

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

enchantment

ROOSEVELT COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JUNE 2022

A Weekend With

The Kid

Page 14

Lincoln celebrates Billy the Kid Days
on August 5-7. Events include a
parade. PHOTO BY MYKE GROVES

Summer Lunch 2022

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

SITE DIRECTOR:

PASS OUT MEALS, CONTROLS LUNCH SITE AND COMPLETE PAPERWORK CORRECTLY DAILY. FIVE (4) IN THE GALLUP AREA. PLUS, ONLY ONE NEEDED AT RAMAH MID/HIGH SCHOOL. JUNE 6TH THROUGH THE 30TH 2022

DOCK:

FILL COOLERS WITH MILK AND LOAD TRUCKS WITH MEALS BY SITE. HELP IN THE KITCHEN AS NEEDED AND HELP CLEAN AS NEEDED. ONE (1) DOCK POSITION AVAILABLE AT MIYAMURA HIGH SCHOOL.

COOK HELPER:

PREPARES MEALS, CLEAN AND PREPARE FOR NEXT DAY MENU. MAY ALSO, SUB, AT LUNCH SITES. TWO (2) AT MIYAMURA HIGH SCHOOL.

COOK MANAGER:

OVERSEE THE KITCHEN AND OTHER DUTIES AS ASSIGNED. COMPLETE PAPERWORK CORRECTLY DAILY

DRIVER:

DELIVER BREAKFAST AND LUNCH MEALS IN COOLERS TO THE SITES AND PICK THEM UP, AFTER MEALS HAVE BEEN SERVED. THEN RETURN COOLERS TO THE KITCHEN, WHERE YOU WILL SEPARATE THE LEFTOVERS AND PROPERLY DISPOSE OF UNUSABLE ITEMS. YOU ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR PICKING UP THE DAILY PAPERWORK FROM THE "SITE DIRECTORS". PLUS, HELP CLEAN THE COOLERS AS NEEDED. HELP PREPARE THE MEALS WHEN IN THE KITCHEN. MUST BE GMCS EMPLOYEE FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES. TWO (2) AT MIYAMURA HIGH SCHOOL.

DRIVER ASSISTANT:

ASSISTANT DRIVER WITH COOLERS. MAY ALSO BE ASSIGNED A SITE AS NEEDED

OTHER DUTIES MAY BE ASSIGNED TO ALL POSITIONS AS NEEDED.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL CAROL BURNETT AT 505-879-7332
APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT SSC, PLEASE SEE PEARL.



June 2022

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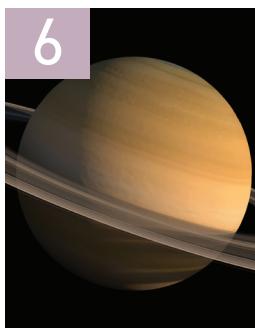
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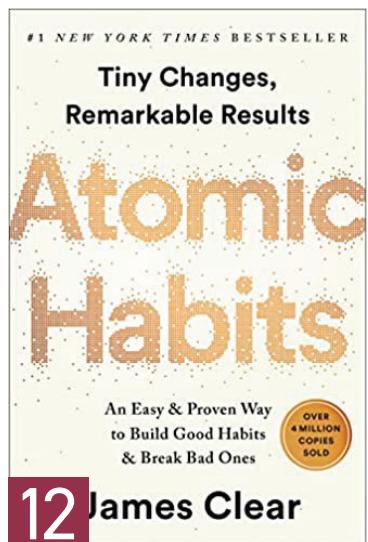
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4



6



12



10



24



30



We live in the Land of Enchantment ...

We are *enchantment!*

Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs, which are an inexpensive way to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smartphone app. With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Turning off unused devices can save you energy and money.

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

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Email to: enchantment@nmelectric.coop

Congratulations to
Geneva Shuck, pictured
with her March 2022
edition of *enchantment*.
Geneva says she loves
getting the magazine,
and reading about local
businesses and places
around town.

**Central New Mexico
Electric Cooperative
member Geneva Shuck
wins \$20!**



enchantment

June 1, 2022 • Vol. 74, No. 6
USPS 175-880 • ISSN 0046-1946

enchantment (ISSN 0046-1946) is published monthly by the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 614 Don Gaspar Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87505. *enchantment* provides reliable, helpful information on rural living and energy use to electric cooperative members and customers.

More than 100,000 families and businesses receive *enchantment* magazine as electric cooperative members. Nonmember subscriptions are available at \$12 a year or \$18 for two years, payable to NMRECA. Allow four to eight weeks for first delivery.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE paid at Santa Fe, NM 87501-9998 and additional mailing offices.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Postmaster, please send address changes to 614 Don Gaspar Ave., Santa Fe, NM 87505-4428. Readers who receive the publication through their electric cooperative membership should report address changes to their local electric cooperative office.

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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view from enchantment

By Keven J. Groenewold, CEO
New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association



Always Looking Forward

This year marks the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 77th Annual Meeting. Our industry is rapidly changing, driven by rapid advancements in technology, greater member expectations, and changing rural demographics. Let us not forget world events that are affecting how we do business today and into the future. Supply chain disruptions have certainly affected our normal way of doing business and may continue to do so into the future.

