

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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#ThankALineman

Lineman Appreciation Day is April 18th

IMPORTANT DATES

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APRIL 18 United Power
Annual Meeting &
Director Election
Adams County Fairgrounds

*United Power Offices
closed at 3 p.m.*

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

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TRAITS OF A LINEMAN IS DEDICATION - DEDICATION TO SAFETY, THE MEMBER AND ALSO TO EACH OTHER. IT REQUIRES SOMEBODY WHO IS COMMITTED TO DOING DANGEROUS WORK ON A DAILY BASIS.

during an outage is our number one priority.

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.

"One of the most important traits of a lineman is dedication - dedication to safety, the member and the also to each other," said Chief Operations Officer Bryant Robbins.

"It requires somebody who is committed to doing dangerous work on a daily basis and knowing the fruits of their labor is keeping the lights on. Safety is always paramount to our lineman."

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 lineman 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.*

FACED DAILY WITH INTRICATE AND DANGEROUS DUTIES, OUR LINEMEN ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF THE LINEMAN NEXT TO HIM – WHETHER THAT'S ON THE GROUND OR 30 FEET UP IN THE AIR.

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.



www.unitedpower.com

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

APRIL 18, 2017
LINEMAN
 APPRECIATION DAY
 #ThankALineman



Your Power Works Because They Do! Celebrating Lineman Appreciation Day

National Lineman Appreciation Day is celebrated each year on **April 18** and honors the hard work, innovation and dedication of America's electrical lineworkers. United Power will join in on the celebration to 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 Bryant Robbins, United Power Chief Operations Officer "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**

Update Your Phone Number to Receive Important Notifications from United Power



ENERGY SAVERS

Loads of Savings

Believe it or not, your laundry detergent works just as well with cold water. So always wash with cold water and save about 40 cents per load.

United Power will notify you via recorded message of work being conducted in your area, or when any system maintenance requires a planned outage. Our automated outage reporting system also uses the phone number on your account as a way to quickly report an outage. If your phone number isn't up-to-date in our records you may miss important notices from United Power, and using our automated system will require you to take a few extra steps. Avoid the hassle if the power goes out by updating the phone number on your account today. Then if the power goes out, you'll be ready to make a simple entry into our automated system.

Remember, the sooner you report your situation, the faster our crews can go to work for you! Make a quick update of your phone numbers online through SmartHub or call our Member Services Team at 303-637-1300.



Hitting a Growth Milestone

Last month, United Power hit a milestone of 80,000 meters. While United Power is one of the smallest landmass cooperatives in Colorado, we are now the fastest growing cooperative in the state. And that growth rate isn't expected to slow down anytime soon. Economic indicators place the majority of the growth in Colorado over the next five years right in the path of the United Power service area. From commercial, to retail and residential, United Power will see growth across the co-op in every member class.

We are taking a hard look ahead at how we can best serve our members far into the future. Planning ahead looks like new substations and new powerlines, but we are also looking at new ways to serve you, new tools to offer to help you manage your energy and the best ways to provide information about energy and reliability. We're stronger with every new member, and excited to be 80,000 meters strong and growing.



Online, Paperless & Auto Pay

Several Convenient Billing Options for You

Through United Power's online billing and payment portal, you have the ability to view and pay your bills online, and to sign up for payment options like Paperless Billing and Auto Pay. All of these options are available through the SmartHub Billing portal—available as a website and mobile app.

When you sign up for Paperless Billing, you will stop receiving a paper bill in the mail and you will receive an e-mail notification when your statement is available. You can then make a payment how you prefer: online, over the phone, or in person. For added convenience, you can also sign up for Auto Pay. Combine Auto Pay plus Paperless and no more statements will be mailed to you, and you'll never miss a payment due date.

To view your bill or make payments online visit www.unitedpower.com and click on SmartHub or download the SmartHub app.

Sign Up for Paperless Billing:

- From SmartHub, select **My Profile** from the menu options
- Select **Update My Printed Bill Settings** from the options
- Click **Turn Off Printed Bills** for any account(s) you'd convert to Paperless

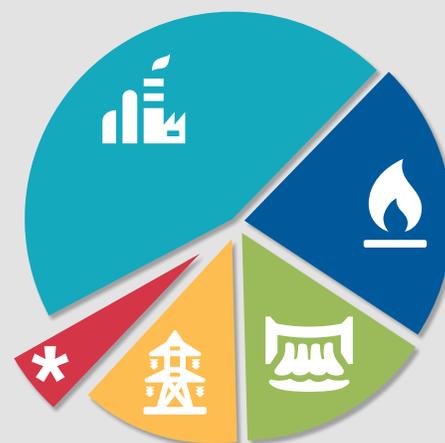
Sign Up for Auto Pay:

- From SmartHub, click on **Auto Pay Program** from the **Billing & Payments** menu.
- Sign up for Auto Pay by adding a new account or by using an existing account.
- Please note that if your account information changes, you must also update your Auto Pay settings.

