

# K.C. ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 2024

## K.C. ELECTRIC STAFF

**David Churchwell**  
General Manager  
dchurchwell@kcelectric.coop

**Bo Randolph**  
Office Manager and CFO  
brandolph@kcelectric.coop

**Darren Fox**  
Operations Manager  
dfox@kcelectric.coop

**George Ehlers**  
Member Services Specialist and  
IT Manager  
gehlers@kcelectric.coop



**ph** 719-743-2431  
**tf** 800-700-3123  
**fax** 719-743-2396  
**web** kcelectric.coop

**Our mission** is to provide our members with safe, reliable service at the lowest cost, while maintaining an environmentally responsible, accountable and sustainable operation now and in the future.

## 78<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

BY DAVID CHURCHWELL GENERAL MANAGER

Thanks to all our members who were able to attend our 78th Annual Meeting in Cheyenne Wells. I know this is a busy time of year for our membership and I'm grateful for the members who attended the meeting.

K.C. Electric Association is served by a nine-member board of directors which is elected from the membership. The nine board of directors consist of five representatives from Kit Carson County, three representatives from Cheyenne County, and one representative from Lincoln County. Each year during the annual meeting three directors are elected to serve a three-year term. During this year's annual meeting, the membership elected two directors from Kit Carson County and one director from Cheyenne County.

Incumbent Cheyenne County director Jerry Allen ran unopposed and was elected to serve a three-year term. Incumbent director Terry Tagtmeyer and Justin Rueb were elected to represent Kit Carson County for the next three years.

Instead of our typical board president and general manager speeches, this year we had a panel discussion, an industry update, and a presentation on our new bill design.

Board President Penny moderated the panel discussion which included Operations Manager Darren Fox and Cheyenne Wells Area Foreman Judge Unruh. Most of their discussion focused on how K.C. crews respond to outages and how the restoration process works so that power can safely be restored as quickly as possible.

I gave an industry update that focused on Colorado's transition to renewable energy. And I discussed the Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Xcel energy transmission line construction occurring in our service territory, and discussed the difference between demand and energy and how it impacts our power bill.

To conclude this portion of the meeting, K.C. Electric Chief Financial Officer Bo Randolph presented the sleek new bill design that office staff have been working on



DAVID CHURCHWELL



General Manager David Churchwell (left) presents Area Foreman Judge Unruh with a token thanking him for his 45 years of dedicated service to K.C. Electric



Kevin Penny presents Bob Bledsoe with his 40 years of service as a board director of K.C. Electric.

for several months. The new bill was introduced with our June 1 billing. If you have any questions regarding the new bill design, please call the Hugo or Stratton office.

During the meeting, K.C. Board President Kevin Penny announced our 2024 scholarship recipients:

- Ms. Brooklyn Henschel of Hi-Plains High School - \$2,000 from K.C. Electric
- Ms. Lauren Hays of Burlington High School - \$2,000 from K.C. Electric
- Ms. Sedonia Isenbart of Stratton High School - \$1,000 from K.C. Electric
- Ms. KaCee Saffer of Arriba-Flagler High School - \$1,000 from K.C. Electric
- Ms. Kali Fox of Stratton High School - \$1,000 from K.C. Electric
- Ms. Jaylen Stone of Arriba-Flagler High School - \$1,000 from K.C. Electric
- Mr. Charlie Tagtmeyer of Stratton High School - \$1,000 from Basin Electric
- Ms. Shaylee Scheler of Scheler Academy - \$500 from Tri-State G&T
- Ms. Jessica Brandon of Stratton High School - \$500 from Tri-State G&T

Congratulations to these scholarship recipients. I wish them good luck in their future endeavors.

Breanna Echols from Kit Carson entertained the crowd prior to our stretch break. It was a pleasure to have her sing a few of her original songs during our annual meeting; she is an incredibly talented singer and songwriter.

Board Director Robert Bledsoe was recognized for 40 years of service, and Cheyenne Wells Area Foreman Judge Unruh was recognized for 45 years of service to the K.C. membership. What an accomplishment for these two men; we thank them for their service.

As usual, we gave away a number of door prizes throughout the meeting. Once again, the grand prize of \$1,500 went unclaimed since the person whose name was drawn was not in attendance. Instead, five members in attendance each walked away with \$100.