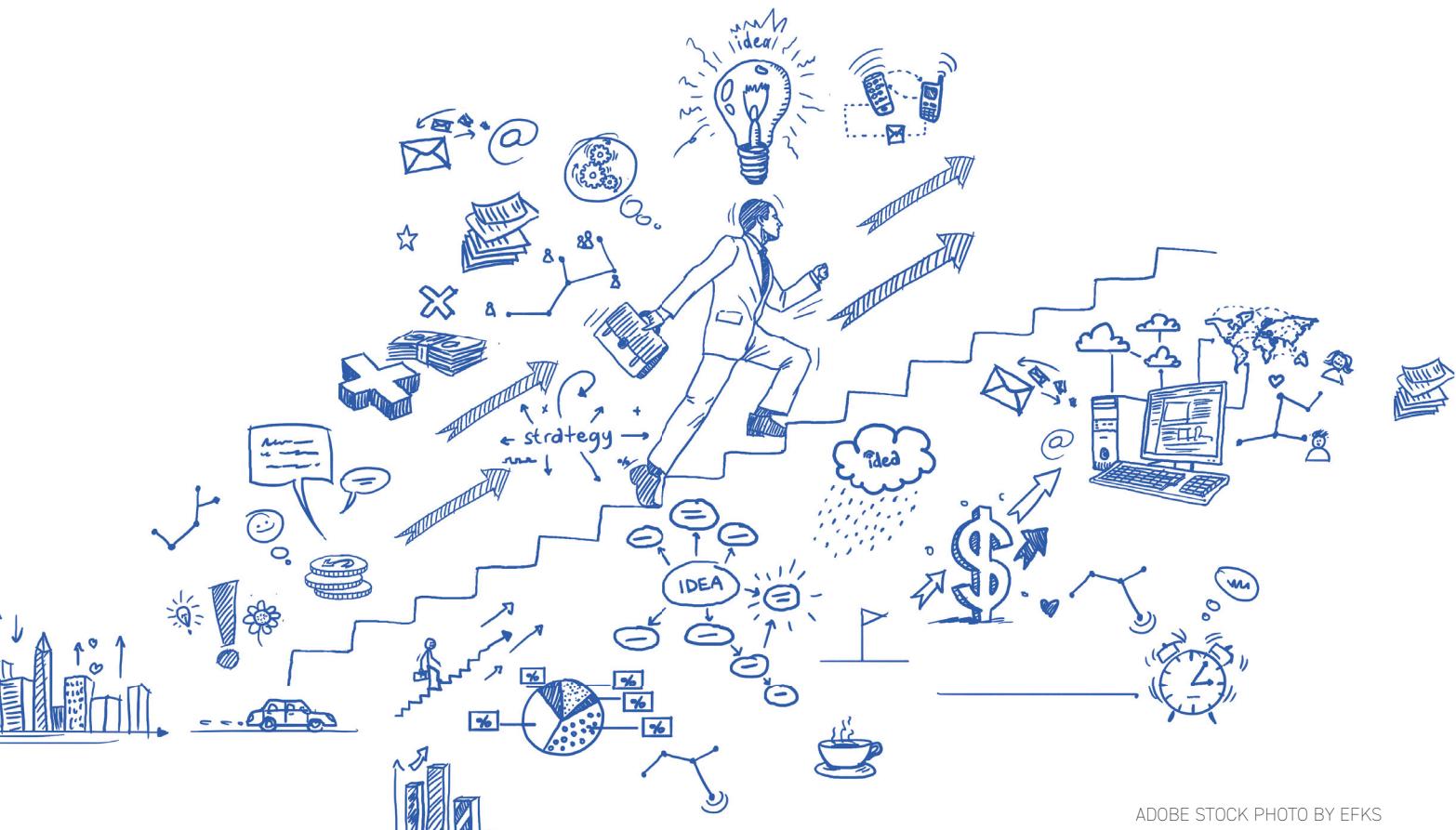
The price of distributed generation and utility-scale generation has declined the past few years. Many of your electric cooperatives recently entered into agreements that bring solar and wind resources to your communities. New Mexico's G&Ts have brought several large projects to market as well. All of these are based on economics. In 2025, 40%, and in 2030, 50% of total energy consumed by our members must be renewable—meaning zero carbon emissions. Our G&T power suppliers will meet these targets years in advance.

The new paradigm also puts a premium on items, such as

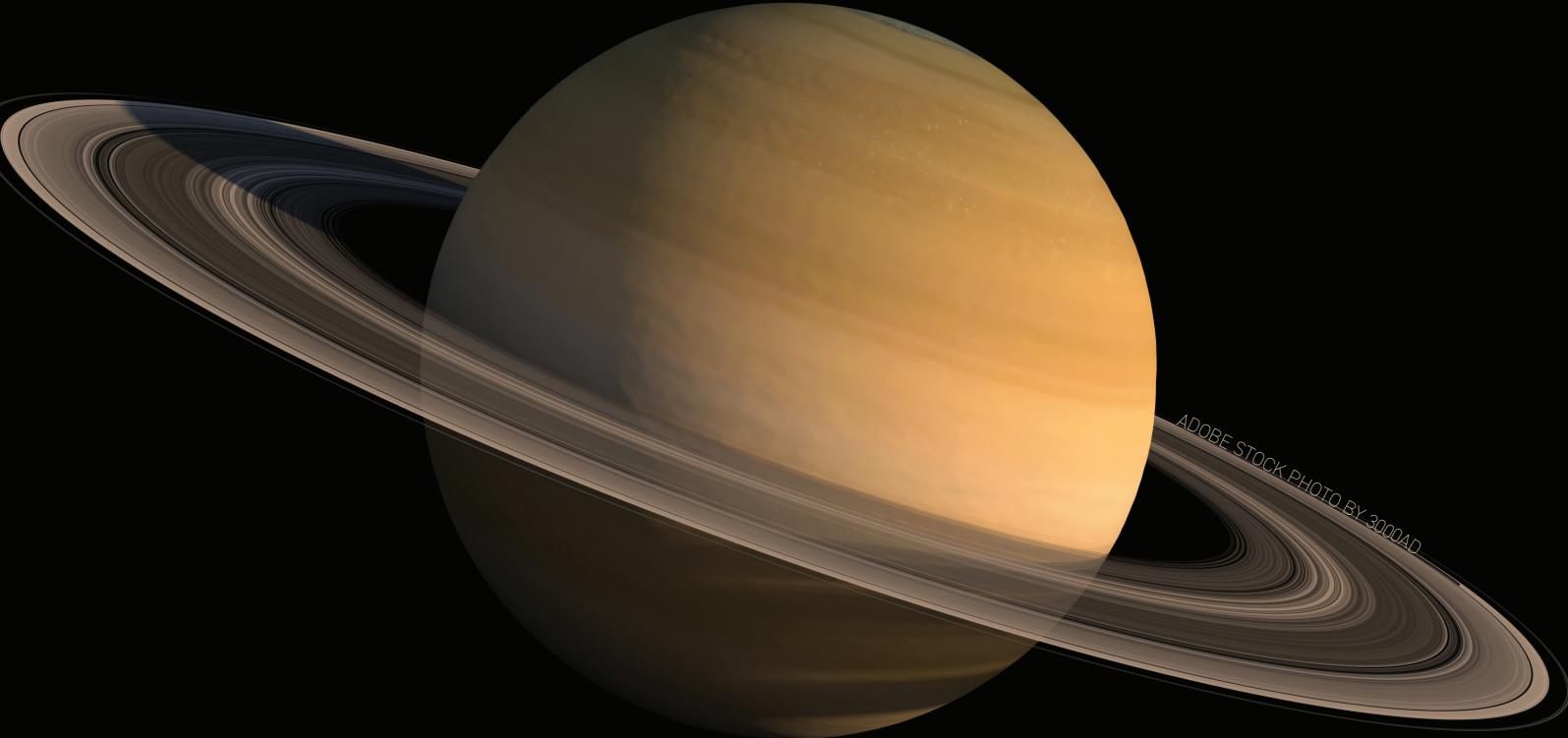
energy efficiency, and electric grid modernization and security. The efficient use of energy and distributed generation interconnection rules are forcing us to rethink our traditional rate structure. More efficient appliances and generation behind the meter forces co-ops in New Mexico and around the country to consider new rate designs. The end game is to preserve fair allocations of costs between members, protect the co-op's financial strength and give members more choices.

