

MORGAN COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

MAY 2023



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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: PLAY IT SAFE AROUND POWER LINES

Digging holes, climbing trees, flying kites — outdoor play often creates beautiful childhood memories for decades to come. Before sending them into the great outdoors, remember to discuss electrical safety with your children.

FLYING FUN

When flying kites, model airplanes, remote-control flying toys and drones, stay in large, open areas such as parks or fields and far away from power lines. If an item gets caught in a power line, teach children to tell an adult who can call the electric utility for help.

GENERAL OUTDOOR SAFETY TIPS

Other important safety guidelines for kids and adults alike include:

- Never throw objects at power lines.
- Stay far away from downed, damaged or low-hanging power lines. An adult should call 911 to report a downed or damaged line.
- Be cautious after a severe storm that caused a power outage. Downed power lines could be hidden under water or storm debris. Wait to go outside until power is restored.

- Do not climb, sit or play on padmount transformers (green boxes).
- Do not climb trees that have overhead power lines near or running through them.


POOLSIDE

When doing maintenance on the pool, look overhead while using pool skimmers or other long objects to be sure you are not getting close to an overhead power line. If you are swimming and feel a prickly or tingling sensation, get out of the pool — there could be a stray electric current from a downed power line or a damaged electrical device. Also, never play in a flooded street or ditch; a downed power line could be hidden by the water and fallen debris. (Robert Moser, acct. #xxx6800)


PREVENTION IS KEY

Electric shock and injuries are often preventable when you know what to look for. Empower your family with electrical safety knowledge to lower your chances of injury. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.


MAY ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH




Do not climb trees that have power lines near or running through them.




Be cautious after storms have caused an outage. Downed power lines could be hidden under debris.



Never fly a kite or throw objects near a power line.



Do not climb, sit or play on padmount transformers (green electrical boxes).



MORGAN COUNTY REA
Your Sustainable Energy Cooperative

2023 Youth Tour Delegate Selected

Each year, Morgan County REA selects a student to represent the cooperative at the National Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This year, MCREA selected Kenia Hansen Guzman of Fort Morgan High School as its 2023 delegate.

In June, Kenia will join hundreds of students from across the country for a week at our nation's capital, visiting its many memorials and historical sites. Students will also spend a day on Capitol Hill, where they will speak with members of Colorado's congressional delegation.

Kenia, who plans on attending college and studying to become a physician, is looking forward to many parts of the trip.



Kenia Hansen Guzman

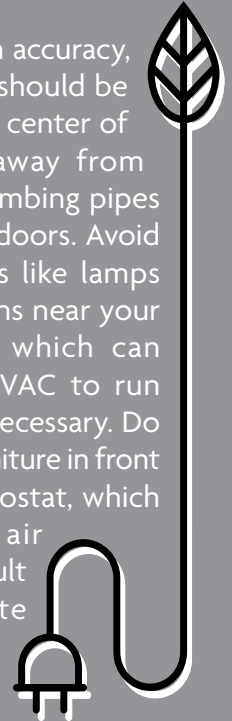
“I am most excited to learn about the culture and history of our country. I love museums, and cannot wait to learn about the history I am not yet familiar with,” Kenia said. “I am incredibly excited for this opportunity and cannot thank Morgan County REA enough.”

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

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors. Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.



Morgan County REA Awards Scholarships to Local Students

Morgan County REA, along with Tri-State G&T 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 the scholarship winners and wishes these individuals the best in their future endeavors.



