

# UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- APRIL 11      Lineman Appreciation Day  
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- APRIL 13      United Power Annual  
Meeting & Director Election  
Brighton office closing  
at 3 p.m.
  
- APRIL 30      Last Day to Sign Up for  
Cycled Air to Earn a Cool  
\$30 this Year  
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## The Life of a Lineman

Mike Dean, Journeyman Lineman Since 2010

It's 4 a.m. when he gets the call. The wind howls outside. Instead of rolling back over and going back to sleep, he gets up, grabs his gear and heads out the door. He's got a job to do—one that he specializes in and does with pride, even in the midst of a blizzard.

As a United Power lineman, the job doesn't always end at 4:30 p.m. Sometimes work continues throughout the night and even into the next morning. Restoring power to our members safely during an outage is our number one priority.

**SAFETY IS 100 PERCENT THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF OUR LINEMAN'S JOB. THEY HAVE TO WORK SAFELY, SMARTLY AND EFFICIENTLY.**

Our linemen take their jobs seriously, and want only to provide the most reliable power to United Power members, keeping in mind that safety always take precedence.

"Safety is 100 percent the most important aspect of our lineman's job. They have to work safely, smartly and efficiently," said Myke Weis, Manager of Operation. "Whether it's working an outage, maintaining electrical distribution lines, or building service for a new

home or business, our linemen are faced with a dangerous job . They continuously communicate and watch each other's back."

For most people, just the thought of working outside in hazardous weather conditions is daunting. But for our lineman the opportunity to step up to the plate and provide a service only they can, is a task they look forward to and are proud to do.

"When the power is off, that's when we're at our best and it's our time to shine," said Mark Keith, United Power Foreman. "We get out there, no matter the weather, and get to work figuring out how to solve the problem. "

Faced daily with intricate and dangerous duties, our linemen are responsible for the safety of the man next to them— whether that's on the ground or on a pole 30 feet up in the air. The smallest slip up could cost a limb or even a life.

This level of trust creates a strong brotherhood and camaraderie only linemen can

understand, and it's not just felt amongst United Power linemen. Across the nation, cooperatives support each other during times of need, living up to one of the seven cooperative principles— *Cooperation Among Cooperatives.*

Our linemen are on call 24 hours day, ready to respond to any situation, in any type of weather. So the next time you lose power, rest assured; there is a highly trained United Power crew on the way dedicated to getting the lights back on quickly and safely.

**FACED DAILY WITH INTRICATE AND DANGEROUS DUTIES, OUR LINEMEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE MAN NEXT TO HIM— WHETHER THATS ON THE GROUND OR 30 FEET UP IN THE AIR.**



[www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)

Main Switchboard 303-659-0551  
 Report an Outage 303-637-1350  
 Customer Service 303-637-1300

# New Rate Structure Now in Effect

United Power's Board of Directors voted in February to approve a rate restructure beginning with April 1, 2016 usage. The rate adjustments were a result of the findings from the Cost of Service study conducted in the fall. The rate changes do not increase total revenues for United Power, but each rate class will see some changes due to the restructuring.

Most residential members will see an increase in the facility charge and a decrease in the energy charge. The small increase in the facility charge will improve the cooperative's recovery for fixed costs and the decreases in the energy charge will more accurately reflect our costs for providing electricity. Most members will see these changes on their May 2016 billing, for their April usage.

For more detailed rate information, refer to the March edition of the *United Newsline* or visit our website, [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).

Reminder: The new rate structure was effective for April 1, 2016 usage. Members will see these changes on their May 2016 billing.



## Pay Your United Power Bill with Cash through MoneyGram®

United Power has partnered with MoneyGram® to make paying your bill with cash even more convenient. Members who prefer to pay with cash can now make a payment to United Power at any MoneyGram payment center for a small fee of just \$1.50. To find a location near you, visit [www.unitedpower.com/moneygram](http://www.unitedpower.com/moneygram). MoneyGram payment centers can be found at over 41,000 locations nationwide including Walmart, Ace Cash Advance, Advance America, and select 7-Eleven stores, to name a few.

