

OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MARCH 2023

The History of **Three Rivers**

Visitors can learn of the people, past times and calamities of Three Rivers Page 14

The Jornada Mogollon people lived in the Three Rivers area more than 700 years ago and left many petroglyphs. PHOTO BY DIXIE BOYLE

Otero County Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative K

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

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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.

Apply Now For Scholarships

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 a New Mexico 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 or from your school counselor.

The deadline to apply is March 15.

HOW ELECTRICITY REACHES YOU

Generation Electricity is produced at a generation facility either by renewable or nonrenewable energy sources.

Distribution Lines

Once the voltage is lowered, the electricity travels over distribution power lines, which ultimately deliver the electricity to our homes and businesses.

Transmission Lines

and Substations After the electricity is generated, it travels through high-voltage transmission power lines to electric substations, where the voltage is lowered.

Distributed Generation

Distributed generation systems like rooftop solar panels produce electricity when their energy source is available, such as when the sun shines. When the energy source is unavailable, the home or business receives electricity from the grid. If the system produces more electricity than needed, the excess power is sent back to the grid.

Otero County Electric Cooperative



10 Do's and Don'ts When Using Portable Generators

By Abby Berry

If you're planning to use a portable generator in the event of an outage, Otero County Electric Co-op reminds you to play it safe.

With proper use and maintenance, portable generators can provide great convenience during an outage. However, when generators are used incorrectly, they can be extremely hazardous. In a 2022 report, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated 85 U.S. consumers die every year from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by gasoline-powered portable generators.

Here are 10 do's and don'ts to keep in mind when using portable generators:

• Do install backup carbon monoxide alarms.

• Do keep children and pets away from portable generators at all times.

• Do position generators at least 25 feet outside the home and away from doors, windows and vents, which can allow carbon monoxide to enter the home.

• Do ensure your generator is properly grounded. Use a portable ground-fault circuit interrupter to prevent electric shock injuries.

• Do use three-pronged extension cords rated to handle the load of the generator. Inspect extension cords for cuts, frays or

other damage before use.

• Don't operate a generator inside your home or an enclosed or partially enclosed space. Generators produce high levels of carbon monoxide, which can be deadly.

• Don't open windows or doors while the generator is running.

• Don't rely on generators as a full-time source of power. They should only be used temporarily or in emergency situations to power essential equipment or appliances.

• Don't overload generators. They should only be used to power essential equipment. Make sure your generator can handle the load of the items you plan to power.

• Don't connect generators directly to household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed. If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and electrocute utility lineworkers making repairs.

While generators provide convenience during power outages, they can quickly become hazardous—even deadly—if improperly operated. Before you operate a portable generator, thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

Be sure to notify OCEC if you have a generator hooked up at your home.