

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NOVEMBER 2024

Empowering Future Lineworkers

CNM Ingenuity runs a
pre-apprentice program for
aspiring lineworkers

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Alex Castro, apprentice lineworker with Full Send Linework, is one of the lineworkers attending the CNM Ingenuity training program in Rio Rancho. PHOTO BY LONNIE TUCKER

Diné in the Classroom

In educational interactions, a well-prepared environment successfully intertwines with the students' experiences, interactions, and academics fostering students' love of learning and inviting students in. Many students who enter our school as visual, kinesthetic learners will then be surrounded in an atmosphere that increases their critical thinking and represents their cultural identity. We have incorporated wonderful shifts in our instruction, curriculum, and pacing to show the use and learning of the Diné Language embedding the cultural teachings of the Diné Way of Life. Diné philosophy of the Way of Life is holism and the goal it sets for life is peace and harmony by balancing knowledge and tradition which students can develop beliefs and values to be prepared to make life decisions. We support this educational shift by ensuring we have adequate resources that support language and cultural instruction. We highlight the new addition to our Heritage Language and Cultural classrooms, with new tables and chairs designed by the Director of Cultural Education, Dr. Ophelia M. Sanchez, and Curriculum Specialist, Lauren Becenti. These tables are not only to illuminate beauty but serve as an added teaching tool. We have four tables that display K'é, our clans and family, the tree of life, the Navajo basket, and a timeline of Hogans.

The table color and designs follow our teachings and the sanctity of the number four. The number four teaches traditional Navajo philosophy. The number four has always been sacred to the Diné, it interconnects to the universe, starting with our four worlds, four times of day, four sacred mountains, four directions, four colors, four sacred plants, four cycle of the seasons. The Navajo wedding basket symbolizes natural processes that reflect the harmony and balance known as Hózhó (peace and balance). The first world, the black world- Ni'hodilhił, at the beginning of time which encompassed spiritual beings, Áłtsé Hastiin (First Man) and Áłtsé Asdzáán (First Woman) were created, along with our sacred mountains. The second world, the blue world - Ni'hodootł'izh, where plants, animals, and birds were created. The third world, the yellow world - Nihaltsoh, where the creation of rivers created our water animals, birds, and lighting. This world is where the coyote stories stem. The fourth world, the white world - Ni'holgai, which many also refer to as the Glittering World (Ni'hodisos), the creation of our sky, stars, and moon. This is where Changing Women came to be, and our language was generated. Time and space are defined by the four-cardinal light, which is dawn (hoos'jíd, white, east); midday (Ałmf'ni'á, blue, south); evening twilight (híłch'i', yellow, west), and night (hił yíjji', black, north). Our four sacred mountains of the Diné are portrayed territory markers, inhibiting our sacred beings, holy ground, and havens for plants and animals. The mountains provide protection; if the people live in this sacred universe, they will grow strong physically and mentally. The four directions are represented by four colors: White Shell stands for the east- ha'a'aah, Turquoise the south- shádi'ááh, Yellow Abalone the west - e'e'aah, and Jet Black the north- náhookos. All our beliefs are symbolized in each desk and table within the four colors and their representation of our tradition and teachings.

Our land is the place of our ancestors and carries the spirits of our ancestors. Everything exists in a relationship. People are always in some connection with someone else. K'é represents one's identity through family and community. K'é is kinship, clanship, and relatedness to all beings within Mother Earth and Father-Sky and the values connecting Diné to family, clan, nonrelatives, and people in general. K'é also encompasses connections to the natural world, including earth, plants, animals, and the rest of creation. We follow our clan system, showing who we are, by prioritizing a matrilineal lineage. All descent follows through one's mother. This reinforces our values that include respect, kindness, generosity, friendliness, and reciprocal relations. Diné also has nine clan groups, most associated with one of the four or six pairs of Diné Water People. Clanship is found through the mother's clan, "born to," and "born for" the father's clan. K'é decides our relations and who we can and cannot marry. It is also how we acknowledge and greet one another, we rarely identify people by their names but with the relationship of sister (shádi (older); shideezhi (younger), mother (shimá), paternal grandmother (shináli) maternal grandmother (shimásáni), maternal grandfather (shicheii), brother (shinaai (older); shitsili (younger), uncle (shizhé'é' yázhí)(father's brother), shidá'i' (mother's brother – male), shi yáázh (mother's brother, female) - for shináli (paternal: father side).

According to the Diné worldview, the purpose of life is to achieve balance, in a continual cycle of gaining and retaining harmony. Tree of Life weavings depict corn stalks emerging from a Navajo Wedding Basket, along with natural elements such as birds. The tree is pronounced, "t'iis." Tree of Life represents the belief of where Diné comes from, our progression of life, and the connections to all beings on earth and sky. It symbolizes our Diné Way of Life, who we are, and the life we live, in harmony. The corn stalk, naadaá' ástsiin nanise' binahji' na'nitin, represents the emergence of all things, how we entered the fourth world, the glittering world. The upward corn stalk teaches us to look to the future. The corn, naadaá' is one of four sacred plants given to the Diné and it provides both food and medicine. The birds (tsídii) Naat'agii are our connection to the Holy Ones, when you hear the twitter and chatter of small birds, you will know that the holy ones are nearby. Large birds, like hawks and eagles are powerful fliers and carry messages to the sky worlds, they act as intermediaries between the real and spirit worlds.

The Wedding Basket also referred to as the Navajo Ceremonial Basket, is used in many significant life events including birth, weddings, and death. It symbolizes health, well-being, the Navajo point of emergence and living a balanced life. The basket represents Hózhóóji, or Blessing Way, a state of harmony and balance among all living creatures. The image of the weaving is bound by a distinct, dark border, and there are often tassel elements on these weavings that represent corn pollen, rainbows, and mountains. It is my understanding that our journey weaves through the center coil symbolizing where creation from which all things are brought to life. The outward spiral design represents our journey into wisdom. Growing up in Diné culture, tradition, and beliefs we are taught that all is connected to our being. We are connected to the environment through our Nitsáhákees (Thinking), Nahat'á (Planning), Iiná (Living), and Sihasin (Assuring) teachings that incorporate our well-being, mental (thinking energy), body (physical well-being), actions (emotional well-being), and connections (spiritual energy) to the spirits connected to the holy ones. We know that we are in relationship to all things and respect our journey as we travel through challenges (black) to the lighter outer rim to remind everyone, that no matter how much darkness one may encounter there is a pathway to the light. Some weavers believe, by Diné tradition, that creating a pathway allows their creativity to continue beyond the basket and allows healing to occur when used in a ceremony to restore, Hózhó, harmony, and balance in one's journey.

Students need to gain knowledge of history and become current with today's events to understand their future and their impact on creating a good life for themselves. The Hogan (hooghan on the tables) represents our timeline and how life has changed from our traditional upbringing to the modern world. We are taught that once we are born, we begin life with a pure mind, body, and soul. When we enter a Hogan, we enter Mother Earth from the doorway of the hooghan nimazi, our circle home, and our circle of life as we begin the course of lifelong learning. Hogans are identified as either male or female dwellings, The male hogan is called "ałch'i'adeeza," and the female hogan is called "hooghan nimazi." The female ones have a rounded top and are the ones we live in or see today. The male is the older type, usually built like sweat lodges or "forked stick hogan" and has a pointed conical shape. Diné made male hogans until the 1900 when they started to build modern hexagonal and octagonal-shaped hogans. The round hogan is a symbol of the sun, with the door facing east welcoming the rising sun and the white sacred mountain of the east. We move in a clockwise direction in a hogan, following the east, south, west, and north pattern. In our teachings the hogan is more than a home to live in, it is a gift from the gods, and it occupies a place in the sacred world. Within the hogan, everyone is taught all of the stories of the origin of the hogan, the rules, the responsibilities, the respect, and care that is necessary for the hooghan, and how we live our life.

Our Heritage Language classes and the work for the revitalization of the Diné language is a critical priority because language preservation goes to the heart of Native identity. Learning and understanding traditional languages helps Native students thrive. The overarching impact would be that 74 Native languages stand to disappear within the next decade. As we continue through the year, we need the support of parents, families, and community members. This support can be provided by your child attending our program, sharing your ideas, responding to surveys, and volunteering. We hope that your child and you enjoy the new path our HLC classrooms are on and all the added resources in each classroom. If you can help in any way to start using the Diné language it will support our learning in school. It is in this partnership that we best serve the GMCS students.

