



POWER-GRAM

May
2020



A Monthly Newsletter for Members of

**OTERO COUNTY ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE, INC.**

Cloudcroft

575-682-2521

Alto

575-336-4550

Carrizozo

575-648-2352

www.ocec-inc.com

LOBBY HOURS

8 AM - 4 PM

Monday - Friday

**TO REPORT AN
OUTAGE, CALL
1-800-548-4660**

**FOR BALANCE
INFORMATION
OR TO PAY YOUR
BILL, CALL
1-844-846-2695**

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Over \$1 Million Awarded in Scholarships

The Otero County Electric Education Foundation was started in 1989 and has assisted hundreds of students fulfill their dream of attending college. Since that time over one million dollars in scholarship money has been awarded to local graduates pursuing a degree or certification program at a New Mexico college or vocational school.

The scholarship is awarded for \$1,000 per semester and is renewable for up to 8 semesters provided the student meets the required enrollment and grade-point average requirements.

During the Fall 2020 semester, seventy-five students will be receiving assistance through this worthwhile program, with seventeen new scholarships given to the Class of 2020.

OCEC is proud to announce the following students as recipients of the scholarship. Due to the coronavirus, graduation ceremonies have been cancelled for most of this year's seniors. Help us congratulate these students on their accomplishments and wish them well in their new adventure!

Berenice Almanza—Hondo
Nickolas Archuleta—Carrizozo
Jordan Gaston—Tularosa
Ashleigh Hall—Cloudcroft
Scout Hamilton—Capitan
Jessie Hibbard—Pinon
Daniel Hobbs—Capitan
Mary Howard—Capitan
Kyra Lucero—Hondo
Shacie Marr—Tularosa
Sidney Morales—Cloudcroft
Fabian Portillo—Carrizozo
Zane Seidel—Cloudcroft
Sierra Shoemaker—Cloudcroft
Fallon Velasquez—Mescalero
D'Anna Willingham—Carrizozo
Zach Wilson—Capitan

OCEC would also like to congratulate Landyn Wimsatt—Cloudcroft, for his selection as recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship from Tri-State Generation & Transmission, our power supplier.

Congratulations Class of 2020!

ANNUAL MEETING

Many OCEC members look forward to the ANNUAL MEETING each year in August. This event typically draws around 400-500 members, but with current restrictions imposed on large gatherings by the NM Department of Health, changes to the meeting may be necessary. While we enjoy seeing members each year during this event, our chief concern is the health of members and employees. Over the next few weeks, your Board of Trustees and management will be monitoring the current COVID-19 situation so an informed decision can be made on how to proceed with this event. While we hope to see your smiling faces on **SATURDAY, AUGUST 1**, we will do so only if it is safe for all involved. Stay tuned next month for an update about YOUR ANNUAL MEETING.

Teach Kids: Electrical Safety Starts Indoors

Electricity can seem like magic for children. With the flip of a switch, the home is flooded in light or an appliance jumps to life. Curious kids need to understand that what they cannot readily see can pose the risk of an accident if they are not careful and safe.

The Academy of Pediatrics says 86% of reported home electrical injuries happen to children between the age of one and four, so indoor safety is just as important as outdoor safety. Start by modeling safe behavior and taking time to explain hazards and how children can stay safe.

The largest number of electrical injuries involve outlets, extension cords, and small appliances. OCEC offers these indoor electrical safety tips to parents and caregivers:

- Install outlet covers or tamper resistant outlets. Demonstrate the correct way to insert and remove an electrical plug from an outlet. Ensure kids know to pull from the plug, not the cord.
- Extension cords can be an electrical fire and trip hazard. Route your cords out of high-traffic areas and behind furniture. Unplug extension cords and chargers that are not in use. Remember, extension cords are for temporary use. If you consistently need extension cords in a particular area, have a professional install new receptacles so you can do away with cords.
- Teach children that biting an electrical cord is dangerous, as well as touching damaged cords and electronics, and those with visible wires. Use ground-fault (GFCI) safety outlets and cords when possible.
- Always store your appliances and electronics out of reach of little hands. Instruct children not to use common appliances such as toasters and microwaves without assistance. Make sure they know inserting a metal object into the slots of the toaster or microwaving a metal plate on high could endanger your entire family.
- Tell kids that electricity and water can be a deadly combination. Keep all appliances stored far from sinks, bathtubs, and other water sources. Install ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) for extra protection near spaces that may become wet.
- Reduce risks for your family by using the highest possible quality for your electronics. Ensure electronics and extension cords have been tested by a certified testing laboratory such as Underwriters Laboratories. Look for the safety label.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.

May Employment Anniversary

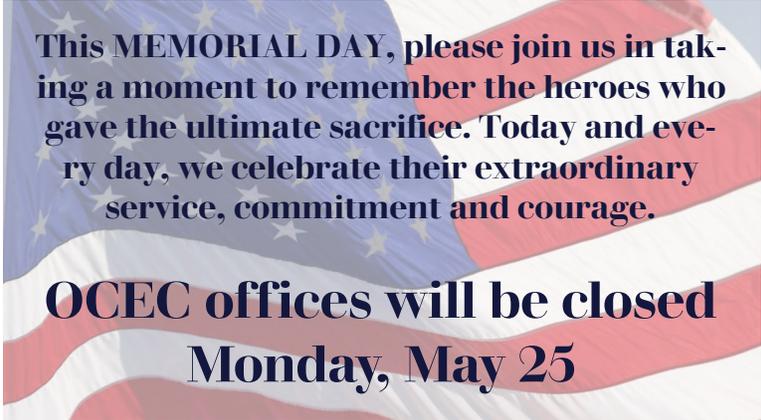
Frank Borunda—Engineering/Oper. Tech.—21 years
Lee-Ann Connor—Engineering/Oper. Assistant—9 years
Jerry Crump—P/T Custodian—1 year
Delbert Lucero—System Engineer—5 years
Mark Martin—District Operations Supervisor—14 years

Vegetation Management Update

Crews working to trim trees and vegetation in rights-of-way are currently in the following areas and are expected to remain there for the next few weeks

- James Canyon
- Seep Canyon
- Bonito Canyon
- Fence Canyon

OCEC reminds members that you may see vehicles, ATVs and crew members from Rogers Tree Service, Wilson Thinning and Penasco Gravel trimming and cutting trees near existing power lines. Vehicles will be marked with their company name and on OCEC contractor placard.



This MEMORIAL DAY, please join us in taking a moment to remember the heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Today and every day, we celebrate their extraordinary service, commitment and courage.

**OCEC offices will be closed
Monday, May 25**

**LOBBY TEMPORARILY CLOSED
to help prevent the spread
of COVID-19 Coronavirus**

**EFFECTIVE MONDAY
MARCH 23, 2020**

**ALL OCEC OFFICE LOBBIES WILL
BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

OCEC understands the financial hardship the COVID-19 outbreak may be causing our members. During this time, we encourage you to pay what you can toward your electric bill to avoid an extremely high balance when situations return to normal. If you're struggling to pay your bill, call us at **1-800-548-4660**. Representatives will be happy to work with you to find an arrangement that fits your situation.