

July 2023

THE NETLINK

PLATEAU



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E.N.M.R. Telephone Cooperative to receive \$49.8 million grant.

WASHINGTON - U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.) and Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) and U.S. Representative Teresa Leger Fernández announced that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has awarded \$49,858,624 in Infrastructure Law funding to the Clovis-based ENMR. Telephone Cooperative to expand reliable, affordable, high-speed internet for residents in Clovis and surrounding communities. The funding will be delivered through the Middle Mile Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program.

"I am thrilled to see the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law continue to invest in New Mexicans," said Heinrich. "Every person needs reliable Internet access – whether it's to do homework, operate a small business, or to access telemedicine. I'm proud to have helped secure this important federal funding that will plug in more of our communities, boost our economy, and grow a stronger middle class."

"Homegrown New Mexico broadband providers have an inherent incentive to serve the community because it means connecting family, neighbors, and local schools," said Luján. "Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, I'm proud to welcome over \$49 million in investments from NTIA to Plateau Telecommunications for middle mile infrastructure. That means direct support for our local provider to build alternate paths, increase resiliency, and deliver faster speeds. These investments will bring faster, stronger, and more affordable connections to our rural communities in eastern New Mexico – an important step toward bridging the digital divide."

"I'm grateful New Mexico will receive a \$49.8 million grant to improve internet infrastructure. Our community's connectivity is essential for our families to work, learn, and stay healthy. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law does just that - it connects our communities to accessible, reliable, internet regardless of where they live or how much they make," said Leger Fernández.

"We're elated to receive this important funding, which will enable us to significantly upgrade our infrastructure and provide improved connectivity to our customers," said Launa Waller, CEO of ENMR. "The NTIA Middle Mile Grant will empower us to deliver higher broadband speeds and robust service availability to last-mile and wholesale customers, particularly in unserved and underserved areas."

"The grant allows us to complete this significant project without incurring additional debt, ensuring its sustainability and profitability over the life of the fiber," added Waller.



What's Happening

July 28-29 Corona Days Festival – There will be plenty of events and lots of fun for everyone, including a kid's rodeo, ranch rodeo, parade, and street vendors, to name a few. For more information, call 575-849-5511 or visit their website at www.villageofcorona.com.

July 22 Fiesta de Santiago – Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Villanueva is holding its annual fundraising event. From horse rides and children's games to homemade bread, pies, and food, there will be much to see and do for the whole family. For more information, email nsdeguadalupe@plateautel.net or call 575-421-2548.

July 27 Board of Directors Meeting – Monthly Cooperative Board of Directors meeting at Plateau's business offices north of Clovis.

July 8 New Mexico State 42 Championship – This event is happening at 207 9th St. in Farwell, TX. Sign-ups are between 7:30 am MDT and 8:15 am MDT, with play starting at 8:30 am MDT. The cost is \$40 per team entry for a 10-game round-robin. Winners will receive trophies and cash prizes. For more information, visit the Facebook page, New Mexico State 42 Championship.

July 29 Border Town Days – Where else does a parade start in one state and end in another? Texico, NM, and Farwell, TX, celebrate being on the border with a parade, food, games, and fun. For more information, call 806-481-3681.

Board of Directors

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Launa Waller
Chief Executive Officer
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Get Connected with Lifeline

Lifeline is a government assistance program that offers eligible consumers one non-transferable discount per household on their monthly communications bill. You may qualify for Lifeline if you participate in certain government programs or your total annual household income is within specified guidelines. For details visit www.lifelinesupport.org or call 1.877.752.8328. Consumers in Texas may call 1.866.454.8387.



Monthly Survey Winners

Customers receiving a \$25 credit in this month's survey drawing include:

- Daniel Gallegos - San Jose, NM
- Diana S. Garcia Rivera - Artesia, NM
- WRI, Inc. - Clovis, NM

All completed surveys are eligible for the monthly drawing.

The Netlink is published monthly by Plateau and is available online at: www.plateautel.com/company/publications. Comments, questions or suggestions should be directed to: The Netlink, PO Box 1947, Clovis, NM 88102-1947.
Phone: 575.389.4387.
Email: netlink@plateautel.com

Documentation for Education Foundation Scholarship Installments are Due

Recipients of 2022 and 2023 Banner Scholarships, 2023 Tom Phelps Scholarships and 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Robert M. Harris and Evelyn Patterson Memorial Scholarships from the Education Foundation are reminded that documentation containing the information listed below must be received at the Cooperative's business offices before the next installment can be processed for the fall 2023 term. **Documentation must be received no later than 8/15/2023.**

Information is required as follows:

- Scholarship winner's full name
- Scholarship winner's Student ID number
- Copy of spring 2023 semester grades and GPA
- Copy of fall 2023 class schedule
- Institution's mailing address

Documents can be mailed, faxed or emailed to:

Education Foundation
C/O Plateau
PO Box 1947
Clovis, NM 88102-1947
FAX: 575.389.5245
scholarships@plateautel.com

Please direct any questions regarding the status of any Education Foundation Scholarship to:

575.389.4387
877.752.8328 ext. 4387
scholarships@plateautel.com

MISSION STATEMENT

We will provide dependable
area-wide communication and
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lowest price, consistent with
sound economy and good
management.

Happy 4th of July

The retail stores and business offices will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 for Independence Day. Technical Support will be available from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

For trouble reporting, please call
877.752.8328

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FRS Youth Tour - Washington, DC

Each year, students that live in rural communities from all over the United States meet in Washington, DC for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour. Plateau has sponsored 48 students since 1996 when the tour first took place. Participating schools from the Plateau service area are asked to nominate students to participate.

The year, Gabe Weisdorfer from Roy High School, and Adelina Ramirez from Grady High School, were chosen to take part in this educational, yet fun, event. Hunter and Adelina were accompanied by Kelly Tindle, an employee of Plateau, who took part in the tour as a chaperone.

During the 4-day program, both students and chaperones learned firsthand about the telecommunications industry and the legislative process. They had educational sessions with personnel from the Federal Communications Commission and were able to tour the United States Capitol. They took a historical tour of Mount Vernon and watched the changing of the guard at Arlington National Cemetery. The students spent time at the National Mall and visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, and numerous other sites that Washington, DC has to offer.

In cooperation with NTCA – the National Telephone Cooperative Association and its members – the Foundation for Rural Service seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life throughout rural America by advancing an understanding of rural telecommunications issues. The FRS is committed to educational achievement in rural communities, recognizing that tomorrow's economic and civic development depends on the involvement and commitment of today's youth. For more information about the FRS, visit www.frs.org.



Gabe Weisdorfer (left) and Adelina Ramirez (right)

May Board Meeting Highlights

The Cooperative Board of Directors met on June 22. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting:

- The Board approved the applications of 56 new members to the Cooperative.
- The Board approved \$144,879.44 in capital credit estate retirement requests.
- A construction report was presented to the Board:
 - 56 work orders were completed with 19,895 feet of cable placed.
 - 14 jobs were completed with 10 projects under construction.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for July 27 at the Cooperative's business offices north of Clovis.