Visit any MoneyGram payment location to pay your bill with cash and it will post to your United Power account right away—unlike other third-party payment processors that can take up to 3 days to transfer funds to United Power. United Power members still have several other options to make a payment free of fees, but for members subject to disconnection or those who prefer to pay with cash, MoneyGram is a convenient new way to make a same day payment.



### How it Works

1. Find a location near you at [www.unitedpower.com/moneygram](http://www.unitedpower.com/moneygram)
2. Bring the following items with you:
  - Cash to pay your bill, plus the MoneyGram fee of \$1.50
  - Receive Code: 15490
  - United Power Account Number
3. Pay the amount and the fee at the MoneyGram counter

**Make cash payments  
to United Power at over  
41,000 MoneyGram  
locations**

Learn more about MoneyGram and other payment options at [www.unitedpowercompayment-billing](http://www.unitedpowercompayment-billing).



1-800-926-9400  
[moneygram.com/PayBills](http://moneygram.com/PayBills)

# March Blizzard Causes Widespread Outages

**A United Power lineman prepares for a tough day ahead during a blizzard on March 23, 2016.**



On March 23, 2016 the Denver Metro area and Front Range were slammed

by a spring blizzard, resulting in strong winds and heavy snow. The storm produced over a foot-and-a-half of snow and gusts of up to 50 miles per hour in United Power's plains territory.

Due to the severe weather conditions, over 32,000 members were affected by widespread outages. Although our crews worked tirelessly around the clock, the loss of major transmission and hazardous road conditions made it extremely difficult for quick restoration. Our linemen also reported cross-arms and downed wires due to ice build-up on the power lines.

As the wind subsided and transmission came back online, our crews worked throughout the night to gain major progress in power restoration. By 9:30 a.m. on March 24, the number of members without power decreased to about 1,000—a big improvement from just 12 hours earlier.

United Power was not the only utility faced with power issues. Xcel Energy reported over 290,000 of its customers in the Denver area had lost electricity for a sustained period of time. Poudre Valley REA and Intermountain Rural Electric also experienced widespread outages from the storm and Colorado Springs Utilities reported power loss to thousands of customers across its coverage area as well. Denver International Airport cancelled more than 1,300 flights and completely shut down for over seven hours.

Although our linemen faced blowing snow and treacherous road conditions, the goal of restoring power to United Power members safely and efficiently was at the forefront of their minds.

We understand power outages can be frustrating and inconvenient, and we truly appreciate the support and patience of our members. We're here to serve you and dedicated to providing you reliable electric service, no matter the weather or obstacle.

## Kudos from a member:

Thank you to all of the United Power staff for working in such horrid conditions to get our power restored. You all are awesome!! GREAT JOB!!

- Gerald G. of Mead



APRIL 11, 2016  
**LINEMAN**  
APPRECIATION DAY  
#ThankALineman

## Celebrating Lineman Appreciation Day

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. On **April 11, 2016**, United Power will honor the hard working men and women who often work in challenging conditions to keep the lights on.

We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform around the clock in dangerous conditions to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Electric linemen work all hours of the day, often in hazardous conditions far from their families, going above and beyond to restore power to their communities," said Myke Weis, Manager of Operations. "Our linemen, as well as linemen from across the nation, truly deserve this special day of recognition."

To honor United Power's linemen, we invite members to take a moment to thank a lineman for the work they do.

Use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support for the men and women who light our lives, or take a moment to drop a card of thanks in the mail.

**UNITED POWER**  
**THANK A LINEMAN**  
**PO BOX 929**  
**BRIGHTON CO 80601**

**Facebook.com/UnitedPower**  
**Twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop**

# Garage Door Safety: An Open and Shut Case

Try this riddle: What weighs 600 pounds, deters intruders, and goes up or down at the push of a button? It's your automatic garage door, the largest moving piece of equipment in many homes.

Automatic garage doors may be a routine part of leaving and arriving home, but you should be aware of the potential for injury. Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., recommends these tips to make safety an open and shut case when it comes to your home's garage:

### Always keep automatic garage doors fully open or fully closed.

Some folks may leave a small opening at the bottom for pets to get in and out for food or shade. But a small opening could also be an invitation for a child to try to crawl through and get stuck. Another push of the button could send the heavy door down—causing injury—instead of bringing the door up when trying to free anyone stuck underneath. If you encounter someone stuck in an automatic door, call your local fire department.