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N O V E M B E R

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Email tcondit@nmelectric.coop

Congratulations to Karen Watson, a Central New Mexico Electric member, who took her enchantment with her on a trip through the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex.

Karen wins \$20!



Correction: The October enchantment main feature incorrectly identified Don Sweet, who had managed Fort Sumner's Billy the Kid Museum.





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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets at 8:30 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Youth Tour Applications Open

Attention high school students! Otero County Electric is accepting applications for the annual Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

The weeklong trip will be June 16-21, 2025. Youth Tour delegates will visit monuments and museums, meet with elected officials, learn about the cooperative business model and get to know young leaders from all over New Mexico and many other states.

The best part? It's free! Otero County Electric covers all expenses for this trip of a lifetime.

Check our website for more information and complete your application today. The application deadline is Jan. 22, 2025. ■

Prepare Your Feasts Efficiently

Baking pies, roasting a turkey and heating side dishes for your family's holiday feasts can be hard on your electric bill if you rely on your oven to do all the work. This year, consider using your stovetop, barbecue grill, microwave oven, slow cooker, toaster oven, pressure cooker, electric skillet and even your blender or food processor to prepare your bird and trimmings.

Here are more energy-efficiency tips:

- Treat your family by smoking, grilling or frying your turkey outdoors. It is a quicker way to cook a bird. The flavor is a nice change from a traditional, oven-roasted turkey.
- Use the microwave to heat vegetables, potatoes and other side dishes.
- Bake everything at the same time: pies, bread, ham and potatoes. The more your oven can do at once, the less time you will need to use it. Leave enough space between items for air and heat to circulate.
- Consider serving some food that doesn't

need to be cooked. The turkey, dressing and potatoes will be hot. Add variety by preparing a few cold salads and raw vegetables with dip. Experiment with simple desserts, such as frozen peanut butter pie or no-bake cheesecake.

- When you use the oven, resist opening the door. Every time you peek inside, you let out heat, and the oven has to work harder to get back to the proper temperature.
- Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They cook food at temperatures as much as 25 degrees lower than metal pans.
- The burners on your cooktop will work more efficiently if you match the size of the burner to the size of the pot. Placing a small pot on a large burner wastes heat from the part of the burner that does not touch the pot.
- Clean the burners and the oven. If you use the self-cleaning function on your oven while it is still hot after you use it to prepare a meal, it will use the residual heat and work more quickly. ■



Otero County Electric Co-op offices will be closed on the following dates for the holidays:

Nov. 28-29—Thanksgiving holiday

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve, close at noon

Dec. 25—Christmas Day

Dec. 31—New Year's Eve, close at noon

Jan. 1—New Year

IS A DUCTLESS MINI-SPLIT SYSTEM RIGHT FOR YOUR HOME?

How would you like a personalized comfort zone within your home? What if you could customize the temperature to your liking in one room while others enjoy different temperatures in the shared living areas or other rooms of the house? This flexibility and customization are precisely why mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, and their energy-efficiency aspects are so popular.

Let's unpack some mini-split basics and explore whether this type of system is a good choice for your home heating and cooling needs.

A mini-split is a type of HVAC equipment that allows you to control the temperature in individual rooms or spaces. Similar to central heating and cooling, a mini-split system has two main components—an outdoor compressor and an indoor air-handling unit. A narrow conduit links the indoor unit to the outdoor compressor.

While a central heating and cooling system features an indoor unit connected by long lengths of ductwork, mini-splits are typically ductless. This means energy is not lost traveling through long stretches of ductwork. Installing the air-handling unit in a desired room or area enables you to control the temperature more precisely, reducing energy consumption. That's because you're adjusting the temperature to a single room or space rather than the whole home.

Is a mini-split system right for you?

Mini-split systems are popular options in home additions, or to supplement heating and cooling in a space that may be far away from the main living area, such as a finished attic or basement. In these instances, it may not be feasible to

install or extend the ductwork required in traditional central cooling and heating systems.

In contrast, mini-splits are relatively easy to install, requiring a small hole for the conduit connecting the indoor and outdoor units. Most systems can handle up to four indoor units connected to one outdoor unit. Each of the units create a zone that can be customized, allowing you to heat or cool the space as needed, saving energy and money over time.

Cool Solutions

Mini-split systems bring additional benefits. They are quiet, improve indoor air quality and are typically easy to install. Many come with remotes to make temperature control even easier, and because of their smaller size, mini-split systems have many placement options for indoor and outdoor units.

One of the greatest benefits of mini-splits is that they typically have a higher seasonal energy efficiency ratio rating than traditional central heating and

cooling systems. The higher the unit's SEER rating, the more energy efficient it is.

Additional Considerations

According to the Department of Energy, mini-splits cost about \$1,500 to \$2,000 per ton of cooling capacity. That's about 30% more than central systems (not including ductwork) and may cost twice as much as window units of similar capacity.

OCEC offers rebates through its Energy Efficiency Program that help offset installation costs of a mini-split system. Check with one of our member services advisors to see how much you could get back.

While the technology is improving and evolving, those in particularly colder climates may need a fuel backup, as mini-splits struggle in sub-freezing temperatures. Aesthetics are another factor to consider, as some homeowners don't like the appearance of the indoor units, which are more visible than central air conditioning vents.

If you're considering an upgrade or additional heating and cooling equipment, talk to a qualified technician to learn if a ductless mini-split system could work for your home. ■

MINI-SPLITS AT A GLANCE

Mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, heat/cool a home through an outdoor unit that connects to one or more individual indoor air handlers, which are typically mounted on a wall. Depending on the size of your home and personal preferences, a mini-split system is worth considering when you need to replace or upgrade your heating/cooling system.

Mini-Split System Benefits:

- Zone-controlled heating/cooling
- Higher energy efficiency ratings
- Easy to install
- Good for heating/cooling home additions

Mini-Split System Considerations:

- Potentially higher upfront cost
- Appearance
- May require electrical upgrades
- Not as effective in large spaces



GRAPHIC COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION



THE ENCHANTED CEO

By Charise Swanson, New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives

Legislative Advocacy and the Importance of Voting

As we look ahead to the 2025 legislative session in New Mexico, it is essential to emphasize the vital role advocacy plays in shaping our energy future. As advocates for our New Mexico rural electric cooperatives, it is imperative we remain engaged, informed and proactive in our approach to legislative matters that directly affect our communities and the services we provide.

Our cooperatives serve as the backbone of rural New Mexico, providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity to countless households and businesses. However, as we navigate an ever-changing energy landscape, we face challenges that require thoughtful legislative solutions. This upcoming legislative session presents an opportunity for us to advocate for policies that support sustainable energy sources, infrastructure improvements and economic development.

The 2024 elections this month are crucial not only for local and state offices but also federal representation. The decisions made by our elected officials will


directly impact funding for much-needed projects, including grid modernization and initiatives aimed at reducing energy poverty. It is essential for our members and supporters to participate actively in the electoral process. Your vote is your voice, and it matters.

As we approach the elections, I encourage every member of our co-ops to engage with candidates on issues that affect our energy future. Reach out, ask questions and advocate for policies that align with our collective goals. Whether it is promoting sustainable energy sources, enhancing grid reliability or ensuring rural communities are not left behind in the energy transition, your input is vital.

In addition to advocating for the cooperative model, we must also emphasize the importance of community involvement. When we participate in the democratic process, we can better represent our interests in the legislature. Mobilizing our communities to vote is a powerful way to ensure our voices are heard and our needs are met.

We have a unique opportunity to shape our energy policy through collaboration and engagement. As we prepare for the 2025 legislative session, let us come together to advocate for a future that prioritizes sustainability, affordability and resilience in our energy systems.

I urge everyone to stay informed about the legislative issues at stake and to understand how these issues will affect our daily lives. The decisions made in the coming months will resonate for years to come, and we must be prepared to advocate for our cooperative values and the communities we serve.

As we gear up for the 2024 elections and the 2025 legislative session, let us commit to being active participants in our democracy. Your engagement matters, and together, we can ensure our electric cooperatives thrive and rural New Mexico continues to have a strong voice in the energy conversation. Make your vote count, stay informed, and let us work together for a brighter, more sustainable future for our New Mexico rural communities. 