Meanwhile, cyberattacks are becoming more prevalent. The concerns of local and national policy leaders are focused on regional and national attacks. However, at the local level, we must remain vigilant to these attacks to protect member information and local grid security.

The challenges are daunting in this new world. We are confident that we will rise to meet these challenges. This is no longer the co-op our forebears envisioned when they embarked on the monumental task of electrifying rural New Mexico and the nation. ■



ADOBESTOCK PHOTO BY EFKS



Setting the Scene for Summer

A rather unique arrangement of planets will greet sky-watchers who are willing to be up in the hours before and during dawn this month.

The stage was set by the close conjunction between Mars and Jupiter late last month—as over the ensuing days and weeks Jupiter separates itself from the Red Planet and continues its more rapid climb into the morning sky.

Saturn already precedes Jupiter by about an hour and a half, and the brilliant Venus follows Mars by a similar interval. Starting a little before mid-month, Mercury also joins the show, being visible low above the horizon during dawn.

For a couple of weeks, all five bright planets will be simultaneously visible in the morning sky and in the same

order—looking east to west, or left to right—as their respective distances from the sun. This is the first time in almost a century that such a scene has presented itself. It will be almost another two decades before a similar occasion occurs.

As an extra bonus, on Friday morning, June 24, the crescent moon lies about halfway between Mars and Venus—perhaps acting as a substitute for Earth in the sky's current graphical representation of the solar system.

Although they require binoculars to be detected—and they're not in the in-to-out order defined by the bright planets' appearance—other important worlds of our solar system are also visible in the morning sky this month.

Uranus is slightly above Venus, between it and Mars, while Neptune is about a third

of the way from Jupiter to Saturn. The brightest asteroid, Vesta, travels through the constellation of Aquarius about halfway between Neptune and Saturn.

The comet mentioned near the end of last month's column appears to have disintegrated as it passed around the sun in late April, and thus did not put on the display we hoped might take place. This illustrates the uncertainty involved in predicting the behavior of any comet that visits the inner solar system.

We await the next bright comet that will grace our skies. It is possible one that was discovered in March by a California-based survey program and passes somewhat close to Earth next February may become bright enough to view with the unaided eye around that time. *e*

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Burgundy

Cashmere

Chocolate

Indigo



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF DANCE

A Festival of Dance

The International Museum of Dance is launching IMOD ACTIVITIES in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for its first three-week festival, celebrating the rich cultures of dance in the Southwestern United States.

The Moving Southwest Festival will showcase the diversity and traditions of dances from the region. The festival runs June 27 to July 17. Locations include the New Mexico School for the Arts, Jean Cocteau Theater, Violet Crown Theater, SITE Santa Fe and Railyard Park.

In the warm climate of New Mexico, several traditions come together, reflecting the diverse terrain of the southwestern United States. From flamenco to African and Indigenous dances, the rich cultures of dance can now be enjoyed during the Moving Southwest Festival.

Attendees of all abilities and skill levels are encouraged to participate. Events feature 40 dance classes, five special performances, four to five lectures, two to three workshops, eight dance cinema screenings, and at least three dance parties and community builders. Attendees can enjoy movement and education in flamenco, body percussion, Ccontemporary, improvisation, ballet, African dance and drumming, Native land dance and hoop dance.

IMOD is proud to showcase artists and communities such as Emi Arts Flamenco, Jesus Munoz Flamenco, MOLODI, Patrizia Herminjard, William Miglino, Soriba and Shelley Fofana, Dancing Earth, Babatunji Johnson, Charmaine Butcher, Shandien Larance and Earthseed Black Arts Alliance. The museum is also honored to work with film partners San Souci, San Francisco Film Festival and Cinedans.

An 15% early-bird discount is available for all ticket sales by using the code EARLYBIRD15 at checkout.

VIP tickets will include three special events, and help support the Moving Southwest Festival now and in years to come. VIP options range from \$1,000 to \$10,000. 

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2022 American Silver Eagle: The Silver Eagle is the single most popular coin in the world. 2022 represents the first full year of release of the Silver Eagle's new Eagles Landing reverse design, introduced midway through last year to honor the coin's 35th anniversary. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the U.S. Mint.

2022 South African Krugerrand: The Krugerrand continues to be the best-known, most respected numismatic coin brand in the world. 2022 is the 5th anniversary of the first silver Krugerrand. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the South African Mint.

2022 China Silver Panda: Since its first issue, the China Panda coin series has been one of the most widely collected series ever, highlighted by one-year-only designs. This 2022 Panda features its first-ever privy mark honoring the coin's 40th anniversary. Struck in 99.9% fine silver at the China Mint.

2022 Australia Wedge Tailed Eagle: Introduced in 2014, the Wedge-Tailed Eagle is the first-ever collaboration between U.S. Mint designer John Mercanti and a foreign mint. With a new design for 2022, it's struck in 99.9% fine silver at the Perth Mint.

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Shedding Light on Home Solar Arrays

Q: I am considering a solar array on the roof of my home. What steps should I take with efficiency and energy savings in mind?

A: When I tell people I work in energy efficiency, one of the first responses I hear is, “Oh, I’m thinking about getting solar installed on my house.” I hear it sitting around campfires, meeting other parents at the park and riding to the airport.

Most people don’t realize solar is not energy efficiency. Solar is generating energy. Energy efficiency is finding ways to use less energy. But I can see the association because both are thought of as beneficial to the environment and ways to save money.

My follow-up question is, “What are your motivations for installing solar?”

In my experience, people are motivated by saving money, concern for the environment or both. Focusing first on energy efficiency addresses both motivations.

Here are some considerations for those interested in adding solar to a home:

Energy Consumption

Solar systems are sized based on a home’s energy use. The larger the system, the higher the cost.

