

UNITED NEWSLINE

Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

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IMPORTANT DATES

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| SEPTEMBER All Month | National Preparