



## HIGHLIGHTING THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

BY DEREK ELDER CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER | DELDER@GVP.ORG

As the world around us is adorned with twinkling lights and festive decorations and the air fills with the enchanting sounds of carols, we are reminded of the magic of the holiday season. Between the joy and celebration, it is our privilege to extend our warmest wishes to you — our electric cooperative members. Christmas is a time to celebrate the power of light and express gratitude for the relationships that we have built and maintained. Your partnership with us makes this season even brighter.

Growing up in a small town in northeast Colorado, the annual tradition of putting up Christmas lights brought the community together like nothing else. At the heart of the holiday season is the brilliance of lights that decorate our homes and line our streets. Grand Valley Power takes pride in delivering reliable electricity to power the festive displays that add a touch of magic to our communities. Our employees spend countless hours during the holiday season volunteering for charities and churches, and participating in local parades and youth programs. Together, we create a canvas of light symbolizing hope and togetherness during this special time of year.

While providing reliable power is at the heart of our business, we also understand that our commitment to members and community extends beyond keeping the lights on.

We remain active in the communities that we serve by sponsoring events like rodeos and movie nights; participating in events like the Western Colorado Children's Water Festival and Mesa County Fair Junior Livestock Auction; and supporting the future of the Grand Valley through continuing education and scholarship programs. Your membership allows us to be a driving force in these endeavors, ensuring that our communities remain vibrant and connected. We're proud and grateful for these accomplishments.

These connections don't stop with what we have done, but also light the way forward. GVP's commitment to doing the right thing is rooted in our values and principles with an eye toward sustainability. Whether it be contributing time to build an osprey platform and nest at Highline State Park, or employees donating time to maintain and help rebuild trails, GVP is dedicated to environmental responsibility that goes beyond providing almost half of your electricity from renewable resources — one of the best marks in the state. By supporting these efforts, your partnership with your cooperative helps create a more sustainable community for future generations.

In the spirit of Christmas, we express our profound gratitude to you, our cherished members. Your participation and partnership in being a member of your electric



DEREK ELDER

cooperative is the cornerstone of our success. As we gather with our loved ones this holiday season, let's remember the importance of community, cooperation, and shared values.

May this Christmas bring you and your family warmth, love, and joy. We look forward to continuing our journey together, and we remain dedicated to serving you with reliable electricity and the unwavering spirit of partnership.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

### BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Grand Valley Power board meetings are open to members, consumers, and the public. **The December meeting of the Board of Directors will be held at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, December 20, at the headquarters building at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, Colorado.**

The monthly agenda is posted in the lobby of the headquarters building 10 days before each meeting and posted on the GVP website.

If anyone desires to address the Board of Directors, please let us know in advance and you will be placed on the agenda.



**HOMETOWN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**  
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**APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 1, 2024**  
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*Beat the holiday rush!*

**PAY EASILY. PAY ELECTRONICALLY. PAY WITH SMARTHUB!**

With the increase in mail during the holidays, why not give yourself the gift of time? Avoid long lines at the post office. Create your SmartHub account at [gvp.smarthub.coop](http://gvp.smarthub.coop) to easily and efficiently pay your bill online. It takes just a few minutes to set up your account, pay your bill, access account information, go paperless and view your hourly energy usage! The fewer trips to the post office, the better!

Step-by-step instructions: [gvp.org/paperless](http://gvp.org/paperless)  
Or call us at (970) 242-0040 for help from your hometown team.



 

**Twas The Nightmare Before Christmas**  
**2023 Fruita Parade of Lights**

**Saturday, December 9th Downtown Fruita, 5:30pm-7:00pm**



**Co-op Calendar**

- TOYS FOR TOTS DRIVE - through Friday, Dec. 8
- FRUITA PARADE OF LIGHTS - Saturday, Dec. 9
- BOARD MEETING - Wednesday, Dec. 20

**Holiday Closures**

- OFFICE CLOSED (Christmas Day) - Monday, Dec. 25
- OFFICE CLOSED (Day After Christmas) - Tuesday, Dec. 26
- OFFICE CLOSED (New Year's Day) - Monday, Jan. 1



# CASHBACK CREDITS



## The Cooperative Difference

One of the greatest benefits of being a co-op member is your investment in our business. Grand Valley Power is a not-for-profit. After expenses have been paid, remaining funds (margins) are allocated to Member Capital accounts. Margins are allocated based on each member's contribution to revenue.

These margins, or member capital, reduce the amount of money Grand Valley Power must borrow from lenders to build, maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system.

When its financial status allows, Grand Valley Power's board of directors can authorize the cooperative to refund or "retire" a portion of member capital in the form of Cashback Credit checks paid to members.

This Christmas, many Grand Valley Power members will receive a CashBack Credit check by mail, reflecting their capital contribution and ownership of the cooperative - it's the cooperative difference!

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1 What is the difference between the allocation notice and CashBack Credit?