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Smart Home Tech on a Budget

Q: How can smart-home technology help me lower my power bill?

A: Smart technology can make it easier to save energy by simplifying or automating tasks. It can also optimize energy use to reduce waste and improve efficiency.

When upgrading to smart technology at home, consider the purchase cost as well as long-term savings. For example, you may pay more for a product with the latest technology, but it could result in significant savings each year and throughout the lifetime of the appliance.

Here are some smart devices that take the work out of saving energy.

Smart thermostats save energy by automatically adjusting your heating or cooling system. For example, you can save as much as 10% a year on heating and cooling costs by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for eight hours a day, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

You can program a smart thermostat to change the temperature when you are asleep or not at home or use a smartphone app to adjust your thermostat settings while you are away. Some models use artificial intelligence to maximize efficiency by learning your patterns and preferences. Prices range from \$80 to \$250, depending on features. Smart thermostats do not work with all heating and cooling systems, so check compatibility before you buy.

Your water heater can also be controlled for energy savings. Installing a timer on your electric water heater can save 5% to 12% of the energy it uses by turning it off at night and when you don't need to use hot water, according to the DOE.

If you plan to replace your electric storage water heater with a heat pump water heater, consider a model equipped

with smart technology features, including Wi-Fi capabilities for controlling it remotely or during peak demand times, viewing the amount of hot water available and tracking energy use. A variety of modes are available, including vacation, efficiency and high demand, which produces more hot water. Some models can notify you or shut off if a leak is detected. Depending on the manufacturer and size of the unit, a smart heat pump water heater may only cost a few hundred dollars more than a standard heat pump water heater.

Smart lighting gives you the power to control lights in your home remotely or set a lighting schedule that fits your lifestyle. This can be beneficial for energy savings and provide home security benefits. If you or other members of your household are notorious for leaving lights on, smart lighting can help. Numerous features are available, including dimmable bulbs and color-changing effects.

Smart light switches are another budget-friendly way to control lighting. They're priced from about \$10 to \$50. Smart switches with dimmable options are available and can also control ceiling fans. Some have occupancy sensors that turn lights off when no movement is detected in a room.


A smart plug fits into any outlet to control whatever is plugged into it. Set it to automatically turn off and on or control them using a smartphone app. Prices range from \$8 to \$25.

A variety of smart shades, curtains and blinds are available, including styles with integrated controls. You can also add smart controls to your existing blinds



Smart thermostats make it easier to save energy by automatically changing the temperature when you are asleep or not at home. PHOTO COURTESY OF ECOBEE

or curtains. Both options allow you to adjust the tilt of blinds and open or close curtains. Set a schedule, control them remotely or use a voice command paired with a voice assistant, such as Alexa or Google Home. This allows you to reduce cooling needs in the summer and heating needs in the winter. Smart controls start at around \$70. To save the most energy, prioritize windows with the most incoming light.

Upgrading to smart home technologies can make it easy to use less energy at home. Choose options that make the most sense for your lifestyle to optimize savings. 



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

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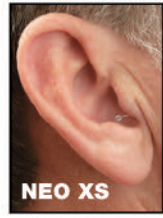
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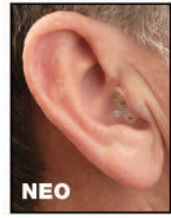
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A Legacy of Leadership and Service

Late NMREC CEO Keven Groenewold worked for decades to power rural communities



ABOVE: Keven Groenewold worked at NMREC for 26 years, eventually becoming CEO. **BELOW:** As part of his advocacy for rural communities, Keven worked with government leaders, including U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján.



The passing of Keven Groenewold, former CEO of the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives, signifies the end of a remarkable era for the Association, its member cooperatives and the rural communities they serve. For 26 years, Keven dedicated his life to NMREC, our cooperative principles and the people and communities he served.

Keven began his journey with NMREC in 1996, a time of rapid technological advancements and shifting energy markets, which posed significant challenges to rural electric cooperatives. Under his leadership, NMREC not only met these challenges but also became a model of rural energy sustainability. He was instrumental in transforming the organization into one that prioritized operational efficiency and member satisfaction.

A cornerstone of Keven's legacy was his unwavering focus on advocacy. As CEO, he championed the interests of New Mexico's electric cooperatives, earning widespread respect from legislators and stakeholders alike. His sharp political instincts and ability to cultivate trust at state and national levels ensured the voices of rural electric cooperatives were consistently heard and valued.

Keven's dedication to the communities NMREC served was deeply personal. Emphasizing the cooperative principle of Concern for Community, he prioritized outreach and engagement, establishing NMREC as a vital partner in the growth and development of rural New Mexico. His compassion for those in need was evident through his regular cash and in-kind contributions to individuals and families facing hardship.


Keven's expertise in the electric utility sector—combined with his intelligence and practical wisdom—made him a standout figure in the industry. His colleagues admired his sharp mind and cherished his light-hearted humor, which made working with him a pleasure.

Those who knew Keven will remember him for his warmth, kindness and genuine care for others. His approachable nature endeared him to staff across New Mexico's rural electric cooperatives and beyond. Always willing to listen, he made a point of attending local events to connect with cooperative members and understand their needs, concerns and aspirations.

Keven's legacy will influence NMREC for years to come. His innovative strategies and commitment to community laid a strong foundation for future leaders. The initiatives he championed, particularly in advocacy and community engagement, remain integral to NMREC's mission and future.

Beyond his professional contributions, Keven was a beloved friend and mentor to many, leaving a lasting impact through his guidance and wisdom. Born in Worthington, Minnesota, he cherished his roles as a devoted husband to Yolanda, father to Jeffrey and Alexandra, and brother to Steve and Jim.

As NMREC moves forward, it will carry the spirit of Keven Groenewold—a visionary leader whose impact will resonate for generations. His dedication to service, sustainability and community is an inspiring model for all who follow in his footsteps. Though the cooperative community in New Mexico and beyond has lost a pioneer, his legacy continues to shine through the countless lives he touched.

In honor of Keven's memory and his commitment to supporting vulnerable communities, NMREC has made a \$500 donation in his name to Youth Shelters & Family Services. This Santa Fe-based organization provides life-changing solutions for homeless, runaway and at-risk youth in Northern New Mexico. The donation reflects Keven's enduring commitment to helping those in need and aligns with YSFS's mission of creating opportunities for all youth to thrive. 

For more information about YSFS, visit youthshelters.org



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Empower

CNM Ingenuity runs a pre-apprentice program for aspiring lineworkers

By Lonnie Tucker

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements and an increasing emphasis on renewable energy, the demand for skilled tradespeople—particularly in the electric utility sector—has never been higher. CNM Ingenuity, in partnership with the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperatives, provides hands-on, high-quality training to the students in the CNM Electric Lineworker Pre-Apprentice Program, and to current electric utility groundman, apprentice and journeyman lineworkers.

“Around the state, discussions about apprenticeships are gaining momentum,” says Jessica Metz, program manager at CNM Ingenuity. “Introducing a lineworker pre-apprenticeship program that directly supports the 15 rural cooperative apprenticeships gives students in this immersive program a competitive edge in finding utility job opportunities in the Land of Enchantment.”

Since 2018, CNM has offered the Electric Lineworker Pre-Apprentice Program, a comprehensive training initiative designed to equip students with the foundational skills needed for success in line work. This program combines theoretical knowledge with hands-on training, ensuring participants gain valuable practical experience alongside essential classroom instruction.

Graduates of the program find themselves well-positioned to pursue a variety of career paths. Many go on to become apprentices with utility companies,

Students in the CNM Electric Lineworker Pre-Apprentice Program practice pole climbing techniques and other skills for their future careers in the electric utility industry.
PHOTO BY LONNIE TUCKER

ring Future Lineworkers

where they continue their training and gain valuable on-the-job experience. Others may find roles in construction, telecommunications or renewable energy sectors. The skills acquired through this program are not only applicable to traditional electrical work but also extend to emerging fields such as solar and wind energy.

“Students gain a solid foundation in basic electricity, learn proper pole climbing techniques, and understand the use and maintenance of personal protective equipment, along with safe work practices and essential knowledge of the power grid,” says Don Maez, a program instructor. “This program integrates classroom learning with hands-on fieldwork and site visits. Pre-apprentices will engage with industry professionals across various roles, making every interaction a chance to impress potential employers. Additionally, students receive training to obtain a Class A commercial driver’s license and certifications in OSHA 10, first aid and CPR.”

