes and hygiene items. To donate through the NMSU Afghan Refugee Response project, contact Hiba at hmuhyi@nmsu.edu.

Hiba says overseeing the project has been time-consuming, but rewarding.

"It's been challenging but worth all the efforts and long hours," she says. "It's very much a team effort, however. I want to thank Dr. Shindi, the NMSU community and all our volunteers for their support and assistance in helping these families."

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Common—but False—Ideas About Energy Efficiency

By Danielle Brusby

Despite what you may think or even have heard, energy efficiency doesn't have to be difficult. By focusing on small changes, most people can reduce their energy use in a big way. Start on your own energy-efficiency journey with some common energy myths.

Myth 1: Setting your thermostat above or below your desired temperature will heat or cool your home faster.

Truth: Setting your thermostat in hopes your home will heat or cool faster will cost you more money and make your system work harder. The kicker: It will still take the same amount of time to get your thermostat to where you want it.

Myth 2: Keeping a fan on cools a room.

Truth: Fans don't cool rooms. They circulate the air in a room, making the room feel cooler. However, if no one is in the room to be cooled down by the fan, you are wasting energy. Bottom line: Keep fans turned off when you are not in the room with them.

Myth 3: Cooling a hot house costs more than leaving the air conditioner set at a cool temperature throughout the day.

Truth: Running your air conditioner all day to keep your house comfortable uses far more energy than it does to cool down your house after the air conditioner has been off all day, during the hottest of days. The same is true for heating a home during the winter months.

Myth 4: Reducing my energy use is too expensive.

Truth: Many people believe reducing energy use requires expensive upfront costs, such as buying new, more efficient appliances or upgrading an older home. While that will result in savings, people who make small changes to how they use energy can see a reduction in their overall energy consumption.

Myth 5: Washing clothes in hot water gets them cleaner.

Truth: According to Cold Water Saves, new detergent technology has enzymes that work better in cold water. Some stains—such as grass, makeup and blood—should only be washed in cold water because hot water could make the stains permanent. If that wasn't reason enough, about 75% of the energy required to do a load of laundry goes into heating the water.

Myth 6: Hand-washing dishes is more efficient than a dishwasher.

Truth: Dishwashers are designed to be more efficient than hand-washing dishes. According to Energy Star, certified dishwashers use less than 4 gallons per cycle. Washing dishes in the sink uses 4 gallons of water every 2 minutes.

Myth 7: Windows are the source of the greatest amount of heat loss in a home.

Truth: Windows typically account for 10% to 15% of heat loss. According to Energy Central, the major sources of heat loss are walls (35%), roof (20%), windows (15%), ventilation (15%), floor (10%) and doors (5%). The good news for do-it-yourselfers is that gaps around windows and doors can often be taken care of with a few supplies from the hardware store. Caulking and weatherstripping products are quick fixes.

Myth 8: It doesn't matter where your thermostat is installed.

Truth: If your thermostat is on an outside wall, near a drafty window or in direct sunlight, it can be tricked into thinking it needs to run more or less often.

Saving energy is about more than just saving money. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, saving energy is one of the most cost-effective ways to save money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs and meet growing energy demands, making energy-efficiency something we should all agree on.

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NOT ALL WATER TANKS ARE CREATED EQUAL! Are quality, value and longevity important to you? Buy high specific gravity, heavyweight, long warranty, superior black NRCS tanks. Lowest prices only provide minimum standards, lower weights and shorter warranties. Find out more! 575-430-1010.

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LIVESTOCK. Live auction every Wednesday at 11 a.m. View online at dvauction.com, country bid or live auction. If you've got'em, we'll sell'em. Call 575-374-2505. fivestateslivestockauction@gmail.com

Business

SUNSET SADDLES OFFERS CUSTOM LEATHERWORK; ie: sad-

dles, chaps, chinks, holsters, belts, etc. Also saddle and tack repair. Located in La Luz, NM. Call 575-257-8874 or email: sunsetsaddles@yahoo.com

HOUSE CLEANING HELP WANTED. Seeking reliable house cleaning staff for vacation rentals in Mora County. Contact Glenda Balas at 505-350-9040 or email glenda.balas@ untdallas.edu for more information.