POWER MIX

Wholesale power is purchased from Tri-State Generation & Transmission. Tri-State's portfolio of electric energy is derived from base load-serving coal generating units, intermediate load-serving natural gas, combined-cycle generating units and peak load-serving natural gas and oil combustion turbines, and renewable resources, including hydropower, wind and solar.

- 45% Coal**
- 22% Natural Gas**
- 15% WAPA/Hydro Renewables**
- 13% Open Market Contracts**
- 5% Locally Generated Renewables***



* LOCALLY GENERATED RENEWABLES

Locally generated renewable sources include utility-scale solar projects, individually owned rooftop solar, a methane landfill capture system and small wind generation.

- 47,541 kW Solar**
- 2 kW Wind**
- 3,200 kW Methane**



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
2017



Three Winners Every Month!

1st place: \$150 Lowe's Gift Card
2nd 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



Save a stamp! Enter to win Reader Rewards online at www.unitedpower.com under the 'Co-op & Community' tab. Answer this question with your online entry:

When is National Linemen Appreciation Day?

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



Bud and Sherry Cole of Keenesburg recently vacationed in Jamaica and visited Bob Marley's birth place and mausoleum, taking their *United Newsline* with them.

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

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

RECIPES



Maverick Solar Farm Producing Energy for Mead Area Homes

In December 2016, United Power energized the third utility scale solar field in our territory – Maverick Solar Farm located in Mead, Colo. To help continue to 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. Silicon Ranch built, owns and will maintain the solar field, while United Power purchased the energy produced over the next 20 years, leaving the cooperative at no financial risk.

The 6.5 megawatt solar farm is located half a mile west of Highway 34 and County Road 5, just outside of Mead. It features 76,000 solar panels on a single Axis tracking system which follows the sun throughout its daily arc. Single Axis tracking technology allows solar panels to produce over 40 percent more energy on an annual basis than a traditional fixed panel system. The solar farm will offset the annual usage of approximately 1,700 homes in the area.

Maverick Solar Farm is named after the Mead High School mascot. The school plans to use real-time energy data generated from the solar farm for analysis as part of their energy curriculum.

United Power Speaks at Rocky Mountain Solar Conference



United Power's New Energy Program Coordinator, Jerry Marizza, was recently invited to speak on a panel at the Solar Power Colorado 2017 conference.

The conference is hosted by the Colorado Solar Energy Industries Association (COSEIA) and is the Rocky Mountain region's largest solar conference.

The 2017 conference explored the theme: *Innovation: Making Solar Mainstream* through a program filled

with more than 70 expert speakers from across the country including former Colorado Governor Bill Ritter.

Marizza shared with conference attendees the success of United Power's efforts to integrate solar into the community with programs that provide economical renewable power. United Power's unique renewable projects provide local renewable energy to its members with installations that are integrated throughout the service area including: the Adams County Hangar 160 Solar Field, Erie Landfill Gas to Energy project, Ft. Lupton Solar Field and the new Maverick Solar Farm in Mead.



Sour Cream Coffee Cake

- 1 cup butter
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- Topping
- Combine the following:
- 3/4 cup chopped nuts
- 1 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 Tbs sugar

Combine butter, sugar and eggs. Beat until light and fluffy. Blend in sour cream. Sift flour. Sift flour again with baking soda and baking powder into the creamed mixture. Add vanilla. Blend well. Spoon half the batter into a 9 inch tube pan that has been buttered and floured. Sprinkle half the topping mixture over the batter. Spoon in remaining batter and top with topping. Place in cold oven and bake at 350 degrees for 55 minutes.

This was my mom's recipe. She made this on holiday mornings for over 30 years.

It's wonderful!

Terri Payne, Fort Lupton

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: www.unitedpower.com

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

2017 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. **Kaitlyn Becker** of Keenesburg, **Brock Gagna** from Brighton, and **Kaitlyn Howell** of Frederick, will attend the Youth Tour. Students were selected based on academic performance, extra-curricular activities, volunteer efforts, and a brief essay.

This trip brings together 1,500 ambitious high school students from small towns and cities in rural America for an incredible week in the nation's capital. The students attending 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) or watch our website for applications for the 2018 Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.



Kaitlyn Becker is a student at Weld Central High School where she is an athlete in cross country, basketball and track and field. She is the Art Editor at her high school's newspaper and enjoys playing piano.



Brock Gagna attends Brighton High School where he is an active member in the National Honor Society, the BHS Link Crew and plays various sports. Brock also enjoys reading, camping and fly fishing.



