

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2022



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mcrea.org



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MCREA Mission

Morgan County REA, a member-owned cooperative, is dedicated to serving our members by providing safe, reliable energy with a strong tradition and vision for the future.



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Electricity lights homes and businesses, provides warmth and keeps appliances and equipment running smoothly. During Electrical Safety Month, Morgan County REA provides these electrical safety tips to avoid hazards both inside and outdoors.

STAYING SAFE ON THE ROAD

Downed power lines can be caused by wind, storms, animals or an auto accident or collision.

1. If you see a downed power line, call 911 to report it and stay in your car. You cannot tell by looking or listening if the power line is de-energized. Wait in your vehicle until an MCREA crew member says it is safe to get out.
2. Do not drive over a downed power line. Even if the line is de-energized, doing so could cause a domino effect and bring down other lines, poles and equipment.
3. The only time you should exit is if your vehicle or cab is on fire. If this is the case, make a solid jump from the car or cab without touching it, landing with both feet together. Then, hop away with your feet together as far as you can.

STAYING SAFE OUTSIDE

When working outside, be aware of overhead and underground power lines.

1. Keep at least 10 feet away from overhead power lines. Keep any items you are carrying or using, such as long poles or other extended equipment, 10 feet away from power lines at all times. Carry an extension ladder or other far-reaching tools or equipment horizontally.
2. Make sure that all outside outlets are protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
3. Before digging, call 811. Buried lines such as electric, gas, water, sewer and other utilities bring services indoors. Besides the dangers of coming in contact with a gas or electric line when digging, any fines due to damage are the responsibility

of the homeowner or landowner. Privately-owned lines and systems (such as sprinkler systems) will not be marked by the free service.

4. When you see lightning, take shelter inside or in a hard-topped vehicle for protection. Stay away from high places, and do not take shelter under an isolated tree. Stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as metal fences. If you are swimming or in a hot tub, get out. Water is an electrical conductor that is dangerous during a storm.

STAYING SAFE INSIDE

With so many people working from home, the workplace and where you live can be one and the same. (James McKie Jr., acct #xxx3500) This means more devices are plugged into outlets or circuits that may not be able to handle the load.

1. Have a qualified electrician check for hazards if you notice the following: dimming lights; a sizzling or buzzing sound; the smell of warm plastic; a switch plate that feels warm or looks scorched; sparks when plugging in or unplugging items; or circuits that trip often.
2. When working with electrical equipment inside the house or a workshop, be aware that electrical equipment can spark when flammable vapors, gases or dust are present.
3. Do not overstretch a cord or use frayed or damaged cords.
4. During storms, lightning can enter homes through corded phones, televisions, radios or computers. Lightning can also travel through plumbing, so do not take a bath or shower or wash dishes when you see lightning. If possible, unplug appliances and electronics before the storm, including cellphones that are charging via electricity. Surges caused by lightning can damage electronics and appliances.

For more information on electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

2022 YOUTH TOUR



Each year, Morgan County REA selects a student to represent the association at the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. MCREA selected Caleb Siegling of Fort Morgan High School as this year's delegate.

In June, Caleb will join hundreds of students from across the country for a week at our nation's capital, where they will learn more about how electric cooperatives work, visit many of the memorials and spend a day on Capitol Hill.

Caleb, who plans to pursue a career in civil engineering, is looking forward to the chance to speak with senators and representatives.

"I'm sure I'll be shocked to talk to them at first," Caleb said, "but then I would like to ask where they came from and how they got to be in Congress."

MCREA is proud to have Caleb represent the co-op at this year's Youth Tour and is looking forward to hearing about his experiences in Washington, D.C., this summer.

LOOK OUT

FOR POWER SOURCES



Do not get within 10 feet (in any direction) of a power line.

Be aware of power lines when working on the roof.



Do not trim branches or limbs near power lines.

Basin Electric Scholarship Winner



Teagen Binder

Each year, Basin Electric Power Cooperative offers scholarships to dependents of its member cooperative employees. Morgan County REA is one of Basin's 131 members, so children of MCREA employees are eligible to apply for one of the 20 scholarships offered through Basin.

MCREA is proud to announce that Teagen Binder is the recipient of one of these \$1,000 scholarships from Basin. Teagen is the son of Kristie Binder, MCREA executive assistant and human resources specialist.

Congratulations, Teagen!



NEW STAKING TECHNICIAN: BRENT KLIESEN

Morgan County REA is pleased to welcome Brent Kliesen to the association as its new staking technician. Brent joins our engineering department after previously working for Viaero Wireless. Brent, a longtime Morgan County resident, is ready for this new role at MCREA.

"I am excited for a new challenge," Brent said when asked what he is most looking forward to at MCREA. Welcome to the team, Brent!

Brent Kliesen

MORGAN COUNTY REA AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL STUDENTS

Morgan County REA, along with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association and Basin Electric Power Cooperative, is proud to award college or vocational scholarships to nine students in our service area whose families are MCREA members. MCREA congratulates all of the scholarship winners and wishes these individuals the best in their future endeavors.



▲ Allison Thomas
Wiggins High School
\$1,000 MCREA scholarship



▲ Mohamed Ibrahim
Wiggins High School
\$1,000 MCREA scholarship



▲ Rylee Givens
Fort Morgan High School
\$1,000 MCREA scholarship



▲ Laura Kopetzky
Wiggins High School
\$1,000 MCREA scholarship



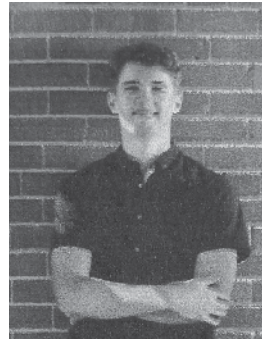
▲ Katie Kipp
Weld Central High School
\$1,000 MCREA scholarship



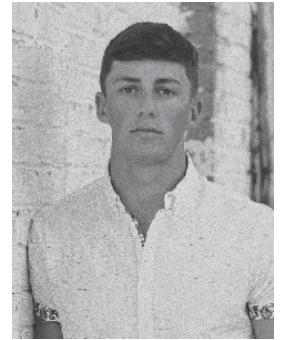
▲ Kirsten Wood
West Texas A&M University
\$1,000 MCREA post-secondary scholarship



▲ Neela Thomas
Wiggins High School
\$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship



▲ Collin Farley
Fort Morgan High School
\$500 Tri-State scholarship



▲ Briggs Wheatley
Fort Morgan High School
\$500 Tri-State scholarship

MCREA ANNOUNCES 2022 LINEWORKER SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Morgan County REA's lineworker scholarship aims to encourage, promote and educate electric lineworkers for lasting and rewarding careers. (Kelly Hise, acct #xxx5700) Individuals must live within the association's service territory boundaries and be enrolled in an approved lineworker training program to be eligible for this \$5,000 scholarship.

MCREA is proud to announce Quinten Muhlbach of Brush as this year's lineworker scholarship recipient. MCREA wishes Quinten the best of luck as he takes the steps to establish a career in the power industry.



▲ Quinten Muhlbach,
MCREA's 2022 lineworker
scholarship recipient

NEW BILLING CLERK: DI MCKENZIE



Morgan County REA is happy to have Di McKenzie join the team as its newest billing clerk.

A lifelong resident of Morgan County, Di is looking forward to her new career with MCREA. Having previously worked in customer service at Affordable Propane in Fort Morgan, Di will be a great addition to MCREA's office services department.

"I enjoy getting to know the consumers," Di stated when asked about her favorite part of the job.

Welcome to MCREA, Di!



Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

Each month, Morgan County REA gives two lucky consumer-members a chance at a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just for reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Congrats, Russell Jones and David Smith! You each spotted your names in the March issue and received a \$25 bill credit. There are two more MCREA consumer-member names and their account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call MCREA member services at 970-867-5688 by May 31 to claim a \$25 credit on your bill.

JOIN US THIS SUMMER
— 2022 —

M
MORGAN COUNTY REA

**CUSTOMER
APPRECIATION
EVENT**

• MCREA HEADQUARTERS •

FOOD • GIVEAWAYS • FUN

THURSDAY | JUNE 16 | 5-7 PM

MCREA CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENT: THURSDAY, JUNE 16

Save the date for MCREA's first-ever Customer Appreciation Event on Thursday, June 16, from 5-7 p.m. Join us at MCREA's headquarters in Fort Morgan for food, giveaways and a chance to learn more about all the great things happening at your electric cooperative. Guests will have the chance to see a Tesla Model Y and also enter to win a brand new electric chainsaw.

If you have any questions regarding this event, please give us a call at 970-867-5688.



SQUASH SCAMMERS

If you suspect someone is trying to scam you, and they're claiming to be from Morgan County REA, hang up, delete the email or shut the door. Common tactics a scammer will use are threatening to disconnect your power if they are not paid immediately, or requiring payment using gift cards.

Call us at 970-867-5688 if you have any questions regarding the status of your account. You can also download the SmartHub app, which allows you to check your account at anytime.

MEMORIAL DAY

★★★
HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

MCREA's office will be closed Monday, May 30.