HEARING AIDS TOO

EXPENSIVE? Do you qualify for help or low payments? If so, call the Hearing Aid helpline at 866-479-1519 or email www.careconnectusa.org

Equipment

GREAT OFFER ON SOLAR SUBMERSIBLE SHALLOW/DEEP

WELL PUMPS! NRCS approved with two-year warranty on selected pumps with affordable, easy installation! For a custom quote, call 505-429-3093 or email us at solarwellpumpsonline@ gmail.com, 24/7 service. Order online at our website:

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DRINKING WATER STORAGE

TANKS, heavy-duty black poly, proven algae resistant. 125 to 11,000 gallons, NRCS and EQUIP approved. Please give us a chance to serve you! MasterCard or Visa accepted. Call 575-682-2308 or 1-800-603-8272.

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.

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

4020 JOHN DEERE TRACTOR

with 158 loader, grapple, cab and new tires. \$9,500. Call 575-418-5710 for more information.

ANHYDROUS AMMONIA METAL STORAGE TANK, 7 ft. in diameter x 39 ft. \$5,000. Call 575-322-0010 for more information.

GENERAC GP5500 PORTABLE

GENERATOR, 1 - 30A 120/240 outlet, 2 - 20A 120 duplex outlets. Low oil shutdown protection. Bought new, never used. No time on hour meter, \$699. In Tularosa, call 575-740-7145 for more information.

JOHN DEERE 750 DOZER, 10 ft. straight blade, canopy, good under carriage \$20,000. Huber Road Grader, power shift, 14 ft. blade \$9,000. Sullivan 6,000 Air Compressor, 6 cyc, John Deere, low hours \$9,000. Call 505-384-4380 for more information.

Great Finds

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

RAILROAD ITEMS WANTED:

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

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 4,600 photographs of NM plates. Bill Johnston, Box 1, Organ, NM 88052-0001. Email: Bill@NMplates.com or call 575-382-7804.

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"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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www.taosmountainheritage.com

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.

MC COMBER ADD-A-HARNESS LOOM. 4-harnesses/6-treadles, jack. Includes warping frame or reel, lease sticks, raddle and eight, ten and twelve dent reeds. Has a 48" weaving width. Photos available. Sturdy and reliable. Very good condition. Assembled. \$1,200. Pick up in Carrizozo, NM. Call 575-648-2769 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.

OLD HOUSE TO GIVE AWAY, TEAR DOWN OR MOVE. Located in Quay County. For more information, call 575-447-7036 or 575-485-2591.

ROUGH RIDER ANTIQUES in Las Vegas, NM has added a river of books and early New Mexico publications. Read about desperados, pueblos, the church and people who settled our small towns. We have license plates dating back to 1917, a buckboard seat and a wood booth from a 1940's cafe in Springer. Discover old tools, trains, hot wheels, beer signs and coins. Sewing notions, aprons, tablecloths, colorful oilcloth, fancy lamps and formica tables. Native American jewelry, rugs, pottery, fetishes and bolo ties. Bags and boots. Dolls and doll clothes. You never know what you will find. Open daily. 501 Railroad and East Lincoln, across from the Castañeda, a Fred Harvey hotel. 505-454-8063.

FOR SALE: Aircraft cable 1/4" at .07 cents a foot, 5/16" at .10 cents a foot, very nice cable. 5 - 10' conveyor rollers, \$100. each. 48 poultry delivery crates, \$20. each. 16 antique poultry delivery crates, \$80. each. 68 - 25 pound poultry feeders, \$10. each. Call 505-384-5163 for more information.

B.C. RICH WARLOCK ELECTRIC

GUITAR. Crystal clear body with red velvet casket shaped case. Immaculate condition and rare! \$1,800. cash. Located in Socorro. Call 575-517-9824 for more information.

