

ENCHANTMENT

THE VOICE OF NEW MEXICO'S RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

**OTERO COUNTY
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

THE WORLD'S FASTEST MOTORSPORT

Thousands of fans visit Roswell
for the National Championship
Air Races and Air Show **Page 14**



National Championship Air Races
and Air Show attendees get the
chance to view competing planes
up close. PHOTO BY CHRIS EBOCH



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Office Hours

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

Board of Trustees

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Board Meeting

The board of trustees meets at 8:30 a.m. the third Friday of the month at the cooperative.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Youth Tour Applications Open

Otero County Electric Cooperative is accepting applications for the annual Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. The trip is June 15-21, 2026. Youth Tour delegates visit monuments and museums, meet with elected officials, learn about the cooperative business model, and get to know young leaders from across New Mexico and 46 other states.

The best part: It's free. OCEC covers all expenses for this once-in-a-lifetime trip.

Check ocec-inc.com/youth-tour for more information and complete your application today. The application deadline is Jan. 20. ■

Change Your Clocks and Batteries

Daylight saving time is also a good time for safety checks

The first Sunday in November—Nov. 2 this year—marks the end of daylight saving time. At 2 a.m., clocks fall back one hour, giving everyone a little extra sleep before the shorter days of winter set in.

When you turn your clocks back, it's also the perfect reminder to check other lifesaving tools in your home—your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Even if the batteries aren't dead, the National Fire Protection Association recommends replacing them twice a year to ensure the devices work. Smoke detectors alert you to fire in time to escape, while carbon monoxide detectors provide warning of a clear, odorless gas that can be deadly.

Carbon monoxide doesn't just come from vehicles. Gas furnaces, stoves and fireplaces are also potential sources. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends:

- Having a qualified technician inspect and

adjust gas appliances to ensure they burn fuel efficiently and safely. A properly tuned appliance will have a steady blue flame and produce less carbon monoxide.

- Using electric space heaters instead of gas-powered models.
- Installing an exhaust fan, vented outdoors, above gas stoves.
- Opening flues when using wood-burning fireplaces.
- Choosing properly sized woodstoves with tight-fitting doors that meet EPA emission standards.
- Scheduling annual inspections for furnaces, flues and chimneys.
- Never idling your vehicle inside a garage.

Taking a few minutes this November to replace batteries, check alarms and inspect heating systems can keep your family safe all winter long. ■



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY FAHRWASSER



ADOBE STOCK PHOTO BY DEBORAH KOLB

Include Safety on Your Holiday Menu

The kitchen can be a busy place during the holidays. Whether you are a seasoned cook or novice baker, it's essential to keep electrical safety in mind while you're preparing your favorite recipes—or sampling those recipes.

The following kitchen hazards may cause electric shock:

- Damaged or worn electrical cords.
- Equipment and appliances with improper or faulty wiring.
- Using damp cloths or water for cooking or cleaning near sources of electricity.

The following tips may help prevent electric shock in your home:

- Always read and follow an appliance's operating instructions.
- Always dry your hands before handling cords or plugs.

- If an unplugged appliance cord gets wet or damp, do not plug it in until it is thoroughly dry.
- Do not handle electrical cords or appliances when standing in water.
- Pull on the plug, not the cord, to disconnect an appliance from an outlet.
- To avoid damaging cords, don't run them across walkways or underneath rugs. Draping them over walkways is also a tripping hazard.
- Regularly inspect electrical cords and plugs for damaged insulation and exposed wiring; immediately discard any damaged items. Avoid using any cord or plug that is frayed, cracked, taped or otherwise questionable.
- Only handle the insulated part of a plug or cord when disposing of it.
- Do not overload extension cords, multi-pack power strips or surge protectors

with too many appliances, and do not plug them into each other. Use them as a temporary solution.

- Ensure extension cords, power strips and surge protectors are in good condition and the appropriate gauge for the job. The lower the number, the bigger the gauge and the greater the amperage and wattage.
- Never remove the third prong—usually round or U-shaped—from a plug. This is a grounding/safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock and electrocution.
- If you have doubts about your home's electrical system, have a licensed electrician evaluate wiring, outlets and switches to verify they are in working order.
- Educate yourself and everyone in your household on how to properly turn off your home's power in case of an emergency. ■