

# Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER 2023

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Akron, CO 80720**STREET ADDRESS**26862 U.S. Hwy 34  
Akron, CO 80720**ph** 970-345-2291  
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**web** [ywelectric.coop](http://ywelectric.coop)**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.

## Power in Your Hands

BY ANDREW MOLT, DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES



ANDREW MOLT

Recently, one of our local high school students asked me what makes electric co-ops different from other types of utilities. This month, I thought I'd tell you a few of the things I told her.

Because we're a co-op, we operate a little differently from other utilities. Y-W Electric Association, Inc. decisions are made locally, by directors who also live right here in our community. Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here—to pay for the electricity used or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

You may notice that throughout the year, we schedule opportunities for you to attend co-op events such as our annual meeting so we can hear from you. Our success lies in your satisfaction, which is why we offer this opportunity to engage and listen to what you have to say.

Because you're part of an electric cooperative, you can count on our team to maintain local jobs, at-cost electricity, and first-class service, no matter what the economy—and supply chain issues—throw at us.

Y-W Electric is striving to keep our costs as low as possible so we can keep more money in your pocket. We want to help you maximize the value you can get from our services and offerings. For example, we can help you save on energy bills through our free energy audit program and efficiency rebates.

If you want to receive important information from Y-W Electric, such as outage and power restoration updates plus other alerts, follow our social media channels. From time to time we also notify by phone, please make certain that we have your most current contact information. Many of our members only have landline phones listed within our database. Our SmartHub app is a great way to keep track of your electric usage plus a very efficient way for you to report outages. You can also stay in the know with our monthly newsletter.

Please know that you—the members of Y-W Electric—are at the heart of everything we do. Co-ops adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness, and service.

We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable, friendly service you expect and deserve. While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community. We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands. *[Sandy Hodges 2571008521]*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know fall is the perfect time to schedule a tune-up for your heating system? Home heating accounts for a large portion of winter energy bills, and no matter what kind of system you have, you can save energy and money by regularly maintaining your equipment.

Combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings can save about 30% on your energy bills.

Source: Dept. of Energy



# NEW HIRES



^ Jacs Fox



^ Tate Goddard



^ Gavin Wheeler

We at Y-W Electric Association welcome Jacs Fox to the cooperative. Jacs was raised in the Stratton area. He graduated from Stratton High School and began his career working for Altitude Energy in Keenesburg. He worked for Prairie Land Electric in Norton, Kansas, before coming to Y-W Electric Association in June. He enjoys spending time traveling, outdoors, and hunting. Welcome to the Y-W family, Jacs!

We at Y-W Electric welcome Jay “Tate” Goddard to the cooperative. He started his employment with Y-W on June 12. Tate was raised in the Julesburg area. He graduated from Julesburg High School then earned his Powerline certificate at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction, Colorado. Tate enjoys spending time hunting, lifting weights and watching football. Welcome to the co-op family, Tate!

We at Y-W Electric Association extend a welcome to Gavin Wheeler who joined the team in June. Gavin was raised in the Scottsbluff, Nebraska, area. He graduated from Scottsbluff High School and earned his Powerline certificate at Mitchell Technical College in South Dakota. Gavin enjoys spending time outdoors fishing, hunting, and golfing. Welcome to the cooperative family, Gavin!

[Brian Baar 882701304]



## Win a Bill Credit

Each month, Y-W Electric Association offers its 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.)



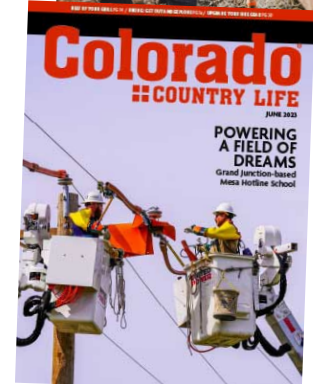
## Congratulations to the winners claiming \$20 from the July issue:

- Rebecca A. Remington
- Henrietta Uhlenhopp
- Mitch McGrath
- Gary Rockwell & Sons

# WHY DO I RECEIVE COLORADO COUNTRY LIFE MAGAZINE EACH MONTH?

*Colorado Country Life* is an award-winning monthly magazine published for Colorado's electric cooperatives. This publication is a unique and cost-effective way for Y-W Electric Association to communicate and engage with you. Each month you'll find Y-W Electric Association updates, including board election processes, annual meeting information, and safety news. You also get exciting human-interest stories, gardening advice, outdoors-themed articles, delicious recipes, energy efficiency information in every issue.

We love your feedback. Please call **Y-W Electric Association** at 970-345-2291 if you have any questions.



# SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

As adults, we understand the importance of storm safety, but younger children and teens may not realize the dangers storms pose. That’s why it’s so important to have a storm plan in place. Here are a several tips you can share with your loved ones.

## BEFORE THE STORM

- Talk to your family about what to do in the event of a severe storm or tornado. Point out the safest location to shelter, like a small, interior, windowless room on the lowest level of your home. Discuss the dangers of severe thunderstorms; lightning can strike 10 miles outside of a storm. Remember: When you hear thunder roar, head indoors.
- Make a storm kit. It doesn’t have to be elaborate—having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Try to include items like water, non-perishable

foods, a manual can opener, a first-aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries, prescriptions, baby supplies and pet supplies. Keep all the items in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

## DURING THE STORM

- Pay attention to local weather alerts—either on the TV, your smartphone, or weather radio—and understand the types of alerts. A thunderstorm or tornado watch means these events are possible and you should be prepared; a warning means a thunderstorm or tornado has been spotted in your area and it’s time to take action.
- If you find yourself in the path of a tornado, head to your safe place to shelter; protect yourself by covering your head with your arms or materials like blankets and pillows. *[John L. Obourn 1240631501]*

- If you’re driving during a severe storm or tornado, do not try to outrun it. Pull over and cover your body with a coat or blanket if possible.

## AFTER THE STORM

- If the power is out, conserve your phone battery as much as possible, limiting calls and texts to let others know you are safe or for emergencies only.
- Stay off the roads if trees, power lines or utility poles are down. Lines and equipment could still be energized, posing life-threatening risks to anyone who gets too close.
- Wear appropriate gear if you’re cleaning up storm debris on your property. Thick-soled shoes, long pants and work gloves will help protect you from sharp or dangerous debris left behind. *[Barbara J. Scott 330916203]*



# 12 WAYS TO PREPARE

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	<b>Sign up for Alerts and Warnings</b>		<b>Make a Plan</b>		<b>Save for a Rainy Day</b>		<b>Practice Emergency Drills</b>		<b>Test Family Communication Plan</b>		<b>Safeguard Documents</b>
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	<b>Plan with Neighbors</b>		<b>Make Your Home Safer</b>		<b>Know Evacuation Routes</b>		<b>Assemble or Update Supplies</b>		<b>Get Involved in Your Community</b>		<b>Document and Insure Property</b>

## **BILLING CORNER**

### **BILLING NOTIFICATIONS**

**H**ave you checked our website at [www.ywelectric.coop](http://www.ywelectric.coop) lately? Our website gives you the ability to check your monthly usage, payment history, and past billing invoices. Payments can also be made on our website using SmartHub. Once you have registered, you can make payments, view your history, or contact our office.

When you are registered, you can sign up to receive email or text notifications directly from Y-W Electric.

We occasionally send notifications for things such as power outages and billing events.

Here's how you can get notifications emailed or texted to you:

1. **Sign into** your SmartHub account.
2. Go to **Notifications**.
3. Choose **Manage Contacts**.
4. **Add your contact information** for where you want the notifications to be sent (email and/or cellphone number for text messages).
5. If you include your cellphone number for text messages, navigate to the Verified Contacts page and tap the **Edit** button.
6. Check the box **Receive Text Messages** and confirm it's the correct cellphone number.
7. Tap the green **Continue** box to read the **Terms and Conditions**.

8. If you **Agree** to the terms and conditions, you will receive a **Phone Verification Code** via text message.
9. **Enter the code** into the prompt in your SmartHub app.
10. **Save the contact** in your cellphone so you know the alerts are coming from Y-W Electric.

Once you have your email and/or text message contact information set up, navigate to **Manage Notifications**, and choose the types of alerts you want to receive. There are four types of alerts for which you can receive notifications and you get to decide which ones are important to you. *[Monte E. & Gail L. Mansfield 1273101900]*

The SmartHub app may be downloaded on a mobile device. It is compatible with both Android and iPhones. You are able to do all of the above on the SmartHub app.

Y-W Electric does not use a third party for payments. If you are charged for making a payment, this is not being made on our website. For your security, please make sure you are logged into our website, [www.ywelectric.coop](http://www.ywelectric.coop) when making a payment. Or use the SmartHub app to make a payment directly from your smartphone.

Please contact our office if you have any questions about our website or need more SmartHub instructions.



# Practice Storm Safety

- Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.
- Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.
- Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.



## **REBATES**



Did you know Y-W Electric offers rebates for outdoor power equipment?

Low noise and low maintenance — it's a great time of year to make the switch to electric!

For more information about Y-W Electric's rebate program and eligible products, visit [ywelectric.coop/rebate-program-information](http://ywelectric.coop/rebate-program-information).