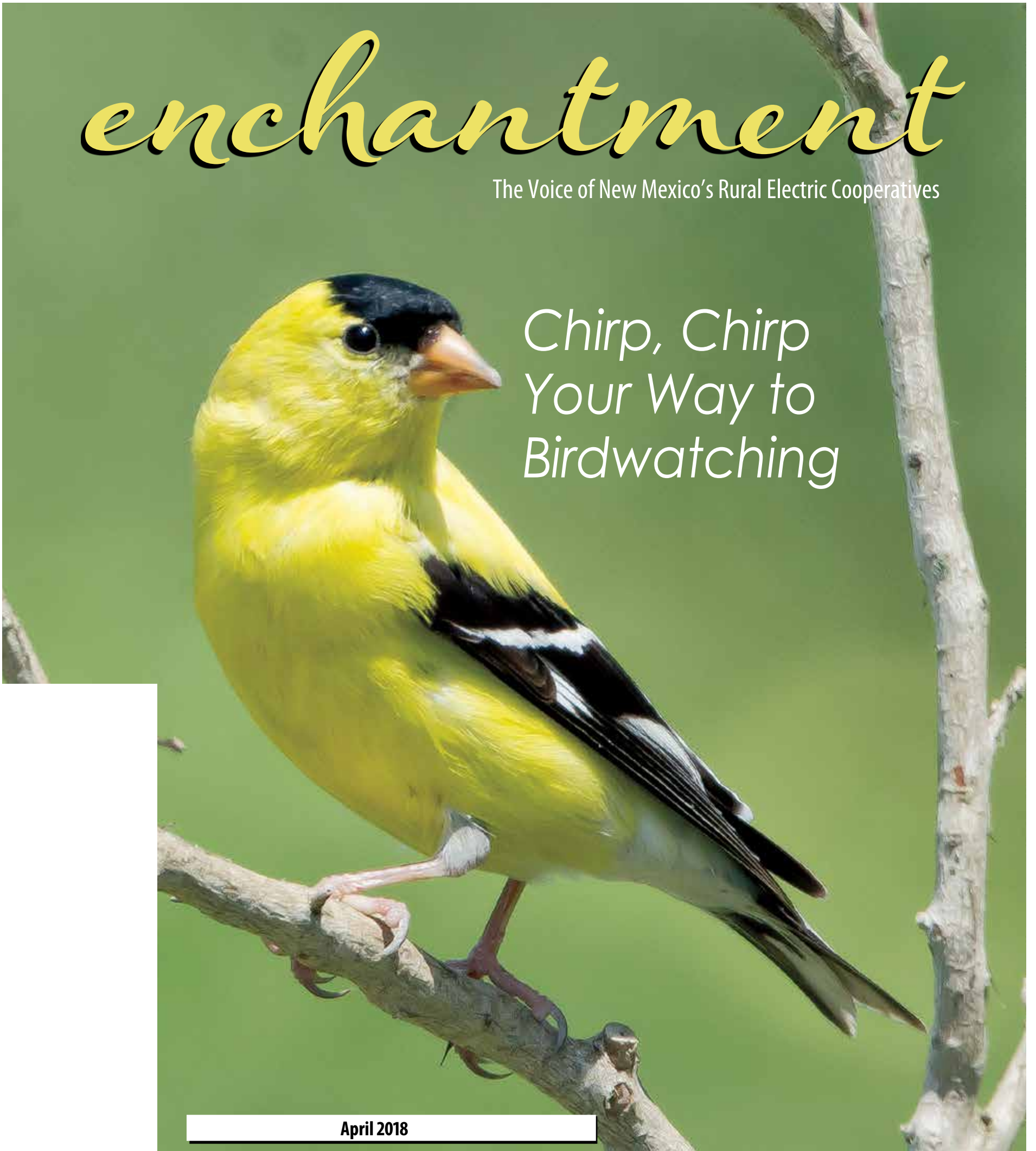


enchantment

The Voice of New Mexico's Rural Electric Cooperatives

*Chirp, Chirp
Your Way to
Birdwatching*

April 2018



Sierra Solar Energy Facility Project

The board of trustees of Sierra Electric has been working on an agreement with Affordable Solar to install a 960 kW solar energy facility in Sierra County to benefit the members of Sierra Electric Cooperative (SEC). About June of 2017, SEC board president John Bokich formed a board committee to see if bringing a large scale solar project would be feasible and desirable. Bokich appointed board member Tom Stroup to head this committee, and Tom in his usual fashion has been full steam ahead for the past several months.

