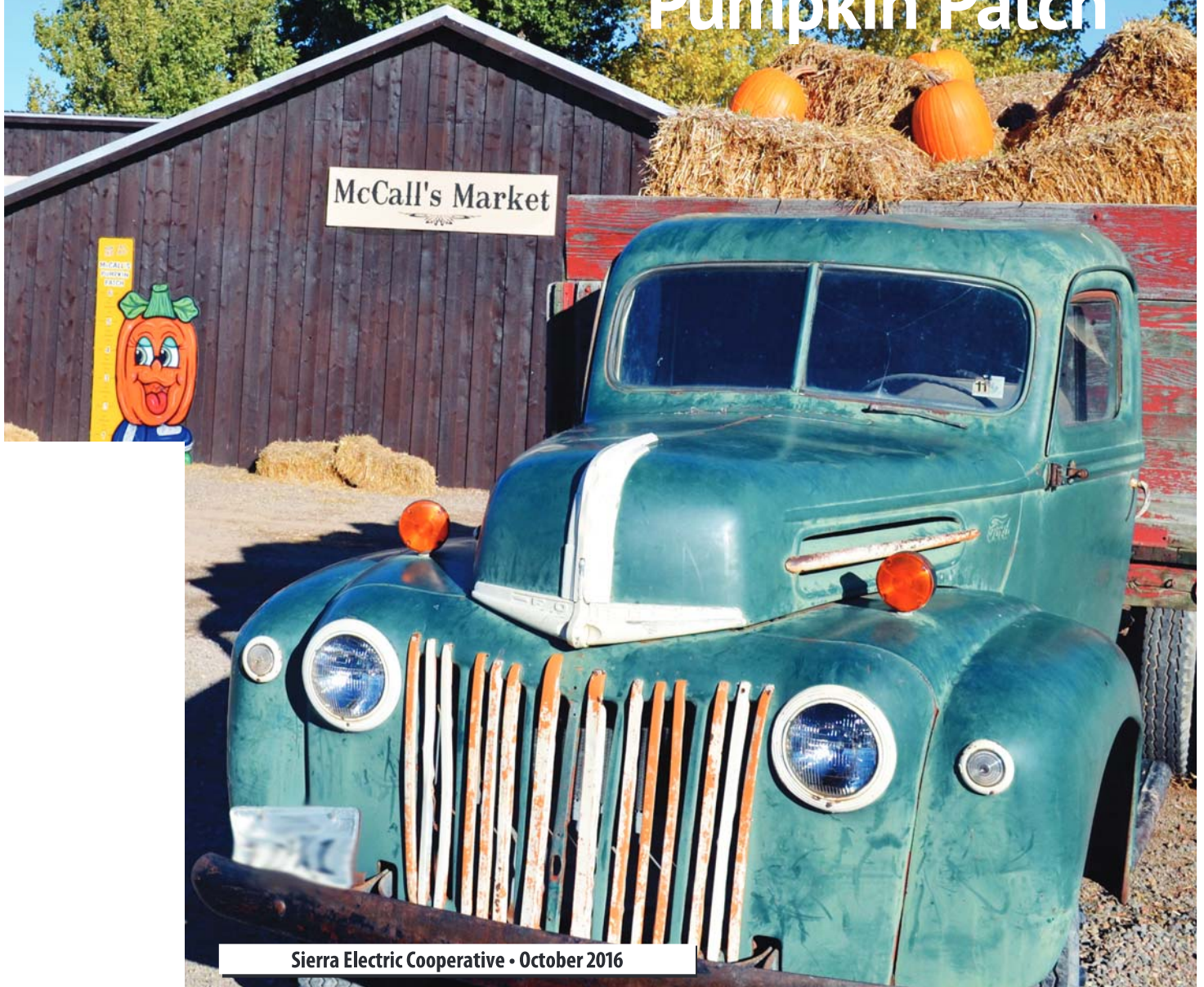


# enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's Rural Electric Cooperatives

## Visiting McCall's Pumpkin Patch

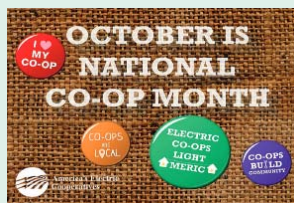


Sierra Electric Cooperative • October 2016

## Sierra Electric Celebrates National Co-op Month

Being a part of a cooperative means being a part of something special; Sierra Electric is celebrating National Cooperative Month in October, along with 40,000 other cooperative businesses serving more than 120 million people nationwide.