A key feature of the program is its emphasis on safety. Working with high-voltage electricity comes with inherent hazards, making it essential to understand safety protocols. Lineworkers learn industry-standard safety practices, including the proper use of personal protective equipment and emergency response techniques. The emphasis on safety not only equips lineworkers to tackle the challenges they will encounter in the field but also fosters a culture of responsibility that is crucial in the electric distribution and transmission industry.

“I believe the pre-apprentice program enhances the knowledge and experience of aspiring lineworkers as they begin their careers,” says Cade Standifer, director of loss prevention for New Mexico, Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives. “This better preparation leads to improved training from the outset. A well-trained lineworker is a safer lineworker, benefiting everyone and


fostering a stronger safety culture.”

During the comprehensive 15-week certificate program, students learn everything about utility line maintenance and safety, including electrical theory, how to install cross-arms and practicing pole-top rescues on life-size dummies. a required prerequisite to receiving program certification. Additionally, students are required to complete 240 internship hours full of hands-on exercises to hone their technical skills.

Hands-on training is a hallmark of the program. CNM’s facilities include state-of-the-art training equipment that mimics real-world scenarios. This practical experience allows students to apply what they have learned in the classroom in a controlled environment. Climbing and working on utility poles, handling electrical tools, and practicing safe work methods are all integral components of the training.

CNM’s program benefits significantly from its strong connections with NMREC, regional utility companies and the New Mexico Electrical Utility Supervisors Association. These organizations conduct several training sessions each year to provide current lineworkers with the continuing education they need and provide CNM pre-apprentices with opportunities for internships and job placements

upon completion of the program. The relationships forged between CNM, NMREC and the utility industry ensure that the curriculum remains relevant and aligned with current industry standards and practices.

Students in the Electric Lineworker Pre-Apprentice Program at Central New Mexico is a vital stepping stone for those interested in pursuing a career in the electrical industry. With a robust curriculum, hands-on training, and strong industry connections, the program prepares students for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. By equipping a diverse group of individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge, CNM is addressing the immediate needs of the electrical sector and contributing to a sustainable and inclusive future in the trades. 

Pre-Apprentice Program Syllabus

- ▶ Safety, including industry specific safety practices, care and use of personal protective equipment, and first aid.
- ▶ Basic electricity, including Ohm’s law, basic circuits and electrical math calculations.
- ▶ Pole climbing, including use and care of climbing equipment, proper use of fall arrest equipment and pole top rescue.
- ▶ The electric system, including sources of generation, functions of a substation, determining voltage levels and methods of transforming energy from one form to another.
- ▶ Transformers, including types, connections and banking.
- ▶ Basic groundman skills, including proper use and care of handlines, ropes and rigging, and reading and understanding spec books.
- ▶ Basic lineworker skills, including stringing and sagging conductors, applications of preformed ties and grounding.
- ▶ The full range of careers within the industry.
- ▶ Professionalism, including resumes and interviews, workplace communication and conflict resolution.
- ▶ Basic computer literacy, including formatting resumes and cover letters, drafting professional emails and creating engaging PowerPoint presentations.
- ▶ Personal finance, including credit scores, insurance, income tax, budgets and investments.

BE STORM-READY THIS WINTER

Think like a lineworker to winterize your home and prepare emergency measures before the chill of the season sets in

By **Nina Todea**

When winter temperatures drop and storms hit, it can be challenging to stay warm and safe. Extremely low temperatures, high winds and heavy snowfall can lead to power outages. During a power outage, utility crews work as quickly and safely as possible to restore your power, but it still takes time.

Lineworkers, who brave the elements to keep electricity flowing, have key insights to storm readiness and how to keep their families ready come winter. Think like a lineworker, and take proactive measures now to ensure your home remains safe and prepare your family to weather any storm coming your way.

Prepare Your Home for Winter Storms

Although the extremity of winter weather varies from one region to another, no area is immune to weather-related events.

Many lineworkers are familiar with winters that are cold and see significant snowfall. Often, they focus on tasks on the outside of the home.

Ensure your heating system is reliable

and efficient. Start with scheduling a maintenance check for your furnace or heating source. A professional can clean filters, check for potential hazards and ensure your system operates smoothly.

If you rely on electric heat, have a backup heating option in place—such as a generator, fireplace or wood-burning stove—to stay warm during prolonged outages. Remember that fuel- and woodburning heat sources should always be properly ventilated.

Insulating your home and weather-stripping around doors and windows can prevent heat loss and keep your space more comfortable, with and without power. For a more budget-friendly option, consider thermal curtains to help retain warmth.

Outside the home, disconnect all hoses from bibs and hydrants, draining them and putting them away, as well as draining and winterizing campers and boats to store them for the winter. Installing stock tank heaters and filling propane tanks before winter weather hits is also beneficial.

When a storm hits and a power outage

is likely, unplug all sensitive equipment so it isn't damaged in a potential power surge.

Build a Winter Emergency Kit

An effective winter emergency kit is crucial for any household. Stock up on essentials: nonperishable food items, bottled water and medications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends families have at least a three-day supply of food and water per person.

One lineworker's winter emergency kit includes water, freeze-dried meals, flashlights, a jet-boil—or other backpack camping stove—and food. Water and freeze dried meals are the most important if a prolonged outage hits. They also keep flashlights, blankets, a winter coat, a stocking hat and gloves in the vehicle during winter months.

Warm clothing, such as gloves, hats and thermal layers, can protect against the biting cold if you need to venture outdoors to tend to animals or assist neighbors.

Layering is key. Multiple thinner layers will keep you warmer than one thick layer. Consider adding safety gear, such as

ANATOMY OF A POWER OUTAGE

By Scott Flood

Moments ago, a stray bolt of lightning connected a menacing cloud with a power pole about a mile east of your home. Your lights flickered briefly before going out. Things become eerily quiet as all your home's devices equipped with motors and fans stop providing their constant symphony of background noise.

You're experiencing a power outage, so you reach for your phone and call your electric utility. Good move. Sometimes, consumers don't call because they assume their neighbors will. However, the more who call, the more quickly the utility is able to pinpoint the outage location.

Back at the office, the utility's grid system operator noticed the sudden pause at the moment 300 million volts of lightning danced around a transformer, and they're able to triangulate the location of the outage. The system estimates around 500 consumers are in the dark as a line crew tosses their dinners aside and steers their trucks in that direction.

Thirty minutes later, the lineworkers slowly drive along a stretch of road, keeping one eye on traffic while inspecting every pole, wire and transformer. In another eight minutes, they stop and step out for a closer look. The mystery is solved with one glance at the burn mark across the surface of the transformer. Ready to repair and ensuring it's safe, they move closer.

If you watch the lineworkers, you might mistakenly assume they're not motivated. After all, you're dealing with a power outage you want to end as soon as possible. But there's a good reason the lineworkers aren't rushing or running around.

Power lines carry high-voltage electricity. It's safe when all elements of the system are in good working order, but it's potentially deadly when that's not the case. Lineworkers approach what they do deliberately, efficiently and—most of all—safely. Every action is carefully planned so they can spot potential hazards. They follow standard procedures and safety requirements to ensure repair is effective and sound. The work may take a little extra time, but it means they'll make it home safely at the end of the day (or night).

Less than an hour after finding the cause of the outage, the lineworkers load their tools and gear back onto the trucks. This time, the problem was easy to spot, the repair was fairly straightforward, and the weather cooperated. But no two outages are exactly alike. The next could be in severe weather or on a remote segment off the main road. It could involve a fallen tree that needs to be cut with chainsaws or a broken pole that needs to be replaced.

Driving back to the utility, the lineworkers watch the passing homes and smile. The warm glows coming from the windows means the power's back on again.

Lightning isn't the only threat to the electric system. Outages can occur from a variety of causes, including fallen trees, vehicle crashes, extreme weather and even curious critters, such as squirrels.

Electric utilities invest in technology and equipment designed to protect the power grid and prevent outages from plunging your home into darkness. But when the power does go out, lineworkers put themselves at risk to return your life to normal.

helmets or high-visibility vests, to your kit.

Warm, waterproof boots are necessary for harsh winter conditions. It is important to dress for the worst and hope for the best.