Ty Griffith
Brush High School
\$1,000 MCREA Scholarship



Madison Richmann
Branson School Online
\$1,000 MCREA Scholarship



Myer Wickham
Brush High School
\$1,000 MCREA Scholarship



Mason Unrein
Brush High School
\$1,000 MCREA Scholarship



Kelsi Smits
Wiggins High School
\$1,000 MCREA Scholarship



Faye Klenda
Northeastern Junior College
\$1,000 MCREA Post-Secondary Scholarship



Addison Alexander
Brush High School
\$1,000 Basin Electric Scholarship



Caleb Siegling
Fort Morgan High School
\$500 Tri-State Scholarship



Parker Stone
Brush High School
\$500 Tri-State Scholarship

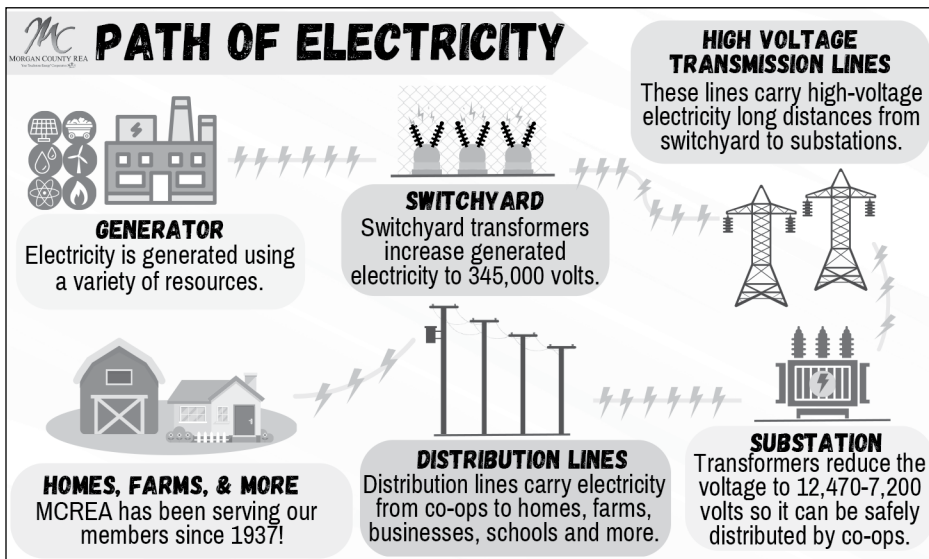


MCREA Announces 2023 Lineworker Scholarship Recipient

Morgan County REA's Lineworker Scholarship aims to encourage, promote and educate electric lineworkers for lasting and rewarding careers. 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 Gunner Hesse of Keenesburg as this year's lineworker scholarship recipient. MCREA wishes Gunner the best of luck as he attends Rocky Mountain Line School to establish a career in the power industry.

▲ Gunner Hesse



MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

MCREA's office will be closed Monday, May 29.

WIN \$25 OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

Each month, Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a chance at a \$25 credit on their bill, just for reading *Colorado Country Life*. Congrats to Stacy Ritchey and Gene Shaver: You each saw your name in the March issue and received a \$25 bill credit. There are two more MCREA 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.

SAVE THE DATE

2023

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNIC

JUNE 15 5-7 PM

MCREA HEADQUARTERS

MORGAN COUNTY REA
Your Tasteless Energy Cooperative

MCREA Member Appreciation Picnic: Thursday, June 15

Please join us for Morgan County REA's second annual Member Appreciation Picnic on Thursday, June 15 from 5-7 p.m. Come to 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 can take a look at the brand-new Ford F-150 Lightning, a fully electric pickup, and have the chance to win many great prizes.

Planning on coming? Call MCREA's office or visit mcrea.org and click the Member Appreciation Picnic button, where you can submit an RSVP. While RSVPs are not required, submitting one will enter you to win one of 10 bill credits, each for \$25. Winners will be drawn at the event and must be present to win.

If you have any questions regarding this year's picnic, please call MCREA at 970-867-5688.

Seeing Safety

In the electric co-op world, technology is one of our greatest tools. From reporting meter usage electronically, to using automated information systems to pinpoint outages from miles away, technology helps keep Morgan County REA running as efficiently as possible. Now, technology is even improving MCREA's safety program.

Virtual reality is one of the most trending forms of tech today. VR headsets provide an immersive, 360-degree view for the wearer, and are very popular among video gamers worldwide. Thanks to the hyperrealistic nature of VR, the headsets can also be useful in simulations and trainings, making VR headsets the perfect addition to MCREA's safety education program. (Roger Littlefield, acct. #xxx6200)

VR HEADSETS AND MCREA SAFETY

With the help of virtual reality, MCREA is teaching about power line safety in different scenarios. Individuals can use the headsets to watch a downed power line safety video, which puts the wearer at the scene of an accident where a vehicle has hit a power pole and a power line has fallen on the car. Throughout the 7-minute video, the wearer can look up, down and all around, as if they were really there, to see the proper steps to take if ever in that situation, either as a driver, passerby or first responder.

Wearers can also watch a farm hazard safety video where they become part of different tasks commonly carried out on the farm, including safely moving a grain auger or adjusting the proximity of a sprayer boom to electrical equipment.

COOPERATION AMONG CO-OPS

The idea for the headsets came from a fellow electric cooperative, Oregon Trail Electric Co-op located in northeastern Oregon. After reading about the headsets in its monthly magazine, MCREA reached out to OTEC, which worked with Federated Rural



▲ A scene from the farm safety video that MCREA presents using VR headsets.

Electric Insurance Exchange to create the videos used for the headsets. OTEC generously sent MCREA a headset to test and has been instrumentally helpful throughout the whole process.

NOT YOUR TYPICAL PRESENTATION

Sure, VR headsets are a cool way to give a safety presentation, but they also play an important role in remembering the information shared.

A study from the National Training Laboratory showed that VR simulations have a 75% retention rate, significantly more than the 10% retention rate associated with reading and 5% retention from lectures.

Safety is MCREA's highest priority, making the VR headsets

an irreplaceable tool for keeping safety top of mind for community members of all ages.

The advantages of VR do not stop at presentations. The headsets have access to trainings of all kinds, from first aid instruction to electrical substation simulations. As VR technology continues to develop and improve, use of VR at MCREA will continually benefit the co-op and its members.

Interested in trying out the headsets? Give MCREA a call and ask to schedule a demo.



▲ Using VR technology, MCREA shows what to do in case of an accident involving a downed power line, as shown in this scene from the first responder safety video.