STRATOCASTER CLEAR GUITAR.

Body, neck and pickguard are clear! The body also has colorful flashing LED lights located inside that really make this guitar stand out even more! Has sweet sustain to its sound. Comes with hardshell case. New! \$800. cash. Located in Socorro. Call 575-517-9824 for more information.

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. 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. 148.13 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

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

DATIL, HERRINGTON CANYON

ROAD. (Approximately 17 miles down Criswell Road, Forest Road 6A). Two tracts, one east and one west of Herrington Canyon Road. Vacant land. \$32,000 each. 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

near Goat Ranch Road. One is 20 acres for \$16,000 and one is 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 FARMS AND RANCHES to list and

sell. Broker has over 45 years of experience working on a family farm in New Mexico and has been an owner and operator since 1988. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

CURRY, ROOSEVELT AND QUAY

COUNTIES. In Clovis, Portales and Tucumcari, or in the country. We want your properties to list and sell. Broker is life resident of Curry County and Clovis native. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

DATIL, 464 SOUTHERN TRAIL, SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN

SUBDIVISION, 5.5 acres vacant land. \$8,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

FENCE LAKE, 295 PINE HILL ROAD. PRICE REDUCED, VERY MOTIVATED SELLER! 2-bedroom,

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

RAMAH, 281 CANDY KITCHEN

ROAD, three adjoining lots totaling just over 42 acres. \$100,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

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

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

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- Visit www.enchantment.coop/classifieds and complete form. You will be contacted by email with price and to pay by credit card (5% processing fee).
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- 4. Price: \$20 up to first 40 words per ad, per category, per month. After 40 words, each word is 50 cents. Add \$5 for small graphics such as cattle brands. Phone numbers, emails and websites count as one word.

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1. Mail ad and payment (Payable to NMRECA) NMRECA • enchantment 614 Don Gaspar Ave. Santa Fe, NM 87505

Deadline

1. Due the 9th, one month prior. Ex: Ads due January 9 for the February issue.

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- 2. We reserve the right to reject any ad.
- 4. Advertisements in enchantment are paid solicitations and are not endorsed by the publisher or the electric cooperatives of New Mexico.
- 5. PRODUCT SATISFACTION AND DELIVERY RESPONSIBILITY LIE SOLELY WITH THE ADVERTISER.

Questions

- 1. Call: 505-982-4671 or
- 2. Email: enchantment@nmelectric.coop

TUCUMCARI, WEST OF UTE

LAKE. East of Quay Road Al (one lot west of Quay Road Al). Seven 40 acre (more or less) lots with views of Ute Lake and the Canadian River canyon lands. Starting at \$90,000 per lot. 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 Conchas Lake. Upper level has kitchen and deck. Tall carport for RV or boat. \$189,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

FORT SUMNER LAKE, #74 RIVER RANCHES DEVELOPMENT. Dock

within five minutes. Skiing, swimming and year-round fishing. Twenty acres of beauty. Multiple homesites. Electric. \$15,000. Call Kim Stallard, NMREC 16583 of Stallard Real Estate Services 575-355-4454 or cell 575-799-5799, RanchesEtc.com

RIVER FRONT AND IRRIGATED

FARM. Fenced farm with eight acres of water rights and 100 ft. Pecos River frontage on a total plat of 12.22 acres. Plenty of space to park or add home, hay barn, etc. Utilities, scenic, old adobe. South of Santa Rosa. Call Kim Stallard, NMREC 16583 of Stallard Real Estate Services 575-355-4454 or cell 575-799-5799, RanchesEtc.com

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FRONTAGE FARM ESTATE FOR

SALE, 3-bedroom, 2-full baths, office, living room, kitchen and 2-car garage on 12 acres with barns, stables, 2-water wells, water connections throughout. Circle drive with trees throughout property. Call 575-631-5321 for appointment.

