

Y-W ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

JULY 2024



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box Y
Akron, CO 80720



STREET ADDRESS

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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.

OFFICE HOURS

7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday – Thursday

10 Things You Might Not Know About Power Restoration

BY ANDREW MOLT DIRECTOR OF MEMBER SERVICES



ANDREW MOLT

Have you ever watched a video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut. While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

As the Director of Member Services of Y-W Electric Association Inc., I'm accustomed to members' questions about power outages and why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help you understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

- 1. We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. There are two convenient ways for you to report outages. Our SmartHub app has functionality to report service interruptions very quickly. The SmartHub app lists each account that you have tied to your email address so you can select the correct account without the need to look at your billing statement or meter to report the correct account with a problem. The second method is to give us a call at 970-345-2291 at any time of the day. During business hours, Monday-Thursday 7a.m.-5:30p.m. you will speak directly with one of our talented representatives to report your outage. After business hours, we have a dispatch service that communicates with on-call employees to address outages as quickly as possible. *Richard Burton 88310xxxx*
- 2. Our employees might be affected too.** Because Y-W Electric is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local, too. They are your neighbors, friends, and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be as well.
- 3. It's a team effort.** Every one of Y-W Electric's employees are working to get your power restored as soon as possible. Our customer service representatives are taking your calls, engineers and field staff are surveying damage, crews are organizing, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.
- 4. We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.

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IT'S FAIR TIME ON THE EASTERN PLAINS!

Eastern Colorado Roundup takes place July 24–28 at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Akron. Find the full schedule, event times, and ticket sales information at www.ecroundup.com.

JULY 24

- Sheep Show
- Goat Show
- Exhibit building open
- Poultry Show
- Buck and Jim Jones Memorial Team Roping

JULY 25

- Beef Show
- Rabbit Show
- Draft Horse Show

JULY 26

- Parade
- Round Robin Showmanship
- Timed Event Rodeo
- Jr. Livestock Sale Barbecue & Watermelon Feed **sponsored by Y-W Electric**
- Jr. Livestock Sale

JULY 27

- Concert — Jay Webb, Eddie and the Getaway, Noah Hicks

JULY 28

- Breakfast and church service

Yuma County Fair is August 1–5 at the Yuma County Fairgrounds in Yuma. Visit www.yumacounty.net for full schedule, event times, and ticket sales information.

AUGUST 1

- Open and Junior Crops & Garden Exhibit Entry and Open Class Home Ec Exhibit Entry
- Sheep Show
- Goat Show
- Ranch Horse Show
- Dairy Show

AUGUST 2

- Senior Day
- Public/Farmers Market
- Gymkhana
- Bucket Calf Show
- Night Show Concert - War Hippies

AUGUST 3

- Beef Show
- Public/Farmers Market
- Jr. Livestock Sale
- Ranch Rodeo and Yuma County Fair Queen Crowning

AUGUST 4

- Cowboy Church
- Working Western Horse Show
- Public/Farmers Market
- Stallings Memorial Draft Horse Pull
- Round Robin Contest
- PRCA Rodeo-Tough Enough to Wear Pink
- Rodeo Slack, following PRCA (Barrel Racing and Breakaway Roping)

AUGUST 5

- Yuma County Fair Parade (downtown Yuma); “Rockin on The Plains”
- Barbecue – Sponsored by Premier Farm Credit, Smithfield, Yuma Dairy, C&F Foods Inc., Shop-All & Y-W Electric.
- Rodeo Slack (Steer Roping)
- PRCA Rodeo – Military and First Responder Appreciation
- Rodeo Slack, Following PRCA (Team Roping, Steer Wrestling)

WELCOME BRYCE SHAFFER

We at Y-W Electric Association would like to welcome Bryce Shaffer to the cooperative. He started his employment with Y-W on May 28. Bryce was raised in the Cope, Colorado, area on his family’s farm. He graduated from Arickaree High School then earned his powerline certificate at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction. Bryce enjoys spending time golfing, fishing, and hunting. Welcome to the co-op family, Bryce!



Bryce Shaffer



Merek Charney



Anderson Filla



Trent Hall



Alyssa Roberts



Ryan McCaffrey



Haylee Roseberry

SIX AREA STUDENTS TO ATTEND COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP

The Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is scheduled for the week of July 13-18 at Glen Eden Resort. Y-W Electric will sponsor six of the participants.