Also include within reach a shovel for clearing snow and an ice scraper for your vehicle.

Navigating Icy Conditions

Braving the weather is often unavoidable. When you must venture out, tread carefully, whether on foot or in your vehicle.

If you're shoveling snow, stay hydrated and take regular breaks to maintain alertness. Lineworkers know cold weather can be deceptive; you might not realize you're getting fatigued or dehydrated until it's too late.

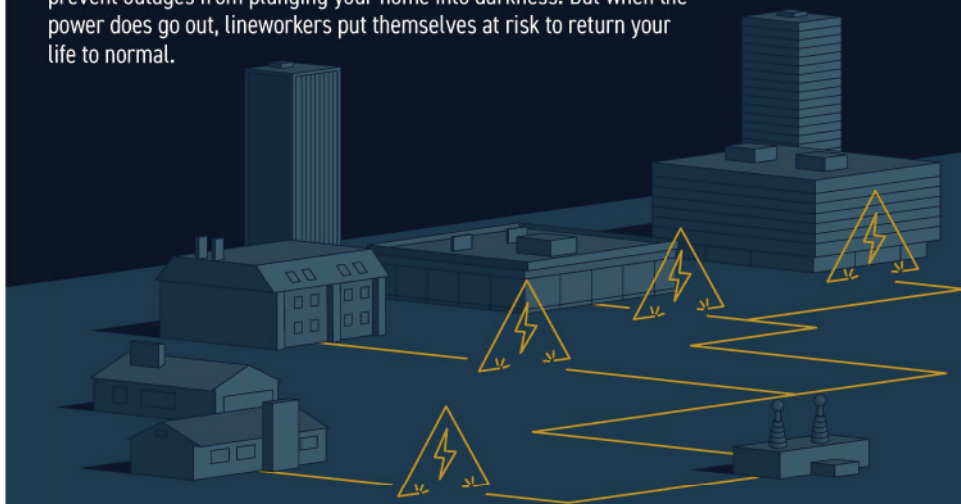
Some lineworkers focus on keeping their core body temperature up when out in inclement weather for longer periods. When they have long days working on the electric grid, they focus on resting when possible—and caffeinating when they can't.

If driving, check your tires prior to the winter season so your vehicle is in good condition and can manage icy roads. Be aware of others—including lineworkers, who might be working to restore power—drive slowly and remove potential distractions. If you encounter downed lines, always assume they are live. Steer clear of the lines, and call your utility to report the damage.

Remember that your safety, and the safety of your community, is more important than arriving early to your destination. Always check the weather forecast to know what to expect.

Winter weather can be unpredictable. By understanding the risks associated with winter storms and taking steps to mitigate those risks, you can ensure your family stays safe and warm. 🧤

ADOBE STOCK IMAGES BY ALEXGO, APOZ



VETERANS DAY



ADBE STOCK ART BY PAUL LESSER

HONORING ALL WHO
SERVED NOV 11

HONORING OUR HEROES

New Mexico rural electric cooperatives celebrates veterans every day, working together to power our communities

By Lonnie Tucker

Every November, Americans come together to honor the sacrifices made by those who have served in the military. Veterans Day is a time to reflect on the courage and dedication of our veterans, recognizing the vital roles they have played in safeguarding our freedoms.

In New Mexico, where the landscapes are as diverse as its communities, rural electric cooperatives are not only essential providers of energy but also significant employers of veterans.

New Mexico has a rich military history with a strong presence of bases and installations such as Kirtland Air Force Base, Holloman Air Force Base and White Sands Missile Range. Many service members from bases around the state have chosen to make New Mexico their home after their military careers. The transition from military to civilian life can be challenging, but rural electric cooperatives offer a supportive environment for veterans seeking new opportunities in the Land of Enchantment.

Rural electric cooperatives have long been committed to community values, emphasizing teamwork, integrity and service—principles that resonate with those who have served in the armed forces. By employing veterans, our cooperatives not only honor their service but also benefit from the unique skills and perspectives that veterans bring to the workforce.

Veterans are often well-prepared for the challenges of cooperative work due to their extensive training, problem-solving abilities and commitment to service. Skills gained in the military—whether technical, leadership or teamwork—translate well to various positions at rural electric cooperatives. From lineworkers to technicians to administrative roles, veterans contribute significantly to the operational efficiency and safety of our cooperatives.

Moreover, many veterans possess valuable certifications and licenses acquired during their military service. These can include expertise in electrical systems, project management and logistical coordination, all of which are crucial for the daily functioning of our electric cooperatives.

The benefit of working with veterans extends beyond the office. Your co-ops are deeply embedded in your rural

communities, and veterans contribute positively to local initiatives. Many veterans are actively involved in community service projects, volunteering their time and skills to improve the quality of life in their areas.


For instance, cooperatives may sponsor or participate in local events such as community clean-up days, school programs or energy efficiency workshops led by veterans. This involvement fosters a sense of belonging and purpose and reinforces cooperatives' commitment to community engagement and support.

On Veterans Day, rural electric cooperatives across New Mexico take the time to recognize and celebrate their veteran employees. This may include special events such as luncheons, ceremonies or moments of silence to honor those who have served. Cooperatives often highlight the stories and contributions of their veteran employees, showcasing how their military experiences have shaped their roles within the organization.

Cooperatives across New Mexico may also engage with the broader community by sponsoring Veterans Day parades, educational programs in schools or collaborations with local veteran organizations. These efforts help raise awareness about the importance of supporting veterans and their families.

As we celebrate Veterans Day, remember that honoring our veterans is a year-round commitment. Rural electric cooperatives in New Mexico play a critical role by providing employment opportunities and creating a supportive environment for veterans. Their efforts not only enhance the workforce but also strengthen communities across the state.

In the spirit of cooperation and service, let us recognize the contributions of our veterans not just on Nov. 11, but every day. The dedication and resilience demonstrated by these individuals serve as a powerful reminder of the values that unite us as a nation.

As we reflect on their sacrifices, let us continue to support initiatives that honor their service and facilitate their successful transition into civilian life. By doing so, we ensure our veterans remain integral members of our communities, contributing to the vibrant tapestry of New Mexico's rural electric cooperatives and beyond. 

MARK'S MILES: AN EPIC EV JOURNEY



BEEP!
BEEP!



Excuse Me?

Follow along as Mark Faulkenberry shares his firsthand experience with an all-electric truck—this month, he and other EV drivers recall some choice words other motorists have shared with them


Bolt—my electric Ford F-150 Lightning truck—and I have traveled together for 10 months now. We have covered a lot of territory, but in my wildest dreams I never thought I would experience the unique situations that I have encountered.

For some reason, there is a certain group of folks that don't take kindly to electric vehicles or their drivers. Many of them want to race us. Several have offered crude sign language expressing how they feel. Others have conveyed their sentiments through vulgar verbal statements. Some have even taken it to the point where they are vandalizing charging infrastructure.

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit with an older gentleman who had purchased an electric vehicle about a year ago. He indicated that he had experienced some unique situations and asked if I had. I said yes. He commented that “it seems

like our society no longer has any filters as to what they say or do.” He blamed it on social media.

He asked my opinion. I told him I believe these folks see EV ownership as a political statement rather than a consumer choice. For me, it's not about being red or blue, rather a choice where I as a consumer decide what I want to drive. It is similar to choosing whether to heat my home with natural gas or go all electric with the ground-source HVAC system I now have at my home.

Regardless, my perspective is obviously not that of others. If you want to hear some humorous encounters that I and other EV drivers have experienced along with some interesting insight from various industry insiders use the QR code to hear the rest of the story. 



Use this QR code to find additional info from Mark Faulkenberry, including his fueling data and entries from previous months.



Mark's Miles
An Epic EV Journey 

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

1920s Style for a 1920s Price

It was a warm summer afternoon and my wife and I were mingling with the best of them. The occasion was a 1920s-themed party, and everyone was dressed to the nines. Parked on the manse's circular driveway was a beautiful classic convertible. It was here that I got the idea for our new 1920s Retrograde Watch.

Never ones to miss an opportunity, we carefully steadied our glasses of bubbly and climbed into the car's long front seat. Among the many opulent features on display was a series of dashboard dials that accentuated the car's lavish aura. One of those dials inspired our 1920s Retrograde Watch, a genuinely unique timepiece that marries timeless style with modern technology.