**Read instructions on how to operate and maintain your garage door properly.** Check your automatic door monthly to be sure safety precautions are working. Many garage doors boast a safety feature that triggers an automatic reversal if anything is encountered while closing. To check, place a 1.5-inch object (like a flat 2x4) in the path of the door to make sure the door correctly reverses when contact is made. Instructions should also advise on maintaining a properly balanced door. Call a qualified repair company for service or maintenance.



**Don't get trapped.** In the event of a malfunction or power outage, your electric garage door will not operate. United Power frequently receives calls during power outages from homeowners who are "stuck" inside, or "locked out" of their homes. We work hard to keep the lights on, but we can't always make guarantees. Protect yourself from inconvenience by knowing how to use the emergency release, and keeping a house key with you.

**Do not allow children to operate a garage door.** It may seem like a harmless, simple task to allow children to push the garage opener. But activating heavy equipment should be taken seriously.

**Avoid walking under a door that is opening or closing.** You never know when a malfunction may take place. Steer clear of a moving door.

**Know when and how to use the emergency release.** You'll find a cord with a handle hanging along the track of your garage door. Always use caution when using this release, and only use it when the door is fully closed.

An automatic garage door opener is a common convenience powered by electricity. Just as electricity demands safety and respect, so does the equipment it operates.

## READER REWARDS

April  
2016



### Three Winners Every Month!

1<sup>st</sup> place: \$150 Lowe's Gift Card  
2<sup>nd</sup> place: \$50 Lowe's Gift Card (two winners)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail entry form to: United Power • Reader Rewards  
PO Box 929 • Brighton, CO 80601

### Reader Rewards Online

[www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)



Save a stamp! Visit [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com) and click on 'Member Benefits' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

### How many students is United Power sending to Washington D.C. for the Youth Tour in June?

By submitting this entry I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of United Newsline if I am selected as a winner.

## UNITED POWER PRIDE



*"I just got back from a wonderful trip to Catalina Island, CA. The breeze flowed, the weather was beautiful and I did the zip line, racing along at nearly 40 miles per hour!" - Laura Ortiz of Henderson*

### United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the *United Newsline* and we'll send you a gift if we print it. Send your name, address, phone number, and a description of the photo to:

E-MAIL: [unitednewsline@unitedpower.com](mailto:unitednewsline@unitedpower.com)

MAIL: United Power—Attn: United Newsline  
PO Box 929, Brighton CO 80601

United Power congratulates five employees on their retirements within the past year. Combined, employees Meline Knago, Boyd Samuelson, Dave Derby, Jim Mumford and Kathy Rotello dedicated over 124 years of service to United Power.

**Jim Mumford** retired on Aug. 21, 2015 after 34 years of service. Jim started his employment as a Journeyman Lineman on May 19, 1981. He moved into the position of Troubleshooter on Jan. 1, 1991. Jim served as chief steward for the IBEW, Local 111 as well as taking part in many contract negotiations for the United Power bargaining United Power employees.

**Meline Knago** retired from United Power after 12 years on February 5, 2016. Meline served as the Executive Assistant to the CEO her entire tenure at United Power. Meline and her husband Cliff plan on traveling as much as possible now that they are both retired.

**Boyd Samuelson** retired on Feb. 26, 2016 after more than 44 years with United Power. Boyd held several jobs during his tenure at United Power. He was a Utility Worker, Ground Person, Storekeeper, Tree Trimmer, Meter Reader, Apprentice Special Equipment Repairer, Journey Special Equipment Repairer and then in August 1991 Boyd achieved the classification of Cable Locator where he finished his career. Boyd plans on spending his time enjoying his wife Sandy, his family and his dog.

**Kathy Rotello** retired on March 11, 2016 after 15 years of service at United Power. She held the positions of AR/AP Clerk, Junior Accountant, AP Administrator, Right-of-Way Specialist and left as the Right-of-Way Agent. Kathy and her husband, Gary, are retiring to Mesquite, Nevada

**Dave Derby** retired from United Power after more than 19 years of service. He retired on March 18, 2016. Dave started his employment as a Journeyman Lineworker and then in August 2000, he transferred to a Substation Technician. Dave plans on spending his retirement with his family, working in his wood shop and just puttzin' around.

