

enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's
Rural Electric Cooperatives

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

MAY 2023

Manzano

An early fort on the New Mexico frontier

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Manzano—nowadays known for its fishing hole at Manzano Lake—started its history as a fort on the New Mexico frontier two centuries ago. PHOTO COURTESY OF DIXIE BOYLE

Otero County Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Mario Romero

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800-548-4660
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Website: 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

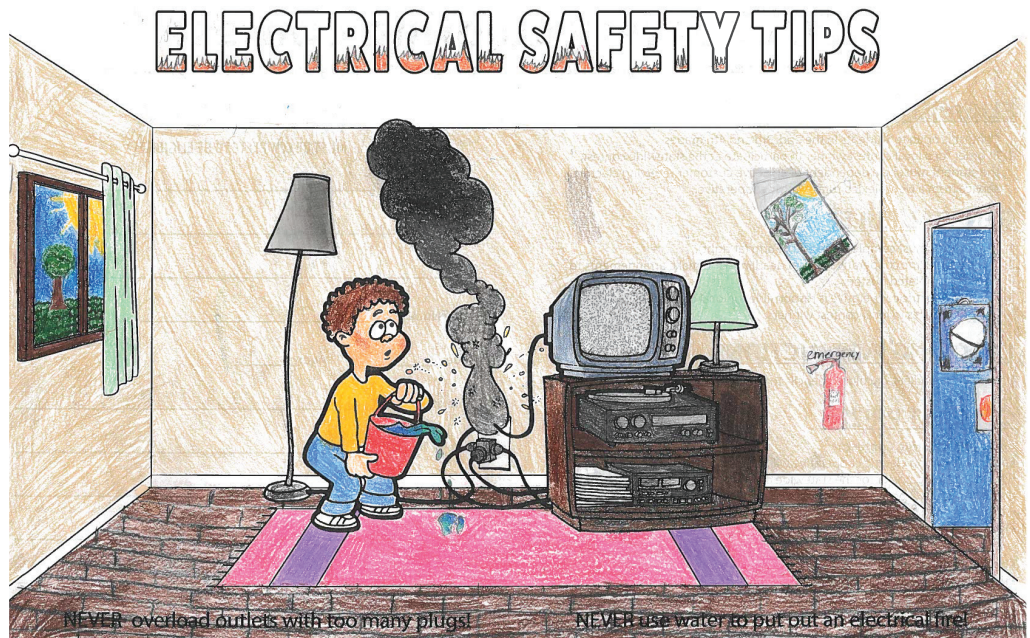
Tim Rabon, SW District

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.



OCEC Coloring Contest Winner Announced

Aubrianna Barnes, a fourth grade student at Cloudcroft Elementary School, was the first-place winner of Otero County Electric's Safety Coloring Contest. Her winning poster was also submitted to the statewide organization where it placed second among winning posters from other New Mexico electric cooperatives.

Judges commented about how well the shading in the artwork was done and how the falling picture frame was a nice touch.

Aubrianna will receive a cash award from OCEC and the NM Member Services Association.

Congratulations, Aubrianna!



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY MATO181

2023 Election Information

Three positions on the Otero County Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees are up for election. Elections will take place at the annual meeting of the members Saturday, August 5, 2023, in the Cloudcroft High School gymnasium in Cloudcroft, New Mexico.

Trustees holding positions expiring in 2023 are:

- Kenny Blazer—Southwest District
- Cheri Hass—Central District
- Bill Bird—Northeast District

Those elected for these positions will serve a three-year term ending in 2026.

Article IV, Section 3 of the Bylaws states:

SECTION 3. Nominations. Nominations for Trustees to be elected shall be by Petition signed by fifteen or more members acting together, and who are bona fide residents of the district for which the nomination is made. The Petition shall be filed not less than twenty-five (25) days or more than forty-five (45) days before the date of the Meeting of the Members in which Trustees are to be elected. Nominations for the position of Trustee from the floor, at the Annual Meeting of Members, are not allowed.

The secretary shall include with the notice of the meeting, at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of Trustees to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates. Notwithstanding anything contained in this SECTION, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this SECTION shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any election of Trustee.

Petition forms are available for pickup in any of OCEC's local offices in Cloudcroft, Alto or Carrizozo, or can be downloaded on www.ocec-inc.com beginning June 1, 2023. According to the dates outlined in the bylaws, petitions will only be accepted between Wednesday, June 21, 2023, and Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Completed petitions may be turned in at any OCEC office.



Mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2023 annual meeting of the members on Saturday, August 5, in beautiful Cloudcroft, New Mexico. The meeting will be in the Cloudcroft High School gymnasium.

ADOBE STOCK ILLUSTRATION BY MEGO-STUDIO

Preventing and Preparing for Wildfires

Wildfires can destroy homes, equipment and property and even take the lives of the professionals who are on the front lines battling the blaze to save families and homes.

Otero County Electric Cooperative encourages you to learn about prevention and prepare for dangers related to wildfires.

Whether you are burning debris, running equipment or tending a campfire—always make sure fire, sparks and embers are contained and safely extinguished.

A fire that gets near power lines can create additional hazards. Safe Electricity offers these tips:

- If you see downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment, notify the local electric utility as soon as possible. The lines could still be live and present a fire risk.
- Downed power lines, stray wires and debris in contact with them all have the potential to deliver a fatal shock. Stay clear of fallen power lines and damaged areas that could hide hazards.
- Contact the electrical utility immediately if you see fire near transmission or distribution lines.

If a wildfire is threatening your area, tune in to local media for reports and evacuation information. Smoke limits visibility, and evacuation routes can be cut off by fire, traffic, fallen trees or power lines. Follow the instructions of local officials. If you are



Never leave a fire unattended, and make sure you completely extinguish the fire when you're done. Drench the fire with water and stir the ashes until cold.



When burning yard waste, follow local ordinances. Avoid burning in windy conditions, and keep a shovel, water and fire retardant nearby to keep fires in check.



Tips to Prevent Wildfires



Play it safe when using fueled lanterns, heaters and stoves. Lighting and heating devices should be cool before refueling. Keep flammable liquids and fuel away from appliances.



Never discard cigarettes, matches and smoking materials from moving vehicles, or anywhere on park grounds. Completely extinguish cigarettes before disposing of them.

Source: National Geographic

ordered to evacuate, do so.

If you have enough time, turn off the electricity, water, gas and propane tanks as well as any other bottled gas you may have before evacuation. In addition, disconnect appliances and electronics to reduce the chance of electrical shock when power is restored.