

# enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's  
Rural Electric Cooperatives

**OTERO COUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

OCTOBER 2022



## HOLE-IN-THE-WALL GANG

Driving Cattle

Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid  
and the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang  
trailed cattle in Magdalena

The Hole-in-the-Wall Gang, from left: Sundance  
Kid, Bill Carver, Ben Kilpatrick, Harvey Logan and  
Butch Cassidy. PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN SWARTZ,  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, 1900



# 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 the third Friday of the month at 9 a.m. at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**October is National Co-op Month**  
Proud to be your trusted energy partner.

Help us celebrate by stopping by your local OCEC Office  
**Tuesday, October 11**  
for cookies, coffee, and giveaways!

## Celebrating Membership

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

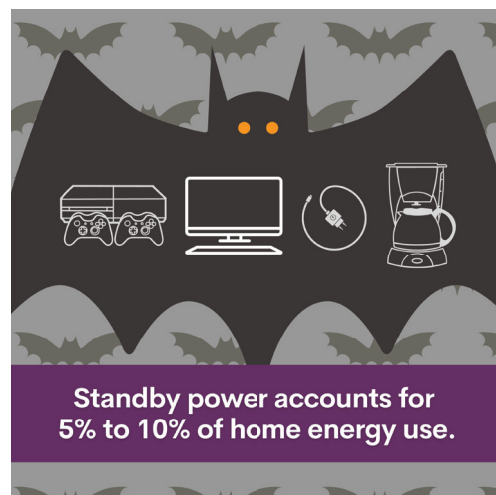
When I say Otero County Electric Cooperative celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you. After all, our co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business is to serve as your electricity provider, but our larger mission is to help make our corner of the world a better place. Concern for Community is one of seven guiding principles all co-ops share. Similar to how the power lines run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions. That's because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

OCEC works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board, who live here in our community. Because we're local, we understand our community's unique needs and strive to help meet them.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation Round Up to aid our community's most vulnerable. We also partner with and support area food banks and other charitable organizations such as Thrive, school sports and educational programs, and local senior centers.

The word cooperative implies everyone working together toward a common goal—mutually benefiting one another and the larger community. That's the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in



**Standby power accounts for 5% to 10% of home energy use.**

the community where they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op, we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know saving energy and money is important to you. That's why we have programs in place like our Energy Efficiency Program. We provide free residential energy audits, and can offer suggestions on how to make informed decisions about your energy consumption.

We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. Through our SmartHub app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. Of course, you can call us if you have questions about your energy bills.

OCEC's mission is to provide you with reliable electric service and excellent customer care at affordable rates. After all, we're your local co-op, built by the members we serve.



# KEEP IT SAFE

## Prepare kids for trick-or-treating

On October 31, small, strange creatures may dot our roads, creeping up to homes with large bags, dashing from one place to another, often forgetting about passing cars and trucks. Otero County Electric Cooperative reminds you to drive carefully to keep Halloween a safe, special treat. When preparing youngsters for trick-or-treating, be mindful of these suggestions from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

**Ensure the costume fits properly and doesn't hinder the child's vision.** Consider face makeup instead of masks, and buy only flame-resistant or flame-retardant costumes.

**For greater visibility, trim costumes and bags** with reflective tape.

**Have children carry flashlights** so they can see and be seen.

**Swords, knives and costume accessories** should be made of soft, flexible material.

**Examine treats carefully** before allowing children to eat the sweets.

**Keep candles and jack-o-lanterns away from landings and doorsteps**, so costumes don't brush against the flames. Remove obstacles from lawns, steps and porches.