Before installing solar, make sure your home is as efficient as possible. That means your home will use less energy and allow you to install a smaller solar system—which will save money and reduce your home’s

environmental impact.

Verify the efficiency of your lighting, HVAC systems and insulation. A fully insulated and air-sealed home uses less energy.

Affordability

Consider your out-of-pocket expenses. If something happens with the other equipment in your home, will you be able to afford to fix or replace it? For your heating and cooling system, the expected lifespan is 15 to 25 years. Check the age and condition of your HVAC equipment and consider the expenses of replacement.

Roofing

Consider the age, orientation and shade of your roof. It is more difficult—and expensive—to reroof a home with solar panels. Will the roof need to be replaced before the solar panels need to be replaced?

The best orientation for solar panels is south facing to receive direct light throughout the day. A shaded roof helps keep your home cool in the summertime but reduces solar energy production.

Maintenance

A solar system doesn’t last forever. Life spans range from 25 to 30 years. As systems degrade over time, they produce less energy. Maintenance and repairs may be needed.

Electric Bills and Storage

Solar is not “off the grid.” Unless you plan to disconnect from your electric utility, you will still receive a monthly bill.



A valuable step to take when considering solar is contacting your electric co-op to learn about solar offerings, rate structures and interconnection agreements. PHOTO BY MIKE TEEGARDEN/PIONEER UTILITY RESOURCES

Solar panels only produce power when the sun is shining. If you want power to your home at other times, such as after dark, you need to be connected to your electric utility or invest in battery storage. That comes at an additional cost.

During outages, don’t assume solar panels will supply you with power. Typical solar interconnection to the grid requires the panels to shut down during a power outage. This protects lineworkers from injury while making repairs.



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

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Contact Your Electric Utility

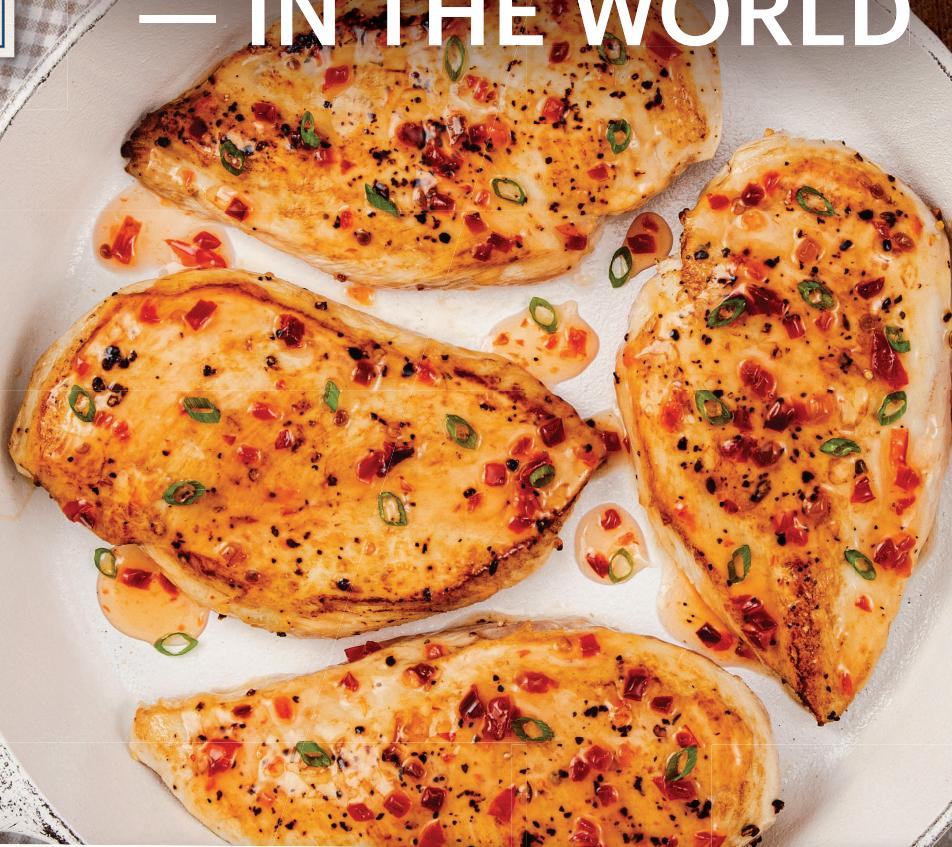
Solar contractors often work in several utility service territories and may not be familiar with your utility’s offerings, rate structures and interconnection agreements.

Before signing an agreement, check with your electric utility for local information.

Understanding these considerations before installing solar will ensure you meet your money-saving and environmental goals. ☀



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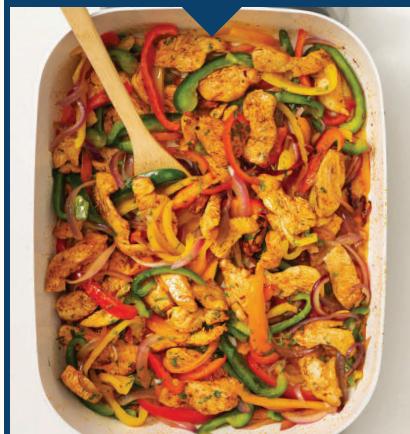
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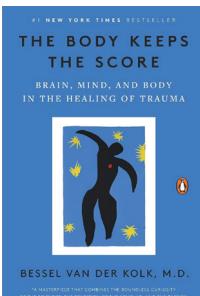
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The Body Keeps the Score

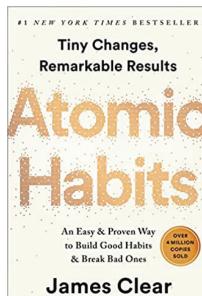
This book was written largely as a resource for mental health professionals and trauma survivors. It draws on Bessel van der Kolk's

30-plus years at the forefront of research and clinical practice.

Although I loathe refrains like, "now more than ever," it does seem reasonable to say here, that while trauma is a fact of human life, we are all sitting with, or closer to, trauma now than we were when the book first hit the press.

The promise in van der Kolk's book is big. It's the opportunity for children and adults to reclaim their lives by integrating brain science, attachment research and body awareness. Everyone I know who has read this book has found some utility in it.

By Bessel van der Kolk
Penguin Publishing Group
penguinrandomhouse.com



for realizing goals and carving out meaningful change by way of many small (atomic) adjustments.

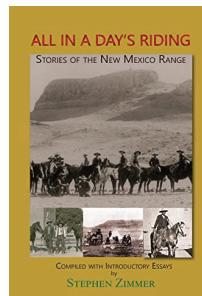
The book's subtitle is "Tiny Changes, Remarkable Results," and it's tempting to think this book's best advice could probably be distilled into internet memes, such as the one I just pulled up: "You Don't Choose Your Future, You Choose Your Habits and Your Habits Choose Your Future."

So, I won't spend all my precious summer reading with the best sellers, but my time here will give me plenty to talk about at the summer gatherings I'm longing to attend.

By James Clear
Avery
jamesclear.com

Atomic Habits

For its part, "Atomic Habits" hammers at another of our collective itches: personal progress. In this book, James Clear details a practical and useful framework



All in a Day's Riding

Stephen Zimmer, a former director of museums at New Mexico's Philmont Scout Ranch, leans on his museum career and horsebacking heritage to compile a compelling collection of recollections from the men and women of the Western cattle range.

These essays, most often written in a cowpuncher's twilight years, contain harrowing tales, yet are told with a tender affection that only time—and respite from the brutal conditions from which they came—can afford.

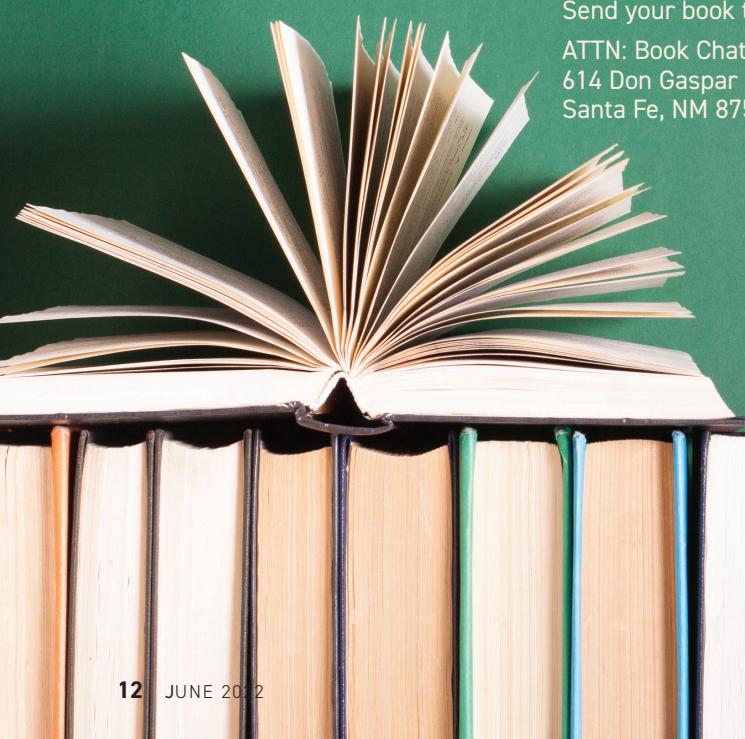
As Richard Irving Dodge wrote in 1882, "The daily life of the cowboy is so replete with privation, hardship, and danger that it is a marvel how any sane man can voluntarily assume it. Yet thousands of men not only do assume it, but actually like it to infatuation."

Isn't that so relatable? Don't we all reserve our deepest reverence for our most-suffering experiences? Of course, I much prefer to pore over the written account of hard knocks than to take any hits myself, which is why time and time again I go for the literature of the Wild West.

Whatever your summer fancy, read every page with gusto, and by all means, go for the genres, authors and themes that speak the loudest to you! Save the heavy lifts for darker days, shall we? In the season of summer reading, do yourself a solid and indulge your infatuations!

By Stephen Zimmer
Sunstone Press
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A Weekend With

The Kid

Lincoln celebrates Billy the Kid Days August 5-7

By Melody Groves

Billy the Kid rides his horse down Lincoln's Main Street waving to his many friends and admirers. He stops, leans down and shakes the hand of a youngster standing in awe of the famous gunfighter. Is he heading out of town for Fort Sumner to see his novia, Paulita Maxwell? Most likely not.

This is not 1881. The Billy astride the prancing sorrel is a modern-day reenactor portraying the legendary outlaw. Whether riding down the street or walking, stopping to chat with everyone he meets, he draws a crowd. Typical Billy.

It's not every day you walk down the street in Lincoln and see Billy the Kid coming the other way, riding a sturdy horse that surely could outrun any posse on his trail, or get to watch him escape



Billy the Kid broke out of the Lincoln County Courthouse in 1881. PHOTO COURTESY OF MELODY GROVES

from the Lincoln County Courthouse.

But every August, a folk pageant in historic Lincoln provides a window of opportunity. Spend time in Lincoln—57 miles west of Roswell and 29 miles east of Ruidoso—during Billy the Kid Days and you're sure to find that outlaw socializing with his numerous friends, spinning a good yarn or dealing a quick game of poker. You can even meet him in person.

Billy the Kid Days runs August 5-7. Grab a bite from the food vendors, listen to live music, or buy locally made arts and crafts.

Be sure to take in the speakers: historians whose knowledge about Billy and the history of this community is vast.

Wild West gunfighters and military reenactors have shootouts a few times a day.

If that's not enough, a parade features locals and the central character.

Capping off a fun-filled day is "The Last Escape of Billy the Kid." Now in its 81st year, the family-friendly annual folk pageant centers around the life of the legendary outlaw, William H. Bonney.

Local reenactors portray important players in the notorious Lincoln County War, culminating with Billy the Kid's escape from the county courthouse on April 28, 1881. The pageant is in the arena next to the courthouse Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available at the gate beginning at 10 a.m. each day. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$6 for kids 6-12 and free for kids younger than 6.

Originally, the play was performed in the streets of Lincoln where the conflict took place. Due to its wild success, the pageant turned into a yearly event. In 1950, the stage and sets were moved west of the original Lincoln County Courthouse on land donated by a member of the Coe

family. Cousins George and Frank Coe were close friends of Billy the Kid.

Explore where History Happened

Lincoln itself is soaked in history. Walk down the only street and breathe in the sights and sounds. Not much has changed since the first Hispanics moved into Bonita Valley around 1850.

The town of Lincoln—declared a historic site—is the most widely visited state monument in New Mexico. Through a gift from the Hubbard Family Trust, the historic site includes 17 structures and outbuildings, seven of which are open year-round and two more seasonally used as museums. Most of the buildings in the community are representative of the territorial style of adobe architecture in the American Southwest.