With its remarkable retrograde hour and minute indicators, sunburst guilloche face and precision movement, this design is truly one of a kind. What does retrograde mean? Instead of displaying the hands rotating on an axis like most watches, the hands sweep in a semicircle, then return to their starting point and begin all over again.

Retrograde watches by the big brands can set you back thousands; one recent offering from a big French fashion house is selling for more than \$150,000! But because we've designed the 1920s Retrograde Watch in-house, we can offer it to you for just \$99!

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holiday treats

With the holiday season upon us, the kitchen becomes a gathering place, as well as a storehouse of delicious and traditional recipes to share.

In our sixth annual Gifts From the Kitchen edition, our cranberry, date and oat bars can be made ahead of time and packaged to gift during the holiday season. Folks who dined on the Test Kitchen recipes this month enjoyed the taste of the bars. One taste-tester remarked the bars were like “adult toaster pastries” (Thank you, Kane Becker) and perfect for a quick breakfast. Testers came back for seconds.

May this holiday season find you enjoying time in the kitchen with family and friends! 🍪

Cranberry, Date and Oat Bars

1 12-ounce package dried cranberries

1 8-ounce package dried and pitted dates, finely chopped

3 tablespoons water

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

½ teaspoon almond extract

¼ teaspoon cinnamon

2 cups flour

2 cups oats

1½ cups brown sugar, packed

½ teaspoon baking soda

½ teaspoon salt

1 cup butter, melted

Glaze:

2 cups powdered sugar

½ cup berry jam of choice

2-3 tablespoons vanilla flavored coffee creamer (or more)

- Preheat oven to 350 F.
- In microwavable bowl, combine cranberries, dates, water, vanilla, almond extract and cinnamon. Microwave on high for 30 seconds. Remove, stir and microwave an additional 20 seconds. Stir. Set aside.
- Spray a 9-by-13 inch baking pan with butter-flavored cooking spray.
- In a microwave, melt butter until soft, being careful to not allow butter to boil. Stir together flour, oats, brown sugar, baking soda and salt. Drizzle melted butter into flour mixture a small amount at a time and combine with a fork until a crumb texture has formed.
- Place half of the flour mixture into a baking pan, patting firmly. Bake for

10 minutes. Remove from oven and carefully spread cranberry mixture on top of crust layer. Cover with remaining flour mixture, firmly patting down. Return to oven and bake for 25 minutes.

- Cool bars in the refrigerator while making glaze. In a microwave, melt berry jam in 20-second intervals until jam becomes liquid. Stir melted jam into powdered sugar. With a wire whip, mix creamer into the powdered sugar mixture until a glaze consistency is formed.
- Remove bars from refrigerator, and drizzle glaze diagonally on top. Allow to cool at room temperature. Cut into bars.

Makes 36 bars.

COOKING WITH STYLE

Elevating my cooking with an induction cooktop and range

As a millennial woman navigating a busy life filled with career responsibilities, social commitments and personal hobbies, I've always prioritized efficiency and style in my home. Recently, I made the decision to switch my home's original 60-year-old gas cooktop and range to an electric induction unit. This upgrade has transformed my cooking experience and added a modern aesthetic to my kitchen that reflects my lifestyle.

About a year ago, the burners, igniters and burner caps on my gas cooktop started wearing out, leading to difficulty igniting, inconsistent flame, uneven heating and gas leaks. The unit could not be repaired and needed replacement.

After witnessing an induction cooking demonstration at a home builders convention, I visited my local appliance stores and researched induction countertops and ranges.

I also talked to my electric cooperative and found out it offered a \$350 rebate for the conversion from gas to an induction cooktop measuring 30 inches or larger. I selected the Bosch 800 series induction cooktop and range based on consumer reports, and I wanted a stainless-steel finish to add a modern touch to my kitchen. The industrial style is trendy yet timeless, making it a perfect fit for cozy gatherings and solo cooking sessions.

The five induction burners are a game-changer. Their smooth surface is easy to clean and visually striking. I can prepare multiple dishes simultaneously, whether I am whipping up a quick weeknight dinner or hosting a weekend brunch. The precision of the induction technology means I can control the heat instantly, allowing me to experiment with recipes without the constant worry of burning something.

As someone who grew up using traditional gas stoves, I was initially hesitant about switching to induction cooking. However, the transition has been seamless. Induction cooking is faster and more energy efficient. The burners heat up almost instantly, which

means I can bring water to a boil in record time. This feature has become essential for my busy mornings, especially when I am trying to make coffee and breakfast before rushing out the door.


Induction cooktops have interesting safety features. Using electromagnetic energy, induction technology only heats specific materials, including cookware, meaning the surface remains cool to the touch. This is particularly reassuring when I am multitasking or when my young niece visits. It allows me to focus on creating delicious meals without the constant fear of accidental burns.

The range's oven has upped my baking game. The convection feature circulates hot air for cooking, resulting in perfectly baked goods. Whether it is cookies for a friend's gathering or a savory casserole for a cozy night in, I love the consistent results I get every time.

The range comes equipped with a warming drawer, which I did not know I needed until I had it. It is perfect for keeping dishes warm while I finish preparing the rest of the meal or for serving snacks during movie nights with friends.

In today's world, sustainability is more than just a buzzword—it is a lifestyle. An induction cooktop and range uses less energy than gas cooktops. It also produces less greenhouse gas emissions. Knowing that my cooking methods have a lesser impact on the planet gives me a sense of satisfaction and purpose.

Switching to the induction cooktop and range has revolutionized my cooking experience. From safety and speed to ease of cleanup and aesthetic appeal, the benefits are undeniable. As a millennial woman balancing a busy life, this induction unit not only fits my lifestyle but elevates it.

If you are considering making the switch, I wholeheartedly encourage you to embrace the future of cooking with induction technology. It is a decision that will transform your kitchen and your culinary adventures for years to come. 

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Animals

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Business

SHREDMASTERS COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE SHREDDING SERVICES ask about our c.r.p. rate serving Clovis Curry county and surrounding area call or text 575-791-5050

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Real Estate

CLOVIS-809 S PRINCE, Vacant land south of Prince/Brady intersection, Just under 5 acres. Commercial potential. \$135,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

CLOVIS-409 HUMPHREY ROAD, Vacant land with commercial potential. 8.5 acres not far from US 60-84. \$77,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

TUCUMCARI-1120 S SARATOGA, (Also next to US 54/Mountain Road) \$20,000. City water close by. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

CANADIAN RIVER-WEST UTE LAKE- Six 40 acre +/- parcels. Lake and Mesalands view. Call for showing and pricing. Owner Financing Available. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

SANTA ROSA- 1070 BAR Y ROAD, HOLLYWOOD RANCH SUBDIVISION. PRICE REDUCED. Three parcels totaling 41 acres. Water, electricity, fencing. \$85,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

MILAGRO- 0000 PECOS SPUR, PORTILLO CREEK RANCH SUBDIVISION. Tract 6, 164 acres. Partial fencing. Wide open space. \$84,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

MAGDALENA-0000 TBD STATE ROAD 169, 1.28 acres. Great mountain views 15 miles from Magdalena. Borders Cibola National Forest. Hunting potential. \$11,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

DATIL- 85 NORTHERN TRAIL, SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN SUBDIVISION, PRICE REDUCED. Two lots totaling just over 13 acres. Small cabin. \$39,000. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

DATIL/PIE TOWN- Various 40 +/- acre tracts north of Sawtooth Mountains and national forest in former Criswell Ranch area. Call for pricing. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

40 BEAUTIFUL, FORESTED LOTS IN THE PENDARIES SUBDIVISION, featuring Ponderosa Pines. Each lot is available for purchase individually, with prices as low as \$5,000. Community water access and views. Don't miss this opportunity—secure your ideal lot today! Laurie Frantz, Real Broker LLC, 505-920-1346, lauriefrantz@gmail.com

3 PINON/JUNIPER-FORESTED LOTS NEAR OJITOS FRIOS less than a mile off San Miguel CR A20. Utilities not in place. No HOA or covenants; MHs allowed. \$50K each. Laurie Frantz, Real Broker LLC, 505-920-1346, lauriefrantz@gmail.com

2 CONTIGUOUS PINON/JUNIPER-FORESTED LOTS, 45.563 ACRES, MUJERES RANCH, CIBOLA CO. Electricity at lotline; well, septic needed. No HOA or covenants; MHs allowed. \$99,500 for both. Big mountain views! Laurie Frantz, Real Broker LLC, 505-920-1346, lauriefrantz@gmail.com

80 HILLY ACRES WITH LOTS OF BUILDING SITES 3 MILES SOUTH OF MADRID OFF THE TURQUOISE TRAIL. Stupendous views of surrounding hills & valley. Shipping container on large level spot would be great place to build. Utilities required. Live off grid in the splendor of solitude! Laurie Frantz, Real Broker LLC, 505-920-1346, lauriefrantz@gmail.com

EASTERN NEW MEXICO- Let us sell your large acreage working farm or ranch. Broker is farm owner/operator and lifetime New Mexico resident. Big Mesa Realty, 575-456-2000, Paul Stout, Broker 17843, 575-760-5461. www.bigmesarealty.com.