**United Power wishes all of these exemplary employees well as they enjoy the many new adventures that retirement can bring!**



## United Power CEO to Retire

United Power CEO Ron Asche will be retiring from United Power at the end of May. Ron spent five years as the CEO. He began his United Power career in February 2011. The United Power Board of Directors is actively searching for Ron's replacement.

## RECIPES



### Easy Fettuccine Alfredo

- 24 ounces dry fettuccine pasta
- 1 cup butter
- 3/4 pint heavy cream
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 dash garlic salt
- 3/4 cup grated Romano cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add fettuccine and cook for eight to ten minutes or until al dente; drain. In a large saucepan, melt butter into cream over low heat. Add salt, pepper and garlic salt. Stir in cheese over medium heat until melted; this will thicken the sauce. Add pasta to sauce. Use enough of the pasta so that all of the sauce is used and the pasta is thoroughly coated. Serve immediately.

## Save Energy, Save Money There's an App for That!

Watch how little changes add up to big savings. Use the Togetherwesave.com *Save Energy, Save Money* smart phone app to calculate the energy costs of your household electric items, see what a new appliance will cost to operate and learn energy saving tips. Discover all the easy ways to save energy and money in your home. The TogetherWeSave.com app is available for free from the Apple iTunes Store or the Android Marketplace.

### Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com)

MAIL: United Power Recipes  
PO BOX 929  
Brighton, CO 80601



Over a 20-year period, United Power will purchase solar power from a 13 Megawatt solar garden east of Fort Lupton owned and operated by Silicon Ranch Corporation.

## United Power Investing in More Solar

In late 2014, United Power initiated an effort to incorporate cost-effective renewable energy sources to complement our generation portfolio. To help meet our renewable energy goals, we partnered with Silicon Ranch Corporation, one of the nation's leading developer, owner, and operators of solar energy plants. As part of our partnership, United Power entered into a power purchase agreement with Silicon Ranch for a 13 megawatt solar farm three miles east of downtown Fort Lupton.



Early stages of construction on the 130-acre solar farm east of Fort Lupton.

Under the agreement, Silicon Ranch will own and operate the facility and United Power will receive all the energy produced over a 20-year period.

“United Power’s staff worked diligently to acquire this project and to set the power purchase agreement into place for Silicon Ranch,” said Ron Asche, United Power CEO. “We are excited that all the production from this project will be used right on our own distribution system and will power nearby homes and businesses. United Power is a strong supporter of renewable energy, and this system will enhance our commitment of these resources.”

Once completed in spring 2016, the 130-acre solar farm will generate 34.2 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year from approximately 160,000 solar panels—enough to power 2,500 households.

## Last Call to Earn a Cool \$30 this Summer

If you have central air conditioning, you can participate in a program that helps reduce peak energy consumption and control expensive peak energy costs. For your help, United Power will share the savings with you as a \$30 credit on your electric bill at the end of the summer. The deadline to participate is **April 30, 2016**. Be a part of the energy solution and get paid for your efforts!

### How the Cycled Air Program Works

When you sign up, we'll install a device near your air conditioner or heat pump that will allow us to cycle the compressor on and off at short intervals—generally for just 15 to 20 minutes at a time. We will only cycle your air conditioner on high demand days during the summer months. Cycling will not harm your air conditioner, heat pump or thermostat.

### Save Energy & Protect the Environment

During the course of every day, there are times when customers demand more energy. We have to build additional power plants to meet this energy demand, and this adds to the cost of power for every customer. Curbing energy use during peak demand times can actually help delay the need to build additional power plants.

### Stay Cool While You Make Money

While your compressor is cycling, the fan inside your home will continue to operate, which will keep already cooled air moving through your home.

Typically indoor temperatures may only change one to two degrees. Most people don't even notice when their compressor is cycling.

## Yes, I want \$30!

### Sign Me Up for Cycled Air



Sign up online at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com), by calling 303-637-1300 or fill out the form below and fax to 303-637-1338 or mail to United Power, PO BOX 929, Brighton, CO 80601.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

You do not have to be home when we install your Cycled Air device. Please keep the safety of our crews in mind and clear a pathway to your air conditioner.

# 2016 D.C. Youth Tour Delegates

Three local students have been selected to represent United Power at the Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. in June. **Riley Juenemann of Firestone, Monica Marquez of Fort Lupton, and Caralyn Fitzpatrick of Mead**, will attend the Youth Tour. Students were selected based on academic performance, extra-curricular activities, volunteer efforts, and a brief essay.

Every June, about 1,500 students from small towns and cities in rural America, spend a week in the nation's capital as part of the National Rural Electric Youth Tour. The students are sponsored by their local electric cooperatives.

Cooperatives are committed to educating America's rural youth about America and the role that electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities. Students gain a personal understanding of American history and their role as a citizen by meeting their local representatives and senators. Students also visit historic sites and attend educational seminars.

Like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/unitedpower](https://www.facebook.com/unitedpower)) or watch our website for applications for the 2017 Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.



**Riley Juenemann** is a student at Frederick High School where she is an active member in the National Honor Society, Key Club and jazz band. In her spare

time she performs classical guitar at local coffee shops.



**Monica Marquez** attends Fort Lupton High School where she participates in volleyball, basketball and track. She enjoys spending time with her

family laughing.



**Caralyn Fitzpatrick** is a student at Mead High School where she plays varsity and club tennis. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and drama club.

Caralyn enjoys volunteering at events in her hometown of Mead.

## 2016 Youth Camp Winners

United Power has selected: **Karina Gonzalez of Fort Lupton, Averi Revielle of Firestone and Alyssa Delaney of Fort Lupton**, to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp this July in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The camp is offered to high school juniors and seniors served by United Power. Interested students are asked to apply and winners are selected based on academic performance, extra-curricular activities and volunteer efforts.

The primary objective of the this camp is to provide an educational experience for young people on the organization and operation of a cooperative. The camp strives to help develop leadership skills that will assist students with the challenges they will face in the future.



**Karina Gonzalez** attends Fort Lupton High School where she is active in tennis, track and field and cheerleading. She also participates in LULAC and mock trial. Karina plans to attend college and get her Master's Degree.



**Averi Revielle** is a student at Frederick High School where she is a member in student council, National Junior Honor Society and participates in a leadership group. Averi's future plans include playing volleyball in college and pursuing a career as a sports therapist.



**Alyssa Delaney** attends Fort Lupton High School and is part of the Gifted and Talented program, DECA and FBLA, Alyssa is also an ambassador for Fuel Up to Play 60. She plans to attend college and work in marketing or sports injury.



### Picture Your "Selfie" Winning Next Year

Did you or your student miss these opportunities this year? Don't worry, students are invited to apply for the Youth Tour and Cooperative Youth Camp each year. Watch our website and Facebook page at the end of 2016 to learn more about the 2017 trips.

Like us on Facebook [facebook.com/unitedpower](https://www.facebook.com/unitedpower) or visit the 'My Community' page at [www.unitedpower.com](http://www.unitedpower.com).

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April 2016



## Last Call for Cycled Air Program

Earn a \$30 this summer by signing up for United Power's Cycled Air program by April 30.

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## Celebrating Our Linemen

April 11<sup>th</sup> is National Cooperative Lineman Appreciation Day. Send your thanks to our linemen!

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## United Power Investing in More Solar Power

United Power partners with Silicon Ranch on 13 Megawatt Solar Farm project.

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## New Payment Option

Members can now pay their United Power bills with cash at over 41,000 MoneyGram Locations.

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## STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

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- t**.....twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop

- Main Switchboard**.....303-659-0551
- Member Services**.....303-637-1300
- Outage Line**.....303-637-1350

## CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Mel Spain, Brighton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** LuEllen Casler, Erie  
Shane C. Smith, Fort Lupton

See your name listed as a winner? Call 303-637-1325 to claim your Reader Rewards.



- Chief Executive** Brian McCormick
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# UNITED NEWSLINE



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