A visit to Lincoln wouldn't be complete without a tour of the old Lincoln County Courthouse. Walk up the same steps Billy and Deputies James Bell and Bob Olinger did 141 years ago. Look out the same window where Billy watched Olinger escort other prisoners for their last meals.

Now a museum, the courthouse contains exhibits recounting details of the Lincoln County War and the historic use of the building as a store, residence, Masonic Lodge, courthouse and jail.

Frozen in Time

Lincoln is a town made famous by one of the most violent periods in New Mexico history. Trace the events of the 1878 Lincoln County War through the courthouse and the Tunstall Store, which have a preserved 19th-century atmosphere.

The Tunstall Store contains original merchandise displayed on original shelving and in cases.

The Torreón is hard to miss. It's the tall, circular defensive rock tower on the east



A parade is one of the many events Lincoln hosts during Billy the Kid Days in August. PHOTO BY MYKE GROVES

side of the road. Built by Hispanic settlers in the 1850s, it was used to defend against marauding Apaches. Early photos of the Torreón show it at the center of a plaza surrounded by a fence and houses. The plaza was part of a series of settlements known as Las Placitas del Rio Bonito.

San Juan Mission Church was built by local parishioners from 1885-1887 of adobes made on-site. The vigas—wooden beams in adobe architecture—were hauled from the nearby Capitan Mountains. As then, the church remains the center of the community. It is within these historic walls that most of the speakers give presentations about Lincoln and Billy.

Continue your walk through history by visiting the Convento. Built before 1868, this was the first courthouse. It also served as a saloon, dance hall and community center. Eventually, it housed nuns who conducted summer classes.

Dr. Woods' House, built from 1882-83, opened as a furniture store, then became a newspaper office, boarding house and saddle shop, all before namesake Earl Woods made it his home in 1926.

The 1868 Montaño store housed McSween supporters during the Lincoln County War. Gov. Lew Wallace stayed there several nights while trying to arrange secret meetings with Billy the Kid. It operated for 30 years after the Civil War.

The Anderson-Freeman Visitor's Center and Museum features historical exhibits in

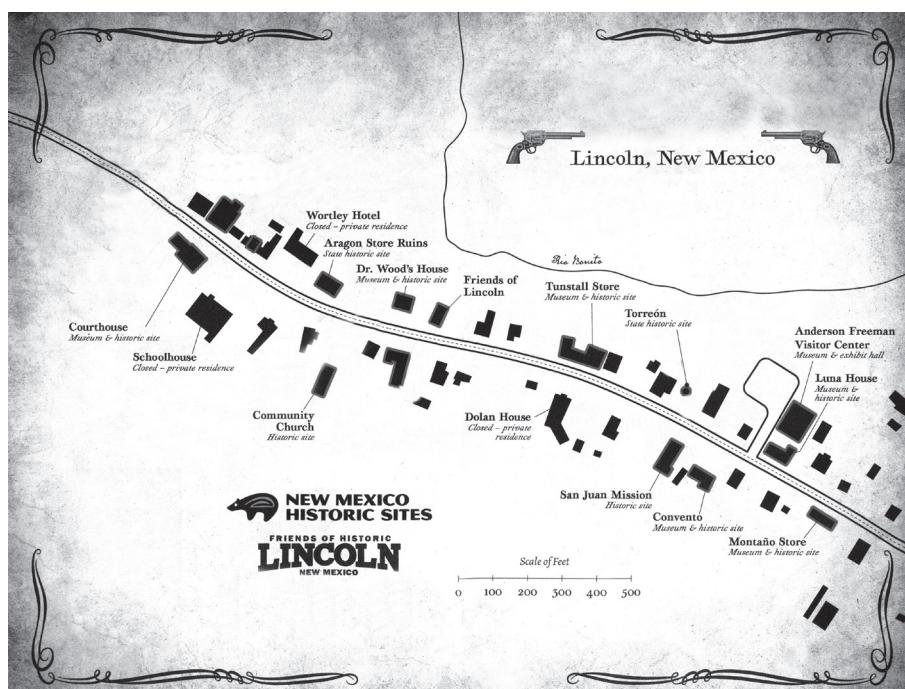
a timeline starting with American Indian prehistory and ending with the Lincoln County War. A 22-minute video about the Lincoln County War and the community is shown every half hour.

These Lincoln historic adobe and stone buildings are preserved as they were in the late 1800s and represent the factions involved in the Lincoln County War.

When you walk the street, you literally walk in the footsteps of many men: Sheriff

Pat Garrett, who shot Billy the Kid; Billy's friend and mentor, John Tunstall; Lincoln Sheriff William Brady; businessman Jimmy Dolan; cattleman John Chisum; lawyer Alexander McSween; Billy's steadfast friends, Charlie Bowdre and Tom Foliard; and, of course, Billy the Kid.

If you stop and listen, you might hear them walking next to you.



Visit the many sites on Lincoln's Main Street. PHOTO COURTESY OF FRIENDS OF HISTORIC LINCOLN

Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative



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Interim General Manager

Jerry Partin

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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.

Robert Montoya Jr. Receives Long Rope Safety Attitude Award

Robert Montoya is the 2022 recipient of Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative's Long Rope Safety Attitude Award.

The award is dedicated to all lineworkers in New Mexico who have been killed or injured on the job. The award recognizes an employee at each co-op who excels in safety.

Robert began at RCEC in 2003 as a groundman and advanced to lineworker in 2017. Robert always conducts a thorough tailgate discussion, communicates well and is observant at every jobsite. He takes time to explain things if a co-worker doesn't understand the task. He never cuts corners, knows what is right and will do it by the book even when it makes the job take longer.

Robert genuinely cares for his coworkers and is looked up to by his peers. He leads by example and has a great attitude toward his job. He can bring laughter and comedy when it is needed most.

Robert is knowledgeable about RCEC's line department, so most of his coworkers, including senior lineworkers, take his ideas and thoughts into consideration.

All these valuable qualities make Robert one of the top leaders at RCEC. He was nominated for this award by his coworkers, and was submitted to the NMRECA statewide office for consideration among other nominees from across the state. This is the second time Robert was nominated by his peers to receive this award. He first received this award in 2012 and was chosen at the statewide level that year as well.



RCEC Lineman Robert Montoya Jr., left, receives the Long Rope Safety Award from Tillman Stevens, RCEC safety/loss control.