On January 16, a panel of judges interviewed a group of applicants from area schools. Anderson Filla, Haylee Roseberry, and Merek Charney of Akron High School, Alyssa Roberts of Yuma High School, and Trent Hall of Idalia High School were selected to be delegates at leadership camp this year. Ryan McCaffrey of Akron High School will return as a Camp Ambassador. *Hacienda Farms 29170xxxx*

Rural electric co-ops from Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, and Oklahoma sponsor outstanding high school students for the camp. Glen Eden Resort in Clark, Colorado sits beside the Elk River and is a beautiful outdoor location in a secluded area.

Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp is designed to provide a better understanding of cooperatives, legislative processes, energy prices, power generation, and the rural electric program. The camp also develops leadership skills in young people.

The camp is run by the participants. At the first meeting, campers elect a board of directors to govern the camp cooperative.

The board then selects a general manager who is responsible for managing the camp activities. Each board member is the chairperson of a committee. Each student has a responsibility to take an active role in the workings of the camp cooperative. He or she may seek an office and have a part in running the camp or volunteer to serve on the various committees. *Jaden D. Valko 35120xxxx*

The committees are responsible for activities such as setting up and enforcing the rules of the camp, planning games, operating the camp canteen, planning sports activities, and planning a dance and banquet. Besides being a lot of fun, the leadership camp also provides an excellent learning experience. Participants have the opportunity to meet over 100 students their own age from a variety of backgrounds. A strong cooperative spirit is developed through accomplishing the many goals set during the week. Adult counselors are present at all times to facilitate the learning experience. YW is proud to send these six students and we hope they have a great time and learn a lot.

WELCOME WYATT HOTZ

We at Y-W Electric Association welcome Wyatt Hotz to the cooperative. He started his employment with Y-W on June 6. Wyatt was raised in Eatonville, Washington. He graduated from Riverside High School in Chhattaory, Washington, then earned his powerline certificate at Western Nebraska Community College in Alliance, Nebraska. Wyatt enjoys spending time lifting weights, playing guitar, and helping extended family on the farm. Welcome to the Y-W family, Wyatt!

 Wyatt Hotz

10 Things You Might Not Know About Power

Restoration [continued from page 7]

- 5. Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can get back on line in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.
- 6. Our employees face many dangers.** Besides working around high-voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars. (If you ever see one of our vehicles parked on the side of the road, please move over and slow down, it's state law.)
- 7. Flickering lights are a good thing.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important because they indicate our equipment worked to prevent a possible outage likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.
- 8. You need a backup plan.** We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a backup plan — remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take. If you're unsure what to do, call us so we can help you prepare for an emergency strategy.
- 9. Our employees have to plan and eat.** If you ever see our trucks in a parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else. *Michael Wernsman 204500xxxx*
- 10. Sometimes it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them make their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.
We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your co-op team at YW Electric is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. If you experience an outage, please let us know by reporting it through our SmartHub app or by giving us a call at 970-345-2291.

BILLING CORNER

Vacations And Your Electric Usage

Summer is here and many of us are thinking of taking vacations. Electricity consumers frequently ask why their bill is so high when they are away from home all day or have left for a weeklong vacation. *Nikki Gelvin and James Cheek 103100xxxx*

Lifestyle and the size of the family determines the amount of energy used, rather than the quantity of time spent in the home. People who are gone all day use greater amounts of electricity in shorter periods of time in the evening. When an individual stays home all day, the electricity use is spread across the day. For example, there is little difference in the amount of laundry or cooking required for a family that remains home compared to a family gone all or part of the day.

Pre-vacation activities may include chores such as house cleaning and extra clothes washing. There is a repeat of this activity when the vacationer returns with clothes to be washed and countless other chores to be performed with the aid of electrical appliances.

Appliances such as furnaces, water heaters, refrigerators, freezers, clocks, and instant on televisions will continue to operate through your vacation. Disconnect, whenever possible, such things as televisions, well pumps, and water heaters. Remember to drain all water lines when necessary.

Please call the billing department at 800-660-2291 if you need your bill forwarded to a temporary address if you plan on being gone for any length of time. Also, to help you determine your usage period, the reading dates for the billing cycle is printed on your bill. As always, we welcome your comments or questions. Have a great summer!



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.)



In May, three members called to claim their \$20 bill credit: Levi and Amanda Klassen, Earl D. Harwood, and Jackelin Sandoval.