

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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IMPORTANT DATES

SEPTEMBER

5

Labor Day
United Power Offices Closed

Our Cooperative Roadmap

Providing Flexible, Affordable, Sustainable Power & Services

United Power Exits its Current Wholesale Contract Effective May 1, 2024

United Power caught the attention of electric distribution cooperatives nationwide in April when it filed its non-conditional Notice of Intent to Withdraw from its wholesale power contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission (Tri-State). The cooperative entered a long-term contract with the generation cooperative when few viable sources of affordable and reliable power were available. At the time, it provided stability for United Power and assurance that members would continue to receive reliable power. But the industry has entered a transition, and the contract is no longer reflective of the cooperative or its members' best interests.

The current contract is too restrictive, capping locally sourced power at just 5% of its total load and preventing United Power from bringing more local generation onto its system, which would lower costs and expand member options. Before making the difficult decision to exit its contract, leadership at the cooperative attempted to negotiate a revised "partial requirements" contract. The revised contract would have continued United Power's membership relationship with Tri-State while also allowing the cooperative to explore and purchase lower cost, cleaner power options on the market. Unfortunately, negotiations to this end failed.

"Our first option was to continue a mutually beneficial relationship with our wholesale power supplier, where we would continue sourcing a portion of our power from them," said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power's President and Chief Executive Officer. "It is unfortunate they were unwilling to help us reach this goal. Although we feel the current contract does not represent shifts taking place in the industry, it was not a decision we made lightly. We spent countless hours weighing our options and discussing a course of action that would result in the best outcome for our members and our future."

United Power also issued a request for proposal (RFP) for new wholesale power suppliers along with its Notice of Intent to Withdraw. Perspective power suppliers will have until early August to submit proposals outlining their ability to meet the cooperative's energy needs. Proposals from suppliers are expected to meet three criteria:

- **Energy**, the critical resource keeping lights on for United Power members.
- **Capacity**, the ability to provide continuously reliable power even in adverse conditions.
- **Resource adequacy**, the assurance generation will be adequate to meet demand even on hot summer days during peak hours.

"We are expecting a healthy response to our RFP," said Dean Hubbeck, United Power's Chief Energy Resource Officer. "We'll spend about two months evaluating proposals before selecting a handful of potential suppliers to work with directly. We hope to select a supplier, or group of suppliers, and begin contract negotiations early next year."

The final step in United Power's exit is determining an exit fee, which is currently



www.unitedpower.com

Report an Outage 303-637-1350
Customer Service 303-637-1300

Along These Lines

A Message from United Power's President & CEO



Mark A. Gabriel

President & Chief Executive Officer

Have Feedback For Us?

Submit your questions, comments, concerns, or general feedback at www.unitedpower.com/CEO.

Our Cooperative Roadmap

Our Cooperative Roadmap contains the cooperative's long-term action plan and key priorities to maintain its strength and competitiveness in the evolving electric industry.

Read Our Cooperative Roadmap at www.unitedpower.com/roadmap.

Incumbency in business has a rich history of companies that failed to plan for the future, even as the facts before them told a different story. It is why planning at United Power resulted in **Our Cooperative Roadmap** (www.unitedpower.com/roadmap), preparing to continue to support our members with a reliable, resilient, and affordable distribution system.

Most of us can remember a time when almost every community had a Blockbuster video store. At its height, there were 9,000 brick and mortar Blockbuster stores. Then, along came Netflix, with a by-mail rental model. Seeing the future of an increasing digital society, Netflix shifted its strategy to online entertainment and moved a step further by creating its own content. Blockbuster's response to the evolving Netflix model was to eliminate late fees on its DVD and VCR tape rentals. One company thrived and the other is no longer in business.

In the electric utility world, a similar transition is taking place with more of our members adding solar rooftops (nearly 9,000 thus far), home battery storage (110), electric vehicles (5,200), and dozens of other technologies from Alexa to smart thermostats. More than 700 members have added net metering to date in 2022. This is why United Power embraces technologies and is evolving to become a Distribution System Operator (DSO), which will help facilitate the revolution happening across our member base. Becoming a DSO will allow us to work with our members in controlling power and costs. It is why our team of energy experts is available to answer questions in an unbiased and neutral manner, and it is why we continue developing programs that help you manage your energy costs.

I recently had the opportunity to visit with several of our largest members to listen and understand the critical changes they are facing; how their corporate goals now involve environment, social, and governance requirements; and the criticality of reliable

power to keep their businesses operating. Their goals align perfectly with those of United Power as we are "Transforming the Future."

A big part of acting on the changes in the business is our decision to find a new power supply – one that is more cost effective, less carbon intensive, and keeps dollars in our communities. We held our **Power Supply Forum** (www.unitedpower.com/powersupply) on June 7 where we engaged our members in a conversation about the change which will take effect May 1, 2024. Also, as of June 1, we officially became a member of the Southwest Power Pool, which provides energy market services in Colorado and will allow us to eventually use the collective power as a DSO to better manage the cost of power.

In today's economic environment we are all concerned with the rising cost of everything. As your cooperative, United Power will continue to find ways to lower costs while meeting member needs. We are there for you in offering energy efficiency audits, recommendations on weatherization, advice on adding solar or storage, as well as piloting programs for in-home electric vehicle charging and battery storage. Please contact us for any of your home or business needs. At United Power, we are working hard to be prepared for the changing demands of our members.

We have a great tradition of excellence, and I want every member to feel empowered to reach out to me and the United Power staff at any time. I welcome the opportunity to meet you where you are; do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

Have a safe and healthy summer.

Our Cooperative Roadmap

pending with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Although the fee hasn't been determined, FERC has issued a number of decisions in the cooperative's favor over the past few months. In March, FERC economist Greg Golino determined Tri-State's methodology for calculating the exit fee was "flawed and unreasonable." The exit fee could be decided as early as this summer.

"Our situation has substantially changed, with more affordable, reliable, and environmentally sustainable power supply options now available," said Beth Martin, United Power's Board Chairman. "We believe we should deliver electricity that is more reflective of the current market price, ultimately helping our members save."

In June, United Power hosted a member forum to discuss its upcoming exit. Gabriel



and Hubbuck provided detailed background of how United Power got to this point and where the cooperative is heading from here. The forum concluded with a question and answer session from attendees both online and in person.

Additional information, including a recording of the forum is available online at www.unitedpower.com/power-supply.

Powering Your Night at the Fair

The Adams County Fair, Aug. 3-7, will be packed with family-friendly entertainment, and as the presenting sponsor, United Power is giving away ticket packages to some lucky members.

Aug. 3-7, 2022

Tickets for the various United Power Grandstand Events at the Adams County Fair are on sale now. Buy your tickets at www.adamscountyfair.com.

Paid parking and shuttle rides are available. Fair admission is free.

Special Days:

Thursday, Aug. 4 – Senior Day
Friday, Aug. 5 – 9NEWS Kids Day

Riverdale Regional Park
9755 Henderson Road
Brighton, CO 80601

Prize Packages:

Demolition Derby & Fireworks (x2)

Friday, Aug. 5 | 7 p.m.
4 tickets
2 unlimited carnival arm bands
\$25 concessions gift card

NSPA Truck Pull

Saturday, Aug. 6 | 7 p.m.
4 tickets
2 unlimited carnival arm bands
\$25 concessions gift card

Dia de la Familia

Sunday, Aug. 7 | 3 p.m.
4 tickets
2 unlimited carnival arm bands
\$25 concessions gift card



How to Enter:

Enter to win one of four prize packages (listed above) by completing an entry form at www.unitedpower.com/fair-giveaway. Or enter by mail by sending a postcard with your name, address, and phone number to:

United Power
Attn: Adams County Fair Ticket Package Giveaway
500 Cooperative Way
Brighton, CO 80603

Entries must be received by July 27, 2022 to be eligible. United Power is not responsible for lost or misdirected mail.



Summer Events Calendar

July 15

Firestone Food & Flick Fridays

Hart Park
467 Jackson Ave., Firestone

July 20-23

Chainsaws & Chuckwagons

Centennial Park
630 Eighth St., Frederick

Aug. 3-7

Adams County Fair

Riverdale Regional Park
9755 Henderson Road, Brighton

Aug. 6

Dacono Music and Spirits Festival

Centennial Field
123 Forest Ave., Dacono

Aug. 11-14

Southeast Weld County Fair

Southeast Weld County Fairgrounds
7758 Co Road 59, Keenesburg

Aug. 12

Anythink Concert Series

Wright Farms
5877 E. 120th Ave., Thornton

Aug. 19

Firestone Food & Flick Fridays

Stoneridge Park
5118 Bowersox Parkway, Firestone

Sept. 10

Trapper Days

Downtown Fort Lupton
130 S. McKinley Ave., Fort Lupton

Sept. 17

Miners Day

Centennial Park
630 Eighth St., Frederick

For Safety, Leave Space Around Transformers

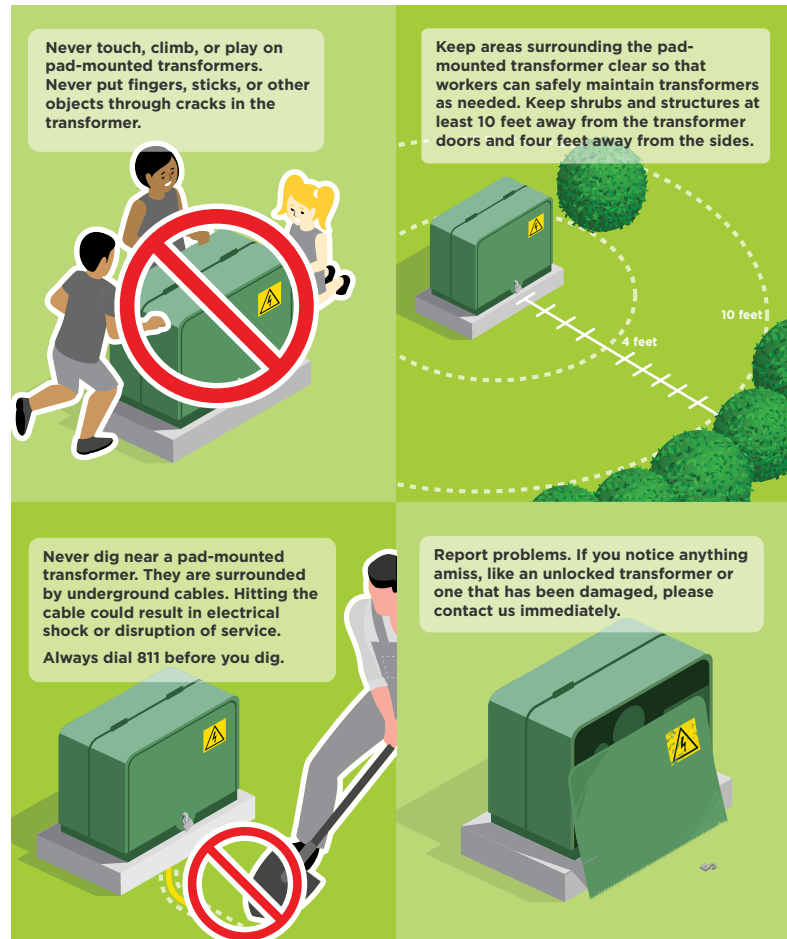
Pad-mounted transformers, those big green utility boxes commonly seen around town, serve the purpose of lowering high voltage to standard household voltage used to power electronics, appliances, and lighting. These transformers are not protected in the way overhead lines and substations are. Though they may appear safe to use as workbenches and climbing obstacles, electrical equipment can still pose a risk to anyone who may come in contact with them. Members should always use caution and keep a safe distance.

United Power crews also need safe access for repairs and maintenance. Barriers, such as landscaping and fencing, should be kept clear of electrical equipment. While it may be tempting to “camouflage” transformers with landscaping, please remember cooperative crews need at least 10 feet of clearance at the opening of a pad-mounted transformer and four feet at the rear and sides of the housing. The distance allows crews to safely use tools required for working with energized equipment. It also ensures crews have the ability to move about safely should problems arise.

Pad-mounted transformers are more common in newer subdivisions and residential developments – and in many cases are located on members’ property. These transformers are connected to primary high voltage lines, and secondary lines can extend from the transformer in several directions underground. Remember this before planting shrubs or trees, setting fence posts, installing sprinkler systems, or digging anywhere near a transformer. You should always dial 811 before you dig to ensure lines are located so your project doesn’t disrupt utility service, cause serious injury, or worse.

Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing, or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.



READER REWARDS

LATE SUMMER
2022



Three Winners Every Month!

1st place: \$100 Bill Credit

2nd place: \$50 Bill Credit (two winners)

Submit Reader Rewards Online

www.unitedpower.com



Visit www.unitedpower.com and click on 'News & Community' to enter Reader Rewards online. Answer the question below with your online entry:

What is United Power's new member-exclusive rebate?

By submitting this entry, I agree to allow United Power to publish my name in subsequent issues of United Newline if I am selected as a winner. For complete contest rules, visit www.unitedpower.com/newline.

Members may also enter by mailing the following entry form to:

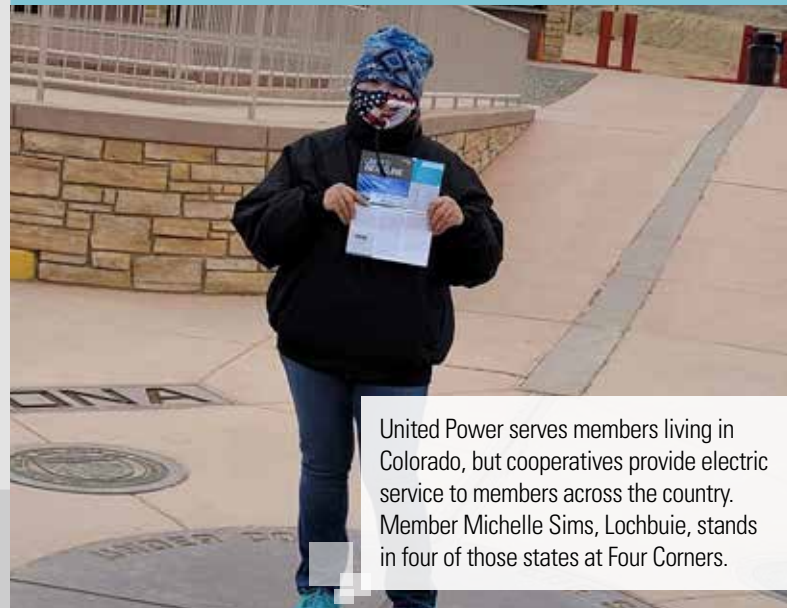
United Power • Reader Rewards • 500 Cooperative Way • Brighton, CO 80603

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

UNITED POWER PRIDE



United Power serves members living in Colorado, but cooperatives provide electric service to members across the country. Member Michelle Sims, Lochbuie, stands in four of those states at Four Corners.

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the United Newline and you'll receive a \$100 bill credit if we print it. Submit your photo along with your name, address, email, and a description of the photo online at www.unitedpower.com/unitedpowerpride.

United Power was able to send students to Washington, D.C. this year as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour for the first time since 2019. Shared concerns among state electric cooperatives regarding health and safety surrounding the pandemic resulted in the cancellation of both the 2020 and 2021 tours.

The return of this year's tour means cooperatives from across the country will sponsor approximately 1,300 high school students for a week in the nation's capital. While they are in Washington, students will have an opportunity to meet and interact with elected officials representing the state of Colorado, tour historical landmarks and monuments, and learn the value of the cooperatives they represent.

Each year, United Power selects ambitious high school students to represent it at the Youth Tour. This year, United Power sponsored two local students – **Elizabeth Clement**, Stargate Charter School, and **Noah Kildow**, Brighton High School.

Before departing for Washington, Colorado students toured the state capitol in Denver and met with Gov. Jared Polis, participated in a high-voltage safety demonstration at United Power's headquarters in Brighton, and heard brief presentations from employees about the various career paths available through the cooperative.



The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a tradition among cooperatives since the late 1950s. Its origins date back to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 1957 annual meeting in Chicago, where keynote speaker and future president Lyndon B. Johnson suggested sending youth to the capital to see "what the flag stands for and represents." A small group of 34 students from Iowa formed the first tour in 1958. To date, nearly 50,000 students have participated in the program.

Applications to represent United Power during next year's Youth Tour will be available in early December. Follow us on social media for updates on all of our youth programs.

Uncommon Excellence Celebrating Employees' Commitment to Safety

United Power employees were treated to breakfast celebrations at each office location in recognition of their commitment to a workplace culture that prioritizes and emphasizes safety. The cooperative recently achieved a record number of days without a lost time injury.

"The workplace safety culture at United Power is really tremendous," said Mark A. Gabriel, United Power's President and Chief Executive Officer. "To achieve this level of success requires contribution from every employee. I am so proud of our employees."

United Power dedicates a portion of each employee meeting to discussing workplace safety best practices and follows a year-round safety improvement plan.



RECIPES



Greek Lemon Potatoes

- 1/3 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1/3 cup low-sodium chicken broth
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- Black pepper, to taste
- 3 Tbsp fresh oregano leaves, roughly chopped
- 2 1/2 lb. medium Yukon Gold potatoes

Position rack in lower third of oven and preheat to 425° F. Whisk together lemon juice, chicken broth, olive oil, salt, garlic powder, black pepper, and two-thirds of the chopped oregano. Cut potatoes into wedges and spread on heavy-duty rimmed baking sheet. Pour dressing on top and toss well to coat.

Roast potatoes on lower oven rack until almost tender, about 30 minutes. Toss and continue roasting until potatoes are tender and golden and juices have reduced to a glaze, 10-15 minutes. Toss again, then sprinkle with remaining oregano. Season with salt.

Source: *The Pioneer Woman*

Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

ONLINE: www.unitedpower.com

MAIL: United Power Recipes
500 Cooperative Way
Brighton, CO 80603



New Fire Prevention Procedures

Added Red Flag Warning Procedure in Effect This Summer

To address the growing fire risk in Colorado, United Power has put in place new operating procedures. One of the latest precautions the cooperative has implemented is a Red Flag fire prevention procedure. The National Weather Service issues a Red Flag Warning when warm temperatures, low humidity, and strong winds are expected. When combined, these conditions produce an increased risk of fire danger. This alert is issued as a weather advisory and is often mentioned during the weather segment on local news.

When a Red Flag Warning impacts United Power's service area, the cooperative will adjust system settings and operating procedures to immediately stop the flow of power if any interference is detected. What this means is if a tree or foreign object contacts a power line, a substation device will open automatically and remain de-energized until a United Power crew has patrolled

the power line. If no cause is found and no hazard has been reported, system operators will close the device and restore power. Crews will then patrol the line a second time. Inspecting energized lines may identify an issue and prevent another outage.

These extra safety measures rely on our crews to complete labor-intensive inspections rather than remotely connecting to automated field devices, which may increase the duration of outages. United Power is committed to providing safe, reliable electric service to members, and recognizes extended outages are inconvenient. If an outage occurs during a Red Flag Warning, crews will work quickly and safely to restore power.

United Power reminds members to report any power issues and outages. In many cases, member information can help our crews narrow their focus and identify the cause of an outage.

Members who experience an outage or observe anything that seems out of the ordinary concerning power lines or electrical equipment should do the following:

- Stay clear of downed trees, downed power lines, or damaged equipment.
- Report outages by calling 303-637-1350 or online at www.unitedpower.com/outage.
- Monitor our live outage map at www.unitedpower.com/outage for additional information.

More information about United Power's fire mitigation plan and vegetation management efforts are available on the co-op's website at www.unitedpower.com/fire-mitigation.



ENERGY SAVERS

Cross ventilation

Colorado's mild climate makes cross ventilation a perfect way to cool your home without using excess energy. It uses wind moving through your home to cool it naturally rather than using an appliance like your air conditioner.

Update Your Contact Info

Make Sure You're Receiving Notifications

United Power uses recorded phone messages to let members know when a preplanned outage has been scheduled in their area for maintenance work. As new software becomes available, the cooperative may have more options to send important communications to members.

Electronic communications are tied to individual member accounts and use the phone numbers and/or email addresses the cooperative has on record. If your contact information on record isn't up-to-date or is entered incorrectly, you may be missing out on important notifications from United Power.

You can check your contact information and make necessary updates using the free online payment portal, SmartHub. To set up an online account, go to www.unitedpower.com and click on **Online Account Services** under **My Account**. Contact information can also be updated by calling the Member Services Team at 303-637-1300.



Cutting Into Supply Chain Delays

New Plasma Cutter Allows Co-op to Bypass Delays, Fabricate Own Parts

Electric cooperatives rely on crucial materials to maintain the safety, reliability, and resiliency of their electric system. Supply chain delays are creating new challenges for most industries, but it's been particularly difficult for electric utilities facing weeks-long delays on parts and materials necessary to ensure a properly functioning system.

"We're experiencing six- to eight-week delays on standard maintenance materials, like mounts and brackets," said Curtis Subia, United Power's Vice President of Asset Management and Supply Chain. "It may be tempting to waive off something as small as a bracket if other materials are available, but without these brackets, projects come to a standstill. Even small pieces are absolutely essential to safely building our infrastructure."

With uncertainty surrounding how long supply chain issues may persist, United Power purchased a new piece of equipment that will help the cooperative bypass delays and fabricate whole parts in-house without having to wait for backorders to be filled. A

mechanized plasma cutter (pictured right) can precisely cut pieces out of sheet metal in just minutes. The pieces it produces are often ready for immediate use in the field.

"We could either wait weeks for orders to be delivered or we could figure out a timely way to make them ourselves," said Subia. "We can't shut down projects because the supply chain can't keep up with demand, so we had to come up with a solution."

United Power mechanics suggested the plasma cutter as an alternative. They have been fabricating parts for years when something is unavailable or if they need a custom piece. However, manual fabrication is slow, lacks precision, and is dangerous. The plasma cutter can be preprogrammed with almost any design and ready to use in just a few minutes. Once a design has been stored, the software can recall it again at any time. It's a safer option for the mechanics and frees up their time to be spent on other projects.

"It can do things the human hand can't do," said Kevin Isham, a mechanic at



United Power. "It can cut a piece over and over with precision and perfection in half the time it would take one of us to create a single piece. Having it makes our jobs quicker and safer."

There's no sign supply chain issues are coming to an end anytime soon. The plasma cutter represents another innovative solution United Power has adopted to meet the needs of the cooperative and its members in challenging circumstances.

Smart Rewards & Thermostat Rebates

United Power members with a qualifying smart thermostat from Honeywell or Nest can earn money back this summer by enrolling in Smart Rewards. Through Smart Rewards, your smart thermostat will automatically shift energy use to help us reduce load on the electric grid. When you help us save, we will pass those savings along to you at the end of each summer. For every summer you remain enrolled, United Power will credit you \$25.

Enrolling your smart thermostat in Smart Rewards can help United Power shift use and save energy when it's most expensive. When demand peaks, United Power must either purchase more expensive power or encourage members to shift their energy use.

Getting Started is Easy. Here's How it Works:

Any qualifying smart thermostat can be enrolled in Smart Rewards through your thermostat's app or online. United Power provides enrollment links and a list of qualifying device models on its website at www.unitedpower.com/smart-rewards.

Members enrolled in Smart Rewards will receive push notifications during peak events, which will only occur weekdays between 12 p.m. and 9 p.m. and last no more than four hours. Your thermostat will automatically adjust and return to normal at the end of the event. There will never be more than three events in a week. Members will see their credits on billing statements at the end of each cooling season, typically in October.



Rebates on Qualifying Smart Thermostats

Don't own a smart thermostat? Members qualify for exclusive rebates on qualifying Honeywell and Nest smart thermostats.* For more information on smart thermostat rebates, eligibility, and qualifying devices, go to www.unitedpower.com/thermostat.

**Smart Rewards enrollment is required to qualify for smart thermostat rebates.*

Inside This Issue

LATE SUMMER
2022



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Adams County Fair Giveaway

Win one of several Adams County Fair ticket packages from United Power.

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Supply Chain Solutions

United Power uses new plasma cutter to bypass supply chain delays.

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Smart Rewards

Learn how you can save with your smart thermostat through Smart Rewards.

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STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

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online.....www.unitedpower.com

f.....facebook.com/UnitedPower

t.....twitter.com/UnitedPowerCoop

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

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

CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

1st Place: Larry Weatherwax, Commerce City

2nd Place: Hailee Patel, Broomfield

Kathleen Edmonson, Frederick

See your name? Call 303-637-1325 within two (2) months of the issue date to claim your Reader Rewards.

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 Elizabeth "Beth" A. Martin
 Mark A. Gabriel
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EVP & Chief Operating Officer
 James Vigesaa
 James Vigesaa
 Vice-Chairman

EVP & Chief Financial Officer
 Tim Erickson
 Tim Erickson
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SVP & Chief Energy Resource Officer
 Keith Alquist
 Keith Alquist
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SVP & Chief Information Officer
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Newsline Editors
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UNITED NEWSLINE

500 Cooperative Way, Brighton CO 80603

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