Call 811 Before You Dig

As the weather improves, many of our customers will undertake outdoor projects. Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative reminds you to use caution while you work outdoors, especially around power lines. Overhead and underground power lines can pose a danger.

811, the national Call Before You Dig number, was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. Failing to call 811 and making risky assumptions can be life-threatening.

Every digging job requires a call—even small projects such as planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for large fines and repair costs.

One call to 811 automatically notifies electric utilities, natural gas providers and communication providers who may have underground lines at your work site. Utility personnel will mark or stake the horizontal path of their underground facilities, provide information about or give clearance to dig.

This simple service protects you from personal injury and protects underground facilities from being damaged. You can also visit www.call811.com.

June Job Anniversaries

Clint Walker, 23 years



RCEC's Environmental, Social and Governance Performance

Environmental, social and governance criteria are of increasing interest to companies, their investors and other stakeholders. With growing concern about the ethical status of for-profit businesses, these standards are the central factors that measure the ethical impact and sustainability of investment in a company. RCEC is a member-owned cooperative and does its best to support and give back to its community.

Environmental

RCEC strives to minimize its impact to the environment by complying with the Energy Transition Act's renewable portfolio standards. In 2021, 38.3% of RCEC's energy sales to members were generated from renewable resources. RCEC's current requirement is 10%, making this total well above this minimum. In 2025, the requirement changes to 40%. RCEC intends to reach this standard earlier than required.

RCEC strives to comply with state and federal environmental, health and safety regulations in varying areas, including polychlorinated biphenyl management and spill prevention, control and countermeasure plans.

RCEC has an avian protection plan in place that confirms our commitment to work cooperatively toward the protection of migratory birds. This includes a commitment by RCEC to balance its goal of providing reliable electrical service in a cost-effective manner with the regulatory requirements protecting avian species, as well as the need to obtain and comply with all necessary permits, monitor incidents of avian mortality, and make reasonable efforts to construct and alter infrastructure to reduce avian mortality.

Social

RCEC supports and helps to improve the communities we serve and live in. The Seventh Cooperative Principle, Concern

for Community, says cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

The most important thing RCEC does for the communities it serves is provide them with safe, reliable and affordable electricity. This is the foundation of the rural economies we serve and it helps our members remain operational.

Additionally, RCEC provides loan funds through a revolving program that began back in 1994. RCEC's Board of Trustees recognized that without a strong local economy, the cooperative would not be able to maintain steady growth and continue to be successful. The Board directed management to use the rural development program through the United States Department of Agriculture. These loans and grants are geared toward projects designed to benefit the entire community by improving community services or infrastructure and enhance economic development and job creation projects in rural areas.

To date, RCEC has obtained funding to make six loans totaling \$1,706,000. These loans assisted development and construction activities for a milk processing plant, a hospital, a peanut plant and a peanut butter plant.

RCEC and its Board of Trustees also believe in supporting our youth and have successfully given 756 students a total of \$1,119,600 in scholarships to further their education. These funds come from donations, unclaimed capital credits and contributions from CoBank, a national cooperative bank that graciously contributes through its annual Sharing Success Program.

RCEC believes in energy conservation so much that it has made 120 energy conservation loans to its qualifying members, totaling \$1,224,576.64. These loans are available at 3% interest for up

to \$25,000 for a term of 120 months. The loans can be used for a variety of energy conservation measures, and most commonly are requested for heat pumps, windows and doors.

Governance

RCEC is a cooperative, owned by the members it serves. RCEC has been member-owned and -led for 82 years.

RCEC is a democratic organization, controlled by members—through the Board of Trustees, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Members have equal voting rights: one member, one vote. RCEC's mission statement—"to provide safe, reliable and affordable electrical service to the members we serve"—drives its cooperative decisions.

RCEC's management and board participate in strategic planning, through which goals are created to ensure the sustainability of the organization. Within this planning session, the cooperative's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are discussed and goals are created to improve our organization as a whole.

Results of 2022 Annual Meeting

On April 18 members elected the following trustees:

Leon Nall, Position 2; Brandon Dewbre, Position 5; Billy Cathey, Position 7 At-Large.

The 2023 Nominating Committee members and alternates were elected as submitted.

Scholarships were awarded to 14 graduating high school seniors and 28 returning college students. Nine elementary students were recognized for their participation in the annual electrical safety coloring contest.



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- Eliminate potential carbon monoxide exposure from combustion byproducts
- Costs substantially less to heat your home than propane or electric baseboard heat

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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



Gather for Fun and Food

Summer evenings beg for outdoor dining. Whether on a deck or patio, in a nearby park or simply on a blanket on the grass, enjoy cooler evening temperatures with those you love. Even though our recipes this month require a bit of kitchen time, leave the hot kitchen behind once the food is ready and find an outdoor place to enjoy. Both recipes are easily covered and transported to any place where family and friends gather.

Find a mountain vista, rich ranchland, wilderness walk or simply a park table, take time to experience our great Land of Enchantment.

Chicken Marinara

6 teaspoons canola oil	1 teaspoon salt
4 large boneless, skinless chicken breasts	1 teaspoon pepper
1 sleeve saltine crackers, finely crushed	2 eggs
1 cup flour	3 cups milk, divided
½ cup Parmesan cheese	24 ounces marinara sauce
	4 slices provolone cheese

Heat oven to 375 F.

Combine crackers, flour, Parmesan cheese, salt, and pepper in a shallow bowl. Whisk eggs and 1 ½ cups milk in a second shallow bowl.

Heat canola oil in a large, heavy skillet.

Dip chicken breasts first in egg mixture, then in cracker mixture. Repeat steps, then place chicken in the skillet. Brown chicken slightly on both sides.

Prepare a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with cooking spray. Whisk together the remaining 1 ½ cups milk and marinara sauce. Pour mixture into dish.

Place browned chicken breasts on top of marinara sauce. Top with one slice of cheese.

Cover dish with foil and bake for 40 minutes.

Uncover dish and return to oven for 5 to 10 minutes, or until cheese begins to brown.

Serve over mashed potatoes or cooked pasta of choice.



Lemon Cheesecake Tart

1 box lemon bar mix	3 eggs
20 prepared lemon-flavored cookies of choice	8 ounces cream cheese, softened
½ cup water	8 ounces whipped topping, thawed
3 tablespoons butter, melted	1 cup powdered sugar
	1 lemon zested, juiced

Heat oven to 350 F.