“Cooperatives Build” is the theme of this year’s National Cooperative Month. Consider these ways that co-ops build:



### Cooperatives Build Trust

Most co-ops strive to adhere to seven key cooperative principles, which combine to help build trust between the co-op, its members and the community. For example, the first principle is **Voluntary and Open Membership**, which means we are a voluntary organization open to all people to use our services and willing to accept the responsibility of membership. The second principle, **Democratic Member Control**, gives members a voice in the cooperative’s policies and decisions. Through the sixth principle, **Cooperation among Cooperatives**, we serve our members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

### Cooperatives Build Community

The seventh cooperative principle is Concern for Community. Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through employee involvement in local organizations, through charitable contributions to community efforts and through support for schools.

### Cooperatives Build Jobs

Cooperatives generate jobs in their communities, keep profits local and pay local taxes to help support community services. Cooperatives often take part in community improvement programs, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to benefit from the cooperative experience.

### Cooperatives Build a Better World

Through all of the above ways, cooperatives build a better world. For more information, visit [www.coopmonth.coop](http://www.coopmonth.coop)

## Sierra Electric Donates to Girl Scouts for Louis Armijo Sports Complex Beautification Project

Five local members of the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest are attempting to earn silver and gold awards by completing a project that will not only benefit their communities, but also have a lasting effect on it. The girls have chosen to combine their projects at the Louis Armijo Sports Complex in the Williamsburg area. The projects include planting trees, installing an ADA accessible drinking fountain with memorial bricks, painting a wall mural, and building a batting cage.

Sierra Electric is proud to support community groups like these in support of one of our guiding cooperative principles—Concern for Community. Sierra Electric not only purchased a memorial brick, but also donated \$250 towards the project. If you would like to donate also, contact Angela Madrid, 575-740-0923; Connie Griego, 575-740-9071; or Karina Gonzalez, 575-740-9673.

## Don't be Fooled by Common Energy Myths

**Myth:** The higher the thermostat setting, the faster the home will heat (or cool).

**Fact:** Many people think that walking into a chilly room and raising the thermostat to 85 degrees will heat the room more quickly. This is not true. Thermostats direct a home’s HVAC system to heat or cool to a certain temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting will not make a difference in how quickly you feel warmer. The same is true for cooling. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees during summer months, and 68 degrees during winter months.

**Myth:** Opening the oven door to check on a dish doesn't really waste energy.

**Fact:** While it can be tempting to check the progress of that dish you're cooking in the oven, opening the oven door does waste energy. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more importantly, costing you additional money. If you need to check the progress of a dish, try using the oven light instead.

**Myth:** Ceiling fans keep your home cool while you're away.

**Fact:** Believe it or not, many people think this is true. Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Ceiling fans circulate room air but do not change the temperature. A running ceiling fan in an empty room is only adding to your electricity use. Remember to turn fans off when you're away and reduce your energy use.

**Remember, energy efficiency doesn't have to be difficult.**

**Focus on small changes to save big. Learn more about ways to save energy by visiting [www.sierraelectric.org](http://www.sierraelectric.org) or calling 575-744-5231.**

### Board of Trustees

John Bokich	President	Elephant Butte	District 2
Darryl Sullivan	Vice President	Monticello	District 3
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Tami Garrett	Trustee	Las Palomas	District 3
Charles McMath	Trustee	Elephant Butte	District 2
Judy Smith	Trustee	Caballo	District 1
Thomas Stroup	Trustee	Elephant Butte	District 2

### Board Meeting

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



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**Office Hours**  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (M-F)

**General Manager**  
Jimmy Capps

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 