



MAILING ADDRESS

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STREET ADDRESS

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Y-W Electric Association, Inc.

is dedicated to providing high-quality, reliable electric service and related products to our members at competitive prices. Our members deserve and shall receive quality service unexcelled in our industry. We are committed to maintaining an environment where the Board of Directors and employees can perform at maximum potential to benefit our Y-W community.

Preparing to Serve You Better

BY TRENT LOUTENSOCK GENERAL MANAGER



TRENT LOUTENSOCK

Providing reliable power to you is and will always be top priority for Y-W Electric Association Inc. These days, power reliability seems to be making news more than ever.

As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy, such as vehicles, machinery and even lawn equipment, are being electrified, additional pressures are being placed on our nation's electric grid. With summer storm season upon us, this is a good time to tell you about a few measures Y-W Electric is taking to ensure that you continue receiving the reliable power you depend on and deserve.

Let me be the first to say I love trees and the charm they add to our communities. I know you do, too. While trees provide shade and add beauty to our area, you may be surprised to learn that overgrown vegetation accounts for about half of all power outages nationwide. That's why we strive to keep the co-op's power lines clear in right-of-way areas. A ROW area is the land a co-op uses to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines. This ROW enables Y-W Electric to

provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines. The overall goal of our vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to improve power reliability.

Although it may seem counterintuitive, from time to time, Y-W Electric also maintains power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By carefully cutting power to one part of our local area for a few hours, we can perform system repairs and upgrades that ultimately improve electric service. Rest assured, we will always notify you in advance of a planned outage, so make sure we have your correct contact information on file to receive the latest notifications.

I encourage you to follow Y-W Electric on social media so you can learn about the latest co-op updates.

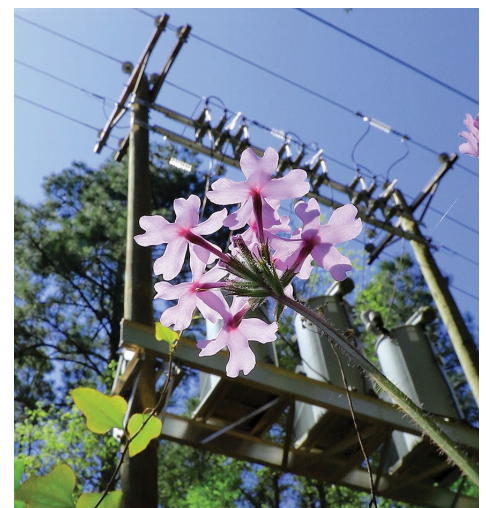
We Trees, Too.

If you see us in the community trimming trees, remember the many benefits it brings:

- Keeps power lines clear of tree limbs
- Helps us restore power outages more quickly
- Keeps crews and members of our community safe



Judith K. Hoyt 2004005006





SAMANTHA HEATH GETS READY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME


Samantha Heath is packing her suitcase and getting ready to visit Washington, D.C., to participate in the 2023 National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Fully sponsored by Y-W Electric Association Inc., Samantha will represent her school, community and Y-W Electric on the tour. She will join about 30 other students representing electric cooperatives from around the state. Colorado Youth Tour participants begin the tour on June 12 in Denver where they learn about Colorado's state government and electric cooperatives. They'll fly from Denver to Washington, D.C., to attend educational seminars and visit with their representatives in the House and the Senate. Students also visit historic sites in Washington, D.C., including the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery and the Smithsonian.

Every June, more than 1,800 high school students from towns and small cities in rural America spend one week in Washington, D.C., as part of the National Rural Electric Youth Tour. The students are sponsored by electric cooperatives, which are committed to educating America's rural students about America and the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong communities.

Participating in the Youth Tour is a great way to learn about this great nation, develop leadership skills, gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives, and make friendships with people from across the state and country. *Rory & Holly Breer 1052808502*



 Samantha Heath

This is an all-expenses-paid trip from Y-W Electric, and Samantha was chosen to attend based on her application and an interview with the selection committee.

Are you interested in attending next year? Applications are available from Y-W Electric starting in October.

Call 970-345-2291 if you have any questions.

Rodney Dunker Retires After 45 Years of Service

Rod Dunker began his career at Y-W Electric Association Inc. April 3, 1978. He retired and started the next chapter of his life on April 26, having served more than 45 years at the co-op. He started his career working on the underground crew with Roger Gray. Rod transferred to the hotline crew for nine years before moving back to the underground crew as foreman. Rod was promoted to line superintendent in February 2002 and then promoted to operations manager in April 2006. *Mark & Kristi Dix 621007400*

Rod spent many years on the Mesa Hotline School board of directors and served as president from 2007–2008. He served on the Disaster Aid committee at CREA, where he assisted in developing and improving the mutual aid program for electric co-ops in the state to restore power after natural disasters. Rod also provided input to improve the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program in the state and supported training personnel to learn and administer the safety program to improve the program at electric cooperatives across Colorado.