The process is much more complicated than any of us anticipated, and Tom has worked diligently and tirelessly with Affordable Solar and the attorney representing the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Dan Najjar, to get the language right in the contract between SEC and Affordable Solar.

The solar energy facility will be a photovoltaic power station designed for the supply of power into the electricity grid, and offset some of the electricity we currently purchase from Tri-State G&T. Innovations like this renewable energy project, along with the growing renewable portfolio of our wholesale power supplier, Tri-State G & T, who is the largest provider of renewable electricity of any generation and transmission company in the U.S., will help ensure that Sierra Electric continues to provide safe, affordable and reliable power to our members.

The contract negotiations are nearing the end of a 10-month process, and we are hoping that we can start construction soon and bring this important project to reality sometime in the fall or winter of 2018.

Annual Meeting Reminder

Don't Forget!
Saturday, April 7,
2018, is the Annual
Meeting of the
Members at the Hot
Springs High School
Gymnasium on New
School Road off Date
Street. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. We
look forward to seeing you there!



Spring Landscaping Safety and 811 - Call Before You Dig

If you are going to be doing digging—ANY kind of digging, whether it is for planting trees, building a fence or installing a mailbox—always start with a phone call to 811—Call Before You Dig two days before you plan to dig. 811 operators will contact the utilities in your area and they will send a locator to mark the approximate location of your underground utility lines. The marks are valid for 10 days.

In New Mexico, you can visit www.nm811.org for more information.

April 18, 2018 is National Lineman Appreciation Day

A Tribute to the Lineman: This poem was taken from the January 1948 issue of The Exciter (an Arkansas Power and Light publication for their employees).

Up on the storm-swept cross arm,
There the wind blows wild and free,
A cowhide belt and a chip of steel
"Twixt him and eternity.

When the thunder peals o'er the tree tops
And lightning gleams on the hills,
It's then his work is awaiting him
And he gets plenty of thrills.

When folks in houses cringe and shake
Before the storm has passed,
He handles death at his fingertips

To make the hot wires fast.

One slip of the hand and he's gone
To at least long days of pain,
But let him get out and sure as sin
He'll be up on the poles again.

There's times he holds in his very hands
The life of a pal he loves,
And prays that he fails not in his trust
By a flaw in his rubber gloves.

But for all of that he's a common guy,
And very much carefree,
And he'll stick to you through everything
The best pal you ever did see.

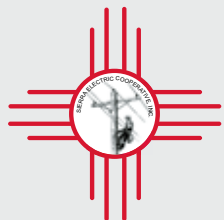
So sometimes in a thunder storm,
When everything goes black,
Just think of the poor guy working hard
To get those hot wires back.

Board of Trustees

John Bokich	President	Elephant Butte	District 2
Darryl Sullivan	Vice President	Monticello	District 3
Oscar Lee Wood	Secretary	Elephant Butte	District 2
George Biel	Treasurer	Monticello	District 3
Dennis Franklin	Trustee	Williamsburg	District 1
Tami Garrett	Trustee	Las Palomas	District 3
Charles McMath	Trustee	Elephant Butte	District 2
Judy Smith	Trustee	Caballo	District 1
Thomas Stroup	Trustee	Elephant Butte	District 2

Board Meeting

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



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

SIERRA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Office Address

610 Highway 195
Post Office Box 290
Elephant Butte, NM 87935

Telephone

575-744-5231

Outage

888-336-3380

Fax

575-744-5819

Email Address

sierra@secpower.com

Website Address

www.sierraelectric.org

Office Hours

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (M-F)

Denise Barrera

General Manager