Kaitlyn Howell is a student at Frederick High School. Kaitlyn plays softball, is a member of Future Business Leaders of America, and participates in her local church youth group. In her spare time she enjoys going to sporting events at her school and likes to spend time with her family.

2017 Youth Camp Winners

United Power has selected Brekken Billman of Black Hawk, Jackson Curdo of Brighton and Cameron Anderson of Firestone to attend the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs, CO this July. 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 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.



Brekken Billman attends Gilpin County High School where he is active in basketball, baseball and Boy Scouts. Brekken is on the honor roll and President of his local church youth group. He plans to go to medical school and pursue a career as an anesthesiologist.



Jackson Curdo is a student at Brighton High School where he plays both high school and competitive basketball. He also volunteers at the Calvary Chapel Food Pantry and is a Brighton Recreation Center coach. Jackson plans to attend college and play basketball while pursuing a degree in communications.



Cameron Anderson attends Mead High School where he has received multiple academic letters, as well as perfect attendance awards. Cameron also participates in chamber choir at his school. His future plans include attending college and majoring in meteorology.



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 2017 to learn more about the 2018 trips.

Like us on Facebook facebook.com/unitedpower or visit the 'Co-op & Community' page at www.unitedpower.com.

Staying Safe on the Roads

Would you drive on a highway blindfolded? Of course not. However, if you text while driving 55 miles per hour on a highway, you are essentially doing just that.

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55mph, that's like driving the length of a football field while blindfolded. Talking on a cell phone also carries significant risks. According to the National Safety Council, drivers can miss seeing up to half of what's around them – traffic lights, stop signs, pedestrians – when talking on a cell phone.

In our digital world, people feel pressure to remain in constant contact, even when behind the wheel. As mobile technology use increases, distracted driving – talking, texting, sending emails – is a growing threat to community safety. Drivers don't realize the dangers posed when they take their eyes off the road and their hands off the wheel and focus on activities other than driving.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, each day in the U.S., more than nine people are

killed and more than 1,153 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. The National Highway Administration notes that 3,154 people were killed and an estimated 424,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver in 2013.

Texting and cell phone use behind the wheel takes your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel and your focus off driving – putting the driver and others in danger, including passengers, pedestrians, other drivers and bystanders. On the tragic end of the spectrum, victims' families, friends, co-workers and community are impacted.

At United Power safety is a core value. Talking on a cell phone quadruples your risk of an accident, about the same as if you were driving drunk. Risk doubles again if you are texting while driving.

Help promote a culture of safety. We encourage our members to join us and help keep our families, friends and neighbors safer by putting their phones down and focusing on the road when they drive.

5 DISTRACTED DRIVING STATS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 3,179** Number of people killed each year in vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers (Federal Communications Commission, 2014)
- 1 in 4** The probability that a vehicle crash involved a cellphone (National Safety Council, 2014)
- 60%** Percentage of people who use cellphones while driving (Harris Poll, 2011)
- 21-24** Age group most likely to send a text or email while driving (Distraction.gov, 2012)
- 4X↑ RISK** How much using a cellphone increases your risk of crashing (National Safety Council, 2014)

CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Introducing Healthy Savings!
With Healthy Savings you can receive discounts on the following benefits:



Prescriptions

By using your Connections Card, you will receive a discount on prescription drugs at over 60,000 national and regional pharmacy chain stores.



Dental Care

Save 20% to 40% on most dental services including orthodontics, periodontics and endodontics.



Vision

Get 20% to 60% savings on eye wear.



Hearing Aids

Discount of 35% off hearing aid prices at 2,000+ Newport Audiology Center locations.



Lab Work and Imaging

Savings of 10% to 60% off usual charges for MRI, CT and other lab procedures.



Chiropractic

Take advantage of 30% to 50% savings on diagnostic services and treatments.

The Healthy Savings package is not insurance nor is it intended to replace insurance.

Your Connection to Savings

Click on Co-op Connections under the 'Member

Benefits' tab at www.unitedpower.com to search for additional deals, pharmacy discounts or to request a free card.



Inside This Issue

April 2017



Youth Trip Winners

Meet the winners who will represent United Power in Washington, D.C. and at the Youth Leadership Camp.

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Celebrating Our Linemen

April 18th is National Lineman Appreciation Day. Send your thanks to our linemen!

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Staying Safe on the Roads

Learn more about the dangers of distracted driving and how you can promote a culture of safety.

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More Solar Powering You

United Power partners with Silicon Ranch on new 6.5 Megawatt Solar Farm project.

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STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

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Member Services.....303-637-1300

Outage Line.....303-637-1350

CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

- 1st Place:** Dawn Warren, Brighton
- 2nd Place:** Jeremy Scott, Fort Lupton
Jeanene Reddick, Broomfield

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



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UNITED NEWSLINE

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