Rodney's concern for safety did not just impact Colorado electric cooperatives. His involvement with Mesa Hotline School touched the lives of many linemen across the country. He also spent time in Bangalore, India, working with Bangalore Electric Supply Company Limited to improve lineworker training and safety protocols.

Rodney's favorite part of his career was the emphasis on safety and keeping the entire workforce safe at Y-W Electric and across the industry. He will miss the people he worked with but not the stressful parts of the job (such as storms and fires).

Rodney looks forward to spending more time with his wife Linda. They plan to spend time in the Caribbean, visit family in Florida and ride as much as possible. His passion is receiving wind therapy riding his Harley.

Rod says, "I would like to remind all linemen that you are your brothers' keeper. Please watch your fellow man as well as yourself. One of my career goals has been to do everything I can to have everyone return to their family at the end of the workday. I hope this goal continues forward with all."

Congratulations from all of us at Y-W Electric, Rod. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!



 Rodney Dunker

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons such as linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.



Each month, Y-W Electric Association offers consumer-members a chance to earn a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. If you find your name and account number in this magazine, call 800-660-2291 and ask for your credit. It couldn't be easier.

Get acquainted with your account number, read your *Colorado Country Life* magazine and pick up the phone. You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine. (Check the date on the front cover.)



Congratulations to the winners claiming \$20 from the April 2023 issue:

Brenda Butcher
Glenn E. Thim, Jr.

ENERGY-SAVING PROJECTS FOR THE WEEKEND WARRIOR

BY ABBY BERRY

Are you a weekend warrior? If you're considering home improvement upgrades that save energy and money, we've got a few project ideas for you — all of which can be completed in a day or less. *Mildred M. Harper 732502302*

Here are three energy-saving projects that you can easily tackle whether you're a weekend warrior pro or a DIY dabbler.

GET SMART ABOUT HOME COOLING AND HEATING.

Cooling and heating your home typically account for a large portion of energy bills. Smart thermostats can help keep your cooling and heating costs in check, with certified models saving about 8% on annual energy costs.

Now that smart thermostats are more affordable (as little as \$70), this simple upgrade makes for a fun, efficient weekend project. Smart thermostats offer a variety of bells and whistles, but the average model will allow you to set custom temperature schedules, adjust the settings on your smartphone from anywhere, and over time, learn your cooling and heating preferences.

Your new smart thermostat will come with step-by-step instructions, but this project typically involves shutting off your HVAC at the breaker panel, disconnecting and removing the old thermostat, installing the new smart thermostat, and connecting it to your home Wi-Fi. *Donald R. Edwards 621506501*

Play it safe: Remember to read the installation instructions carefully before you get started.

GO GREEN AND BOOST YOUR GREENERY WITH A RAIN BARREL.

If you've got a green thumb, you already know that rainwater is the best water for your outdoor plants. Rainwater is free of minerals, salts and treatment chemicals found in tap water or groundwater. It also contains helpful macronutrients to foster healthy plant growth.

Installing a rain barrel is an easy way to collect large amounts of rainwater and reduce home water use — it's a win-win. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one rain barrel can save a homeowner 1,300 gallons of water annually.

Most residential rain barrels range in size from 50 to 90 gallons, so the size you purchase will depend on your watering needs.

The simplest way to install a rain barrel is to position a plastic or wooden barrel directly under your gutter downspout. Basic piping may be required, but this is an easy way to collect rainwater, and the



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barrel won't take up much space. Consider a cover for the top of your rain barrel to keep insects and small debris out of your water.

CREATE FRESH SAVINGS WITH A DIY CLOTHESLINE.

If you have enough outdoor space available, install a clothesline. You will save on dryer costs — in the summer, you can also save on cooling costs since unwanted heat from the clothes dryer won't be added to your home (which makes your air conditioner work harder). Additionally, air drying is gentle on fabrics and will keep your clothes and linens looking fresh longer.

You can create your own clothesline with two T-posts, wire, and hook-and-eye turnbuckles. Depending on your soil, you may need a small amount of Quikrete to set the posts. Another option is installing the line between two trees. A typical load of laundry requires about 35 feet of line, so keep this in mind as you determine the best location.

If an outdoor clothesline isn't an option, no sweat. You can create an indoor drying rack that folds to save space. Home improvement websites like thespruce.com and hgvtv.com offer step-by-step tutorials for a variety of indoor clothes drying racks. These are just a few simple ideas to help you save energy and money. So, get out there, roll up those sleeves and tackle a few projects.

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



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