

# ENCHANTMENT

THE VOICE OF NEW MEXICO'S RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE

FEBRUARY 2026



The U.S. Southwest Soaring Museum is home to dozens of vintage gliders, including a replica of a Zanonia from 1973.

PHOTO BY JIM WINNERMAN

## *Riding the Wind*

Soaring museum in Moriarty showcases the sport and why local weather makes the area a hotspot **Page 4**



# 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: [ocec-inc.com](http://ocec-inc.com)

## Office Hours

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

## 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

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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.



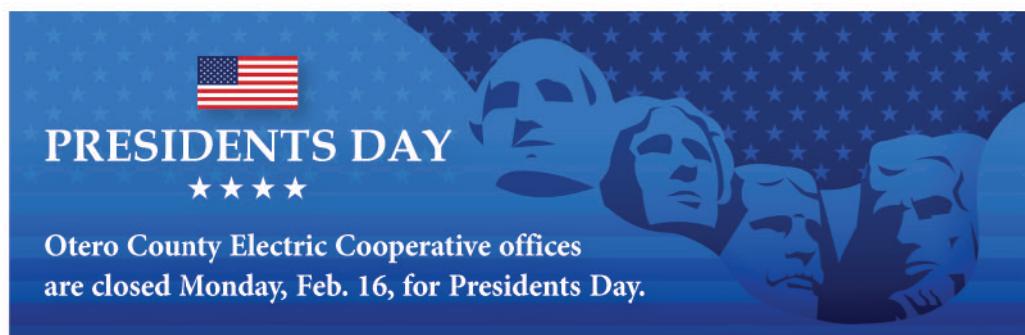
A damaged power pole, shown left with gunshot holes, has been stabilized with a 35-foot pole, right, until weather and conditions allow crews to make a permanent replacement. PHOTOS COURTESY OF OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Pole Damaged by Gunfire to be Replaced This Summer

A utility pole damaged by gunfire in June 2025 was scheduled for replacement by Otero County Electric Cooperative, but repeated bouts of inclement weather and limited access after seasonal rains delayed the work.

After several adjustments to the outage schedule, OCEC determined a full replacement would be deferred until this summer. In the meantime, leaving the damaged pole in place posed a potential risk to electrical reliability for members in and around Cloudcroft—particularly during winter snowstorms and spring wind events.

To address this concern, OCEC crews implemented a temporary solution. Storm anchors were replaced, and a new 35-foot pole was installed alongside the damaged structure. The two poles were securely bolted together to stabilize the area and prevent the original pole from failing until the permanent replacement is completed. ■



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# Invest In Your Future

## Scholarships power student success

The Otero County Electric Education Foundation scholarship program provides area students the opportunity to further their education.

Since its inception in 1989, this foundation has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to our community's youth, awarding more than \$2.1 million in financial assistance. This exceptional level of support underscores the program's long-standing dedication to fostering academic excellence and career development.

### Unmatched Financial Support for Long-Term Academic Goals

What sets this scholarship apart is its long-term financial structure. This program is designed to support students not just for their first year, but potentially throughout their entire undergraduate journey.

- **Initial Support:** Scholarship recipients receive \$1,500 per semester for their first two semesters. This initial award provides a critical boost, helping students cover the costs of entering a university, college or technical school.

- **Sustained Investment:** The value increases to \$2,000 per semester for an additional six semesters—up to four years

total—if the student maintains the required GPA and continues their enrollment. This escalating support is a powerful incentive for students to focus on their studies and ensure they have the sustained funding necessary to graduate with minimal debt.

This significant commitment to financial aid directly benefits students by alleviating the burden of tuition, books and living expenses, allowing them to concentrate on achieving their academic and professional aspirations. It's a true investment in the leaders and skilled workers of tomorrow.

### Eligibility and Application Details

Securing this life-changing scholarship is straightforward.

- **Eligibility Requirement:** Applicants must be active members receiving electric service from Otero County Electric Cooperative. This ensures the funds are invested directly back into the families and communities served by OCEC.

- **How to Apply:** Students can pick up a copy of the application at OCEC offices, through their school guidance counselor, or download it directly at [ocec-inc.com](http://ocec-inc.com).

- **Deadline:** Don't miss out! The

deadline for submitting your application is March 16. Mark your calendars and prepare to take advantage of this opportunity.

### Explore More Scholarship Opportunities

In addition to the OCEC program, students can receive a scholarship through Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

This scholarship is for upcoming high school graduates who receive electric service from OCEC and plan to attend a post-secondary school in fall 2026.

The deadline to apply for this scholarship is Feb. 10. More details and application information can be found at [ocec-inc.com](http://ocec-inc.com).

By offering multiple avenues of financial assistance, OCEC empowers students and helps them overcome financial barriers so they can achieve their educational dreams. ■

Apply today, and let the Otero County Electric Education Foundation help light up your future. Scan the QR code to learn more and download an application.

