

The Voice of New Mexico's  
Rural Electric Cooperatives

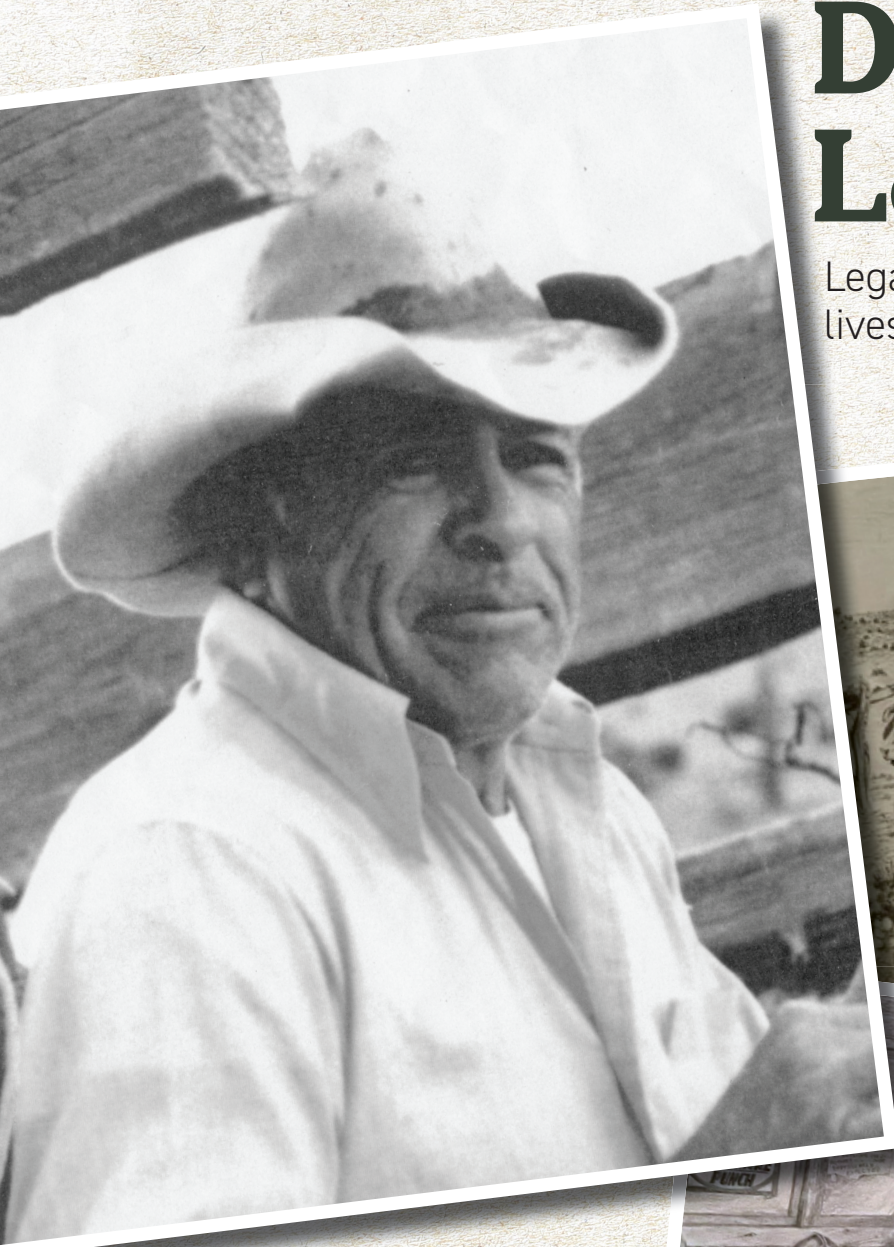
# enchantment

**OTERO COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

JANUARY 2024

## Drawing Local History

Legacy of cowboy artist Joe J. Brazil  
lives on **Page 14**



**CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE:** Jose Joaquin Brazil, known as Joe J., drew scenes from around his town of Scholle. His work "Goodbye Bloomers" shows a cow running through a laundry line. "Lunch at Scholle" depicts four people having lunch. PHOTOS COURTESY OF DIXIE BOYLE

# Otero County Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Chief Executive Officer

Mario Romero

## Cloudcroft Office

404 Burro Ave. • P.O. Box 227  
Cloudcroft, NM 88317  
575-682-2521

## Carrizozo Office

507 12th St. • P.O. Box 669  
Carrizozo, NM 88301  
575-648-2352

## Alto Office

1135 Hwy. 48 • P.O. Box 1135  
Alto, NM 88312  
575-336-4550

## Emergency and Outages

800-548-4660

Fax: 575-682-3109

Website: [www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com)

## Office Hours

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

## Board of Trustees

### President

Charles Mulcock, SE District

### Vice President

Denny Burnett, SE District

### Secretary

Marty Mills, Central District

### Treasurer

Scott Shafer, NW District

Kenny Blazer, SW District

Bill Bird, NE District

Cheri Hass, Central District

David Powers, NE District

Tim Rabon, SW District

Preston Stone, NW District

## Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets at 9 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



From left, Alexandra Almanza, Warrick Nowell, Haleigh Shendo and Baylyn Grinder represented Otero County Electric Cooperative as Youth Tour delegates.

## Become a Youth Tour Delegate

Otero County Electric Cooperative proudly sponsors delegates to attend the 2024 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors to visit Washington, D.C., for a week in June.

OCEC began sponsoring students for the first time in 2017. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students from across the country to the nation's capital since 1950. This year, OCEC will sponsor up to four students to go on this unique trip to watch history come alive as they explore museums, memorials and monuments, visit with U.S. senators, and make friendships that last a lifetime.

We encourage members to share this opportunity with students you know so they can apply to become a Youth Tour delegate. Applications can be picked up at your local OCEC office, from your school guidance counselor, or found at [www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com).

**The deadline to apply is January 31.**

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During winter months, ensure your home is well sealed to reduce the need for excessive heating. Seal air leaks around your home and add insulation where needed to save up to 10% on annual energy bills.

Install weather stripping on exterior doors and apply caulk around windows. Check attic insulation levels and hire a qualified contractor if additional insulation is required.

*Source: energystar.gov*



**Otero County Electric Cooperative board members congratulate the 2023 scholarship recipients at the 2023 annual meeting.**

## Apply Now for 2024 Scholarships

Don't miss out on the chance to fund your future with the help of your local electric cooperative

The Otero County Electric Cooperative Education Foundation began awarding scholarships to area students in 1989. Since its inception, more than \$1.4 million has been awarded to students attending university, college or technical school.

The scholarship is \$1,000 per semester for the first two semesters. It increases to \$1,500 per semester for an additional six semesters if the required GPA is maintained and the student continues enrollment.

To be eligible, the student must be an active member receiving electric service from OCEC. Applications are available at OCEC offices, at [www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com) or from your school counselor.

The deadline to apply is March 15.

Another opportunity for OCEC members is through Basin Electric Power

Cooperative, which awards scholarships to upcoming high school graduates who receive electric service from OCEC and attend a post-secondary school during the fall of 2024.

This scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements of children of member-cooperative consumers. BEPC administers the scholarship in conjunction with OCEC.

Scholarship applicants must be U.S. citizens who plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

Applications are available at OCEC offices, from your school guidance counselor or at [www.ocec-inc.com](http://www.ocec-inc.com). Applications are due to OCEC by February 16.