3-BEDROOM 2-BATH MANUFACTURED HOME ON JUST OVER 3 ACRES. The open and split floor plan welcomes you with spacious and airy living areas, connecting to the kitchen and dining spaces. This home is ideal for entertaining and everyday living. The large covered back deck opens into the back yard, plentiful with fruit trees and shade. The large 2 car garage/shop gives you ample amounts of storage and work space. The property is fully fenced with sturdy pipe fence on 3 sides. Call Rye at ZIA REAL ESTATE 575-430-0777 cell or 575-258-8656 office.

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Vehicles

FOR SALE: Camper Forest River-Flagstaff Microlite. Call 575-289-3498 for more information, if interested.

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3. Or, complete form and select category.
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5. Price:
One column inch ads are \$50
Two column inch ads are \$100

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614 Don Gaspar Ave.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Deadline

1. **Due the 7th, one month prior.**
Ex: Ads due Dec. 7 for the January issue.

Good to Know

1. Only members of New Mexico electric cooperatives may place ads.
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.**
6. Enchantment prints monthly, except for June and December.

Questions?

Call: 505-982-4671.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Cooperative: _____

Select Category Below

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Finds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicles |



AROUND NEW MEXICO

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

Nov. 2-3—Dixon

Dixon Studio Tour

Join us from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day in the beautiful Embudo Valley for the 43rd annual Dixon Studio Tour. This self-guided tour of our many studios, galleries and homegrown businesses was established in 1982, making it one of the longest continually running studio tours in New Mexico. Visit our diverse group of local artists, artisans, craftspeople and makers and our local businesses, nonprofits and organizations. Our small community of 1,000 residents has a library, co-op market, wellness center, radio station, wineries and much more.

www.dixonarts.org

Nov. 3—Las Cruces

Renaissance Arts Faire

The Doña Ana Arts Council's Renaissance Arts Faire is an annual event held at Young Park in Las Cruces. The lake, towering trees and rolling lawns provide an idyllic setting for the fair. Costumed entertainers, medieval and renaissance decorations, and special food booths add to the atmosphere. Jousters will dazzle audiences with sword fighting on and off horseback. There will be mounted medieval games, races and other entertainment throughout the park. The Dragon's Eye Tavern will serve local beer and wine while food booths offer specialty fare. Vendors and artisans will be located throughout the park. This a major event for Las Cruces that draws large crowds, and many patrons share in the merriment by dressing in renaissance fair attire.

daarts.org/renaissance-artsfaire

Nov. 4—Gallup

14th Annual Four Corners Invitational Youth Football Championships

The Tony Dorsett Touch Down Football League is

a nonprofit, area-wide youth program of tackle football for boys and girls. The league has been in existence since 1996 and is incorporated in the state of New Mexico. Age groups are broken into flag divisions for each age from 6 to 13, and tackle divisions for each age from 8 to 11. Whatever the child's age was on Sept. 1, 2024, will be their playing age. All games are played on field turf at the Sammy C. Chioda TDFL Field, on North Sixth in Gallup at the Tom Saucedo Memorial Park.

www.tdfll.pro

Nov. 6-7—Ghost Ranch

Lotus Sound Bath at Ghost Ranch

Autumn comes to Ghost Ranch, as does Douglas and Lotus Sound Bath. If ever a place, the people and art it inspires had a sound to match, this would be it. Looking forward to sharing a moment's reminder and humble acknowledgement of creative forces far greater than we.

lotussoundbath.com

Nov. 9—Alamogordo

Sounds of Freedom

Experience an unforgettable celebration of music, art and community. Enjoy live performances, inspiring speakers and activities for all ages. Together, we will honor our heroes and promote unity. Do not miss this incredible event—mark your calendar now!

ci.alamogordo.nm.us/215/Special-Events

Include Your Upcoming Event

Send your event details to eventcalendar@nmelectric.coop. Include the event title, date, town and a summary of the event. Include the event website address so readers can get additional event information. Submit the event notification at least 60 days before the event to meet our press deadline. Space is limited, and events are run at the discretion of the editor.

Nov. 9—Truth or Consequences

Veterans Day Car Show

Car enthusiasts from across the state have long gathered to showcase their classic and vintage vehicles at the Veterans Day Car Show. This year, the event takes place at the Albert Lyon Events Center, with support from the Hot Springs Woman's Club. Car owners can register in advance or on the day of the show, and vendors are welcome to participate. An on-site concession stand supports community projects, and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 44 hosts a bake sale.

sierracountynewmexico.info/local-events/veterans-day-car-show

Nov. 16—Alamogordo

Fall Festival, Alameda Park Zoo

Celebrate the beauty of the season at the Fall Festival! The day is packed with fun activities for the entire family. Bring your friends and enjoy the crisp autumn air while you experience the wild side of fall. Festival highlights include bobbing for apples with bears, pumpkin smashing with capuchin monkeys, enrichment activities for otters and raccoons, wine sipping and painting with the zoo animals, a speed painting demonstration of our reptiles, the "Island of Misfit Morphs" interactive reptile show in the Education Building, food trucks and a craft market. Admission is free to everyone.

ci.alamogordo.nm.us/215/Special-Events

Nov. 23—Portales

Art Gallery Night

Join us for an enchanting evening at the Art Gallery Night in Portales, New Mexico. Experience the vibrant local art scene as 12 artists showcase their stunning works. Enjoy live music, delightful refreshments and engaging conversations. This is a perfect opportunity to connect with fellow art enthusiasts and discover the creative spirit of our community.

www.williamslivestockranch.com

BE AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY MVP

Do you have what it takes to be the energy efficiency MVP (most valuable player) in your home? When you take proactive steps to save energy at home, you can help your family save on monthly energy bills *and* help the environment—that's a win-win!



Read the sentences below and unscramble the **bolded** letters to complete the energy efficiency tips.

Check your work in the answer key.

1. Turn off **glhsit** when you leave a room.

2. Unplug smaller electronic devices like phone **reahgcsr** when you're not using them.

3. Reduce your **nesecr** time to save energy and spend more time outdoors.

4. Turn off the **reatw** while brushing your teeth.

5. Keep doors and **swdwnio** closed when your home's heating/cooling system is running.

6. When it's cold, wear an extra layer of **tohgnCIL** inside instead of adjusting the thermostat.



Answer Key: 1. lights 2. chargers 3. screen 4. water 5. windows 6. clothing

GET OUT THE VOTE

in **NEW MEXICO**



**GENERAL
ELECTION DAY**



DEADLINES TO KNOW FOR VOTING IN NEW MEXICO



VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE:

October 8, 2024

28 days before an election. Same-day registration is permitted prior to the election until the Saturday prior to Election Day. Election Day registration is available for statewide contests.



ABSENTEE / MAIL-IN VOTING BALLOT DEADLINES:

Request must be received by

October 31, 2024

The Thursday before the election.



BALLOT SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Must be received by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

Mail Receipt by Election Day

WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE?

Voting is one of the most powerful ways to make your voice heard in our democracy, but in 2020, only 66.8% of the voting-age population in the United States reported voting.

Modern technology has improved access to information on candidates and made it easier to register to vote in many areas, and it is vital to be aware of how you can participate in the 2024 election cycle.



NEW MEXICO'S ABSENTEE AND MAIL-IN VOTING PROCEDURES

Permanent absentee / mail-in voting procedures:

- No excuse required to request an absentee ballot
- Applications can be submitted via mail, in-person, and online



NEW MEXICO'S EARLY VOTING DEADLINES

Early Voting **Begins: October 8, 2024**

Early Voting **Ends: November 2, 2024**

Data as of 09/20/23

Information provided by NCSL, HeadCount, and US Vote Foundation. Check your state's website for the most up-to-date voter information.