CLOUDCROFT, MEXICAN

AVENUE. Two lots, tiered level lots. Upper lot \$95,000, and lower lot \$90,000. Electricity, water and sewer at property's edge. Lots are 125 yards from center of town. Good for housing, mobile home or RV's. Village maintained road. Call 915-479-0522 for more information.

DATIL, COYOTE TRAIL, BLUEBIRD ROAD AND

SUGARLOAF TRAIL. Sugarloaf Mountain Subdivision. Choice of eight lots just over five acres each. \$12,500. per lot. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

DATIL, EAST OF CRISWELL ROAD

(Forest Road 6A) and a second tract East of Red Feather Tank Road (off Criswell Road). Vacant land. \$32,000. each. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

TUCUMCARI, 1102 S. SARATOGA,

1.5 acres fronting US 54 (Mountain Road). Commercial potential. \$20,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

PORTALES-ARCH, 1664 STATE ROAD 88. 3-bedroom, 4-bath home

on just over one acre. Attached carport. Two wells. Great opportunity for country living close to Portales. \$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, just south of intersection of Brady and Prince. Commercial potential. \$200,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

HOUSE ON SIX ACRES IN

MOSQUERO, for sale by owner. All located in the village with sewer and water connections, plus fiber optics available. Priced at \$120,000. Look at pictures and information on Zillow. com, look at New Mexico other listings or call Pat at 478-232-8792.

RIBERA, 340 CR B41E. 32.674 acres with 3-bedroom, 2-bath home with custom accents, hay barn, two detached garages. Just over 20 of those acres are in alfalfa and grass hay production. Pecos River frontage. 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

SUMNER LAKE, O RIVER RANCHES ROAD, (at intersection with State Road 203). PRICE REDUCED! 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

FOR SALE "EL CASINO" 320

California Street in Roy, NM. 100 year old rock and adobe efficiency. Interior is mostly remodeled. New plumbing, new bath and new windows. Heated with propane heater. Has a 16 ft. x 16 ft. workshop with 2 1/2 carports. Steel work for fence is done. Disabled Vietnam Veteran needs to sell. Asking \$65,000. for five lots, house and workshop. Contact James Capell at 865-585-0426 or 423-737-1677 for more information.

Vehicles

2015 V-LITE TRAVEL TRAILER,

in good condition. Has kitchen island, three slides, front bath and fireplace. \$26,000. Call 575-626-5244 for more information.

1949 F1 FORD PICKUP, flat head 6 motor, 3-speed in floor. Water and oil pumps have been rebuilt. New tires, battery, voltage regulator and paint job. No body cancer. Driven in parades. Call 575-478-2412 for more information.

FOR SALE: 2015 GMC TERRAIN.

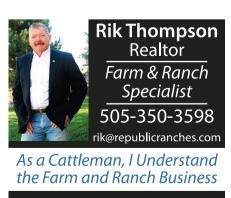
Very nice vehicle. Engine has 36,000 miles. \$18,000. Call 505-220-3588 for more information.

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youth art

February's Topic: Who's Your Valentine? Draw a card or heart for them.

What's Your Favorite Cereal?

Send Your Drawing

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Deadline: Submit by the

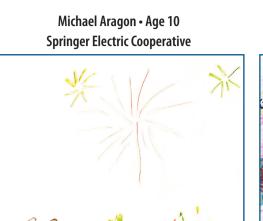
Hooray! Winners Get Paid: \$15

Have a Youth Art Topic? Email or mail to the

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

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

*Accepted artwork up to age 13. **DON'T FORGET THESE ITEMS!**





Otero County Electric Cooperative



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Socorro Electric Cooperative

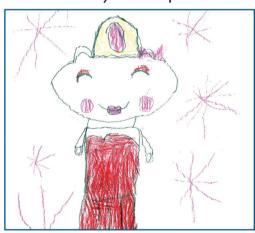


Zoe Marrufo • Age 6 Lea County Electric Cooperative



Kayley Nunez • Age 8 **Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative**





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