In a food processor, pulse cookies until fine crumbs form. Add crust mix into a blender and drizzle in melted butter. Pulse until crumbs are moistened.

Prepare a tart pan (an 8-by-8-inch baking dish may be used) with butter-flavored cooking spray.

Spread crust mix over the bottom of the pan, pressing down. Bake for 20 minutes.

While the crust is baking, whisk together lemon bar filling per box directions, using water and eggs. Whisk in lemon juice.

After the crust is baked, spread lemon filling over warm crust and return to oven. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes until filling no longer wiggles.

Cool on a wire rack until completely cool.

In a medium bowl, mix cream cheese until soft. Add powdered sugar until smooth. Stir in whipped topping.

Spread cheesecake topping on the cooled tart and sprinkle with lemon zest. Refrigerate until served.



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.

UNIDENTIFIED FOOD INVESTIGATORS

With the slogan "good home cooking," Big Daddy's Diner is "9,000 feet above the stress level" in Cloudcroft. The restaurant was intriguing to the UFI team—enchantment's restaurant reviewers—and the team was not disappointed.

Denise and Ryan Lossette became proud owners of the Diner in January. The diner first opened in 2004, and the Lossettes brought in new cuisine to add to its menu of classics.

"We are updating the diner and our website to bring a new look and feel but want to keep the diner's classics by returning to the original recipes," Lossette says.

A UFI team member was impressed by the Mountain Man Breakfast consisting of two biscuits, two eggs, two pieces of either bacon or sausage, and hash browns smothered in country gravy, saying, "The gravy can't be beat, and those biscuits were sensational."

Soon-to-be favorites such as skirt steak street tacos and the Henny Penny wing basket with the choice of Buffalo, Nashville hot, garlic Parmesan or sweet chile sauce are sure to be a hit.

"We're offering great food in a family diner and are always looking for hard workers to join our team" Lossette says.

Visit the diner at 1705 James Canyon/Highway 82, or call 575 682-1224. A new website will soon launch at bigdaddysdinercloudcroft.com

Beware: The UFI team may strike near you! Watch for the next enchantment installment to highlight New Mexico's finest local eateries. Feel free to recommend future spots for the team to investigate.

CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP:
Big Daddy's Diner owners Ryan and Denise Lossette. The diner's skirt steak street tacos are favorites. The UFI team liked the Mountain Man Breakfast.

BACKGROUND PHOTO
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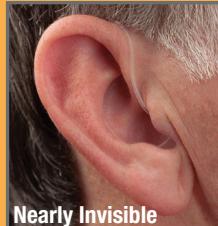
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The Ready, Set, Go! Program is the result of a nationwide discussion on how to protect homes and lives in what the fire service calls the wildland urban interface.

WUI is where development meets natural vegetation and the ember zone. An ember zone is an area where the wind-driven ember fallout from a wildland fire can threaten property and lives.

The program works collaboratively with defensible space education programs and provides tools for the fire service to educate individuals on preparedness, situational awareness when a fire starts, and how to act early for the safety of your family and emergency responders.

Ready, Set, Go! seeks to share information with residents on how to successfully prepare for a wildland fire. Speak with your local fire department about your area's threat for wildland fire and learn more about the WUI.

Fire season is an increasing threat and a year-round reality in many areas. Do your part to be prepared. Follow these simple steps:

- **Ready.** Take personal responsibility and prepare long before the threat of a wildland fire so your home is ready. Create defensible space by clearing brush away from your home. Use fire-resistant landscaping and harden your home with fire-safe construction measures. Create your personal Wildfire Action Plan.

- Assemble emergency supplies and belongings in a safe place.
- Plan escape routes and make sure all those residing within the home know the plan of action and practice it regularly.

- **Set.** Be aware of the situation. Pack your emergency items. Stay aware of the latest news and information on the fire from local media, your local fire department, and public safety.

- **Go.** Act early! Follow your personal Wildfire Action Plan. Doing so will not only support your safety but allow emergency responders to best maneuver resources to combat the fire.

In a recent press release, Gov. Lujan Grisham said, "Fire conditions across New Mexico remain extremely dangerous. It's essential that we mitigate potential wildfires

by removing as much risk as possible."

Most of New Mexico's public land agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, State Land Office and State Forestry Division, have implemented fire restrictions that include bans on wood and charcoal fires including campfires. Fireworks are also prohibited on public lands.

Don't let the first time you educate yourself on wildland fire be in the aftermath, join with us and be a part of the wildland fire solution today!

Contact Your Local Fire Department for more information on the Ready, Set, Go! Program. Many fire departments are using Ready, Set, Go! in their notices of evacuations.

For fire updates, please see the NMRECA Facebook page at <https://facebook.com/nmreca>.

Download your wildland fire action guide at https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/FINAL-new-mexico-RSG-guide-2017_000.pdf

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SUMNER LAKE, O RIVER

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

DATIL, HERRINGTON CANYON

ROAD. Three properties, one east (40 acres) and two west/northwest (44 and 40 acres) vacant land. Starting at \$24,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000. Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

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CONCHAS, 204 CONCHAS

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DATIL, 40 ACRE TRACT EAST

OF CRISWELL ROAD (Forest Road 6A) and a 40 acre tract East of Red Feather Tank Road (off Criswell Road). Vacant land. Starting at \$24,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

TUCUMCARI, 1120 S. SARATOGA,

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

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ROAD 88, 3-bedroom, 4-bath home on just over one acre. Attached carport. Two wells. \$230,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com

CLOVIS, 809 S. PRINCE. Vacant

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SANTA ROSA, 0000 WILL ROGERS DRIVE, 26 acres close to I-40 and old Route 66. Commercial potential. \$450,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, broker, NMREL 17843, 575-760-5461.
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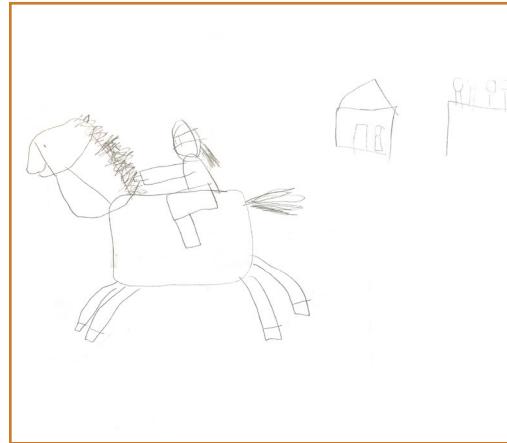
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