HOW CAN YOU REGISTER TO VOTE IN NEW MEXICO

To register to vote in New Mexico, visit the State Board of Elections website for more information on voter eligibility and the registration process.

[HTTPS://WWW.SOS.STATE.NM.US/](https://www.sos.state.nm.us/)

You can begin the registration process through New Mexico's Online Voter Registration System.

[HTTPS://PORTAL.SOS.STATE.NM.US/OVR/
\(S\(OD4445H5UJ2F5TYUCVVHSZDF\)\)/
WEBPAGES/INSTRUCTIONSSTEP1.ASPX](https://portal.sos.state.nm.us/OVR/(S(OD4445H5UJ2F5TYUCVVHSZDF))/WEBPAGES/INSTRUCTIONSSTEP1.ASPX)

<https://vote.coop>



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COOPERATIVE JOB OPPORTUNITIES ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN NEW MEXICO. VISIT [NMELECTRIC.COOP/CAREERS](https://nmelectric.coop/careers).



NEW MEXICO
RURAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

BECOME A CO-OP VOTER IN 5 EASY STEPS

- **Register to vote:** check to make sure your registration is current.
- **Learn voter details for your state:** get information on deadlines, absentee voting and polling places.
- **Get educated:** learn about issues critical to keeping your electricity affordable and reliable.
- **Know the candidates and policymakers:** find out how they support affordable, reliable electricity in your community.
- **Share your story:** talk to your family and friends about your co-op, tell them why you're a **Co-op Voter** and ask them to join you at the polls.

**Rural communities depend on Co-op Voters like you.
Get out and VOTE each and every Election Day.**

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

- ✓ Include **832** distribution cooperatives and **64** generation and transmission cooperatives.
- ✓ Serve a total of **42 million** people in **48** states.
- ✓ Power **56%** of the American landscape.
- ✓ Return more than **\$1 billion** to their consumer-members annually as not-for-profit organizations.
- ✓ Power over **22 million** businesses, homes, schools and farms.



Powering Through Winter

Learn the do's and don'ts of operating a generator safely during a power outage

By **Lonnie Tucker**

As winter descends upon New Mexico, our beautiful state experiences a blend of challenges and opportunities as the fall season gives way to winter solstice. New Mexico can face harsh winter weather, including snow, ice and freezing temperatures. This can occasionally lead to power outages, making generators essential for many households.

When thinking about getting a generator, the first step is to calculate the electrical wattage needed to safely power your home's essential appliances and devices.

Next, decide if you require a portable or standby generator to meet those wattage needs. Portable generators are versatile, easy to transport and typically more affordable, ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. In contrast, standby generators are permanently installed outside your home and can automatically provide electricity to power most household appliances during a power outage. However, they come at a higher cost, averaging around \$10,000.

After selecting the appropriate type and size of generator for emergency backup, it is essential to contact your local electric cooperative and a qualified electrician. This ensures that installation of the generator complies with interconnection requirements, safety standards and all applicable local, state and federal codes.

Improper connections can lead to serious hazards, such as electrocution or electrical fires. Additionally, poorly maintained or improperly placed

generators can pose fire risks, particularly in dry or brush-filled areas.

When connecting a portable generator to your home, you have two main options: a powered circuit panel with a transfer switch that monitors incoming utility voltage—which must be installed by a qualified electrician—or plugging appliances directly into the generator using heavy-duty extension cords.

Never connect a generator to your home by plugging it into a wall outlet. This practice, known as back feeding, can electrocute a family member, neighbor, or an electric cooperative lineworker working to restore power during an outage. Permanent generators require a transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician to prevent back feeding, as required by the National Electrical Code.

While having a generator during a power outage is undoubtedly convenient, it also comes with a crucial responsibility: ensuring



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY AS PHOTO FAMILY

Follow Generator Safety Guidelines:

- ▶ Always place generators outdoors and away from windows, doors or vents. Misuse of generators can lead to serious risks such as carbon monoxide poisoning, electrocution and fire.
- ▶ Install a carbon monoxide alarm in your home if you use a generator.
- ▶ Never plug a generator directly into your home's wiring. Instead, use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord to power only the necessary appliances.
- ▶ Avoid overloading your generator. Make sure it is rated high enough for your power needs.
- ▶ When choosing a generator, consider the power requirements of the home or business.
- ▶ Conduct a detailed power audit to help identify the number of devices that need to be powered and their energy consumption.
- ▶ Generators should be placed on a dry, firm surface and covered properly during rainy or wet conditions to prevent electrocution.
- ▶ Never move or refuel a generator while it is running. Make sure it has cooled down before refueling to avoid fire risks.
- ▶ Fuel for generators should be stored in a cool, well-ventilated space and in properly labeled, non-glass safety containers.
- ▶ If using a permanently installed generator, always install a transfer switch and turn off the main breaker when using a generator.

Generator safety in New Mexico is a critical concern. It requires attention and proactive measures. By understanding the risks and following best practices for operation, maintenance, and emergency preparedness, cooperative members can ensure their generators provide the necessary power without compromising safety. Remember, being prepared not only protects your family but also contributes to the safety and well-being of the community as a whole. 📧

safe operation. Portable generators pose serious hazards, including carbon monoxide poisoning from exhaust, electric shock and fire risks. Most fatalities and injuries related to portable generators are due to carbon monoxide poisoning, particularly when used indoors or in partially enclosed spaces. In winter, tightly sealed homes can trap carbon monoxide, heightening the risk. To safeguard your family, install carbon monoxide detectors in your home.

If you have a generator, review the manufacturer's instructions and safety warnings in the owner's manual. Each generator model has specific guidelines for safe operation. Always use generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas, positioning them at least 20 feet away from windows, doors and vents to prevent carbon monoxide buildup indoors. To protect yourself from electrical shocks, keep the generator dry by placing it under a roof, canopy or tarp. Avoid carbon monoxide build up by ensuring ventilation is unobstructed.

In New Mexico, winter storms can strike suddenly, leaving residents without

power. Prepare in advance by starting your generator to ensure it runs correctly. Load test it with essential appliances to verify its performance. When connecting appliances, ensure you are using ground-fault circuit interrupter—or GFCI—outlets to minimize the risk of electrical shock.

Fueling your generator requires care, particularly during the winter. Keep fuel in approved containers, away from heat sources and out of reach of children. Cold temperatures can affect fuel performance, and you should consider using fuel stabilizers and keeping your fuel tank filled to prevent condensation. Ensure your fuel storage area is well ventilated. Turn off your generator and let it cool before refueling to reduce the risk of fires or explosions. Always use funnels to avoid spills.

Finally, community awareness is vital in promoting generator safety. Your local electric cooperative is the perfect resource for information pertaining to generators. Many cooperatives across New Mexico offer workshops on safe generator operation focusing on carbon monoxide prevention and emergency preparedness.

youth art

January Topic:

Happy New Year! Draw your favorite memory from the past year.

Send Your Drawing

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

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

Hooray!

Winners receive a \$15 gift card.

Have a Youth Art Topic?

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

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

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

DON'T FORGET THESE ITEMS!

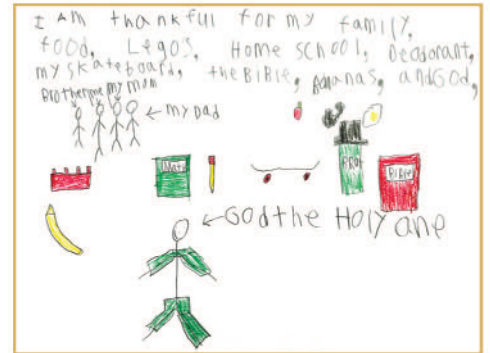
Artwork accepted up to age 13.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Congratulations to the winning artists who drew something they are thankful for.

Chandler Costa • Age 6
Farmers' Electric Cooperative



Bo Bollema • Age 13
Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative



Emily Ness • Age 9
Central New Mexico Electric Cooperative



Noah Cordova • Age 9
Jemez Mountains Electric Cooperative



Cassidy Robinson • Age 8
Otero County Electric Cooperative



Adilynn Cooper • Age 9
Central Valley Electric





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