

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

APRIL 2023



Supporting Their Community

Indigenous students bring STEM
conference to Socorro **PAGE 14**

Jonnie Alisha Woody, left, and Taylor Cecelia Yazzie are the vice president and president, respectively, of the NM Tech chapter of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society. PHOTO BY CHRIS EBOCH



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Mario Romero

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Office Hours

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

Board of Trustees

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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.

2023 Youth Tour Delegates Chosen

Four local students have been chosen to attend the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour in June.

These young leaders will participate in a life-changing week in the nation's capital as they meet with U.S. representatives and senators, tour some of the finest museums in the world, visit historic monuments and memorials, and develop lifelong friendships and connections with delegates from across the country.

Interested students submitted an application along with two written essays. In-person interviews were held, and the top applicants were chosen to participate in this all-expenses-paid trip this summer.

Then-Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson addressed a crowd at the 1957 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting with the proposal that rural teens should have the opportunity to experience Washington, D.C., and see their government in action. America's electric cooperatives were the perfect organizations to facilitate the idea.

That summer, a few Texas cooperatives sent teens from their service areas.

The next year, Iowa and Illinois followed suit and brought their own busload of rural youth to Washington, D.C.

In 1964, NRECA—the national service organization representing America's electric cooperatives—began to coordinate the activities. Youth Tour has only grown bigger and stronger in the 60-plus years since the first students ascended on the capital.



Alexandra Almanza
Hondo High School



Warrick Nowell
Capitan High School



Haleigh Shendo
Mescalero High School



Baylyn Grinder
Alamogordo High School

Otero County
Electric sponsored

its first group of students in 2017. This year is the first group to attend after the pandemic caused a cancellation of the trip for a few years.

Help us congratulate the 2023 OCEC Youth Tour delegates and wish these young leaders well on their summer trip!

Operations on Alert With High Winds

As winds begin to pick up, red-flag warnings are issued, and Otero County Electric puts into effect fire-prevention procedures. Reclosers are set to non-reclose so breakers operate and lines stay open at the first sign of a fault to help reduce the risk of electrical equipment starting a fire.

This precautionary measure relies more heavily on line patrol by operations personnel and less on automated equipment, but does come with some consequences. Outages may last longer, and more members could be affected.

OCEC asks for patience when the longer outages occur. We hope you understand the benefits of the extra patrol time far outweigh the risks.

Thank You, OCEC Lineworkers

Otero County Electric Cooperative was established in 1939, and since then, we have not only been committed to our members, but to our lineworkers and the labor they do for us.

OCEC employs 19 lineworkers who serve diverse communities and a large service territory.

Day in and day out, rain or shine, these lineworkers leave their families to perform one of the most dangerous jobs in the country. They do so without complaint to keep your lights on and keep you comfortable when it is cold or hot.

Our trucks with the Otero County Electric emblem are in your communities every day. The next time you see one, please consider waving, saying hello or thanking them for the job they do.

Most of us may not realize how dependent we are on our lineworkers until the lights go out.

In 1941, OCEC served 76 miles of line. Today, we serve 20,370 electric meters across 2,827 miles of line in Otero, Lincoln, Chaves and Socorro counties. Our crews cover this large territory continuously to make sure our members' needs are met.

National Lineworker Appreciation Day is recognized in April. OCEC thanks our dedicated lineworkers.



CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10, 2023

JD Brown, equipment operator

Matt Chavez, journeyman lineman

Nick Chavez, journeyman lineman

Jake Chesney, apprentice lineman

Rayce Collins, journeyman lineman

Janscen Davis, equipment operator

Tanner Dean, journeyman lineman

John Gillen, journeyman lineman

Ryan Guevara, journeyman lineman

Garrett Hacker, journeyman lineman

Chris Hughes, journeyman lineman

Jude Otero, apprentice lineman

Marco Ramirez, apprentice lineman

Isaiah Salazar, apprentice lineman

Sam Sanchez, journeyman lineman

Baylee Sanderson, apprentice lineman

Kenny Vega, apprentice lineman

James Vigil, equipment operator

David Webb, apprentice lineman

Good
7 APRIL
2023 **Friday**

OCEC Offices will be closed.

Call 800-548-4660 to report an outage.