An electric cooperative operates at cost by allocating excess revenue to each member based on the amount of electricity purchased. This is simply a notice of what was allocated to your Member Capital Account and varies each year. Later, as financial conditions allow, a portion of the allocated amounts are retired and paid in the form of a check, also known as CashBack Credits.

### 2 What if I don't receive a CashBack Credit check?

CashBack Credit checks are issued to co-op members who have a credit greater than \$15. Due to the expense of processing printed checks, credits less than \$15 are accumulated year-to-year until the sum is equal to or greater than \$15.

### 3 What if I have additional questions?

Please contact us at (970) 242-0040 or stop by at 845 22 Road, Grand Junction, CO. We're here for you, our members!

**THIS YEAR, GRAND VALLEY POWER RETIRED OVER \$1 MILLION IN CASHBACK CREDITS TO COOPERATIVE MEMBERS.**

LEARN MORE ABOUT CASHBACK CREDITS AT [GVP.ORG/CASHBACKCREDITS](http://GVP.ORG/CASHBACKCREDITS).



# Ornaments' Fate Left Up to Outcome of College Football Rivalry

BY RITA-LYN SANDERS DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION



RITA SANDERS

Our first Christmas as a married couple was difficult. Not because we didn't have any money for gifts (as college students, we had little extra cash for holiday spending), but because every year, right around the time we sat down for Thanksgiving and decorated a tree, our college football teams played their final conference match. Against each other.

I am an Oregon Duck and my husband is an Oregon State Beaver. As you can imagine, a lot was riding on this game (not the least of which is a little thing called pride).

Our first year of marriage, the Ducks lost. And if I recall correctly, the loss knocked us out of the competition to participate in a bowl game, which means I wasn't going anywhere fun for Christmas like I had the previous year. In 1990, the Ducks flew (or maybe rode on a bus) to the Freedom Bowl in Southern California. As a member of the Oregon Marching Band, we performed pre-game and halftime shows and marched down Main Street in Disneyland. Being a college student in Disneyland with a couple hundred of your friends is big fun.

Two years later, the Ducks won the state rivalry, and we headed to the Independence Bowl in Louisiana.

In my last year as a UO student, the OSU Beavers claimed victory again. My husband was happy, but it was not the way I wanted to end my college football days. Instead of a bowl game that year, the Oregon Marching Band accepted an invitation to travel up north and perform at a Seattle Seahawks game. It was pretty cool to perform in the Kingdome before it was razed just a few years later.

After UO lost, the hurtful pride lasted at least a month— all the way through Christmas until we took down the tree. My husband and I had come to an agreement

that we would prolong the enjoyment for whoever won the annual rivalry by creating a winner's circle of sorts. This victory lap took the triumphant member of the household straight to the top of the Christmas tree, where they could hang their college ornament from the topmost branch that would support its weight.

The OSU Beavers may have come out on top during those initial years of our marriage, but the Ducks quickly caught up and have since proven themselves to be a powerhouse in the world of college football.

When this issue of *Colorado Country Life* magazine hits your mailbox, the Duck and Beaver game will have been decided, and one of our college ornaments will find its way to the top of the Christmas tree. In future years, though, I do not know how we will decide which ornament deserves the more prominent post. The 2024 Duck football schedule does not include its storied match versus the Beavers, which has been a thing since 1894.

No matter how you adorn your tree or decide which ornament deserves higher prominence, please take note of Grand Valley Power's holiday safety tips below. Across the U.S. each year, fire departments respond to an average of 200 home structure fires that begin with Christmas trees. Defective lighting — including electrical cords and plugs — cause almost half of all Christmas tree fires. Take precautions to prevent these tragic occurrences from happening in your home. Consider:

- When choosing an artificial tree, be sure it's labeled as fire-retardant. When choosing a real tree, select the freshest-looking tree available.
- Place the tree at least 3 feet away from heating system air registers, fireplaces, and other heat sources.

- Try to position the tree near an electrical outlet to avoid the use of extension cords.
- Adequately support the tree with a stand designed to not tip over.
- Do not use electric lights on metallic trees. Use remote spot or reflective lights.
- Do not use lighted candles or other flaming devices on or near your tree.
- Use lights that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory. Note which lights are for indoor or outdoor use.
- Do not use lights with worn or frayed cords or loose bulb connections.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Whenever possible, use decorations made with flame-resistant, flame-retardant, or non-combustible materials.
- Unplug tree lights when out of the room and before going to sleep.
- Before you put up a fresh tree, cut two inches off the bottom of the trunk and immediately place the tree into a stand that holds at least a half-gallon of water.
- Check a real tree daily and keep the water level above the cut. Initially, a fresh tree may soak up to a gallon of water a day.
- No water additives are necessary. Plain tap water is best.
- Discard the real tree immediately after the holiday.

We wish you a safe and joy-filled holiday season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Get in touch with Rita at [rsanders@gvp.org](mailto:rsanders@gvp.org).