As the meeting came to a close, President Penny informed the members that next year's Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, June 5, 2025, in Stratton.

The electric industry in Colorado and throughout the entire country is changing at a very rapid pace and we must continue to adjust to these changes. I can assure you we will keep working hard to deliver the high-quality service you expect and deserve from your cooperative.



▲ Chief Financial Officer Bo Randolph introduces and discusses K.C. Electric's new paper bill format to the members at the 78th Annual Meeting in Cheyenne Wells.



▲ K.C. Electric staff registers members at the Annual Meeting in Cheyenne Wells in June.



▲ Singer-songwriter Breanna Echols provides entertainment at the Annual Meeting.



▲ David Churchwell speaks about the current issues facing the cooperative.



▲ (Left to right): Area Foreman Judge Unruh, Operations Manager Darren Fox, and Board President Kevin Penny answer members' questions during a roundtable discussion at the Annual Meeting.



## Claim Your Savings

Each month, K.C. Electric members have a chance to claim a \$20 credit on their next electric bill. All you must do is find your account number, call the Hugo office at 719-743-2431, and ask for your credit. The account numbers are listed below. How simple is that?

You must claim your credit during the month in which your name appears in the magazine (check the date on the front cover).

**Barry Gerstner, Arapahoe – 11001xxxxx**

**Lisa Martin, Flagler – 5277xxxxx**

**Agnes Wilkerson, Hugo – 6143xxxxx**

**Michael Tompkins, Hugo – 6272xxxxx**

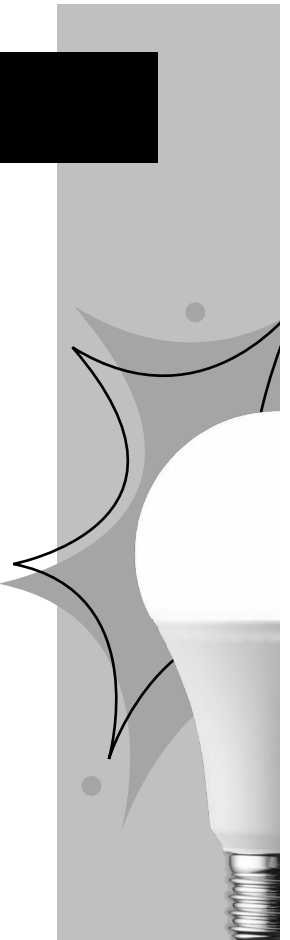
In June, two consumers called to claim their savings: Lance Janousek, Burlington and Duane Hitchcock, Burlington.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources such as lamps, computers, or TVs near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use, and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight, and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort, and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

*Source: energy.gov*



# Where Do You Find Value?

Did you know the average daily cost of electricity is \$4.57, or about \$140 per month?

Electricity fuels our daily life essentials, from heating/cooling equipment to entertainment devices and appliances. Think of how vital power is compared to other everyday purchases. **That's real value.**



\$6

**Morning To-Go Latte**



\$10

**Fast-Food Combo Lunch**



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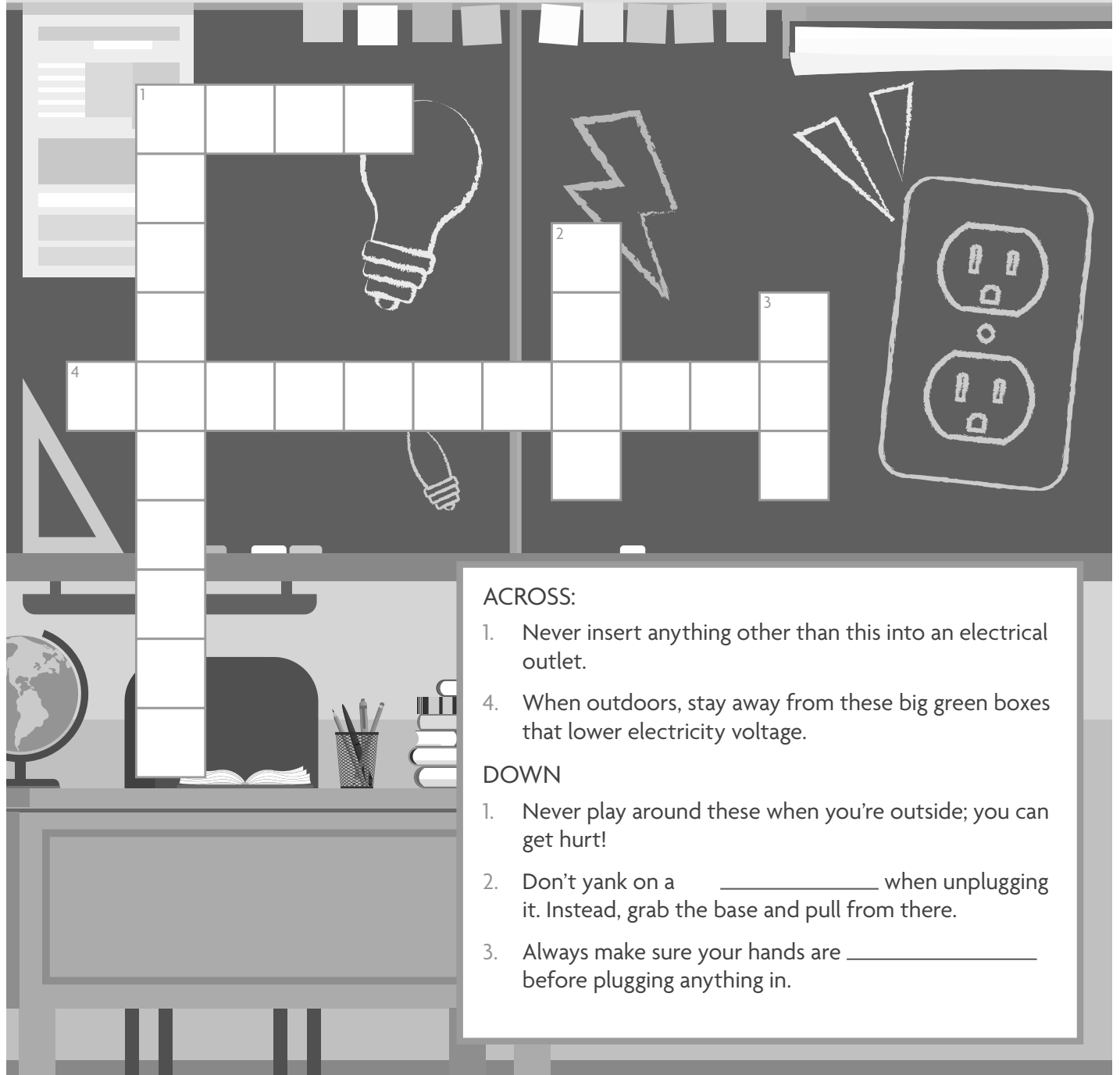
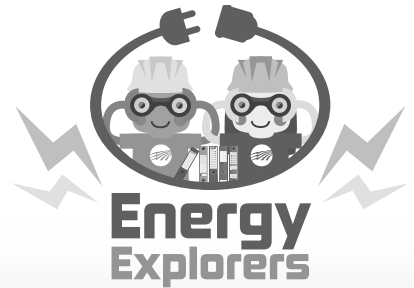
**All-Day Power**

*Sources: Energy Information Administration, MoneyGeek and CNET*

# BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

As you gear up for a new school year, remember to practice electrical safety in the classroom *and* at home. From powering electronic devices to spending time outdoors with friends, always play it safe around electricity.

*Read the clues below to complete the crossword puzzle, then double check your answers in the key.*



**ACROSS:**

1. Never insert anything other than this into an electrical outlet.
4. When outdoors, stay away from these big green boxes that lower electricity voltage.

**DOWN**

1. Never play around these when you're outside; you can get hurt!
2. Don't yank on a \_\_\_\_\_ when unplugging it. Instead, grab the base and pull from there.
3. Always make sure your hands are \_\_\_\_\_ before plugging anything in.

**ANSWER KEY**

3. DOWN: DRY

2. DOWN: CORD

1. DOWN: POWERLINES

4. ACROSS: TRANSFORMER

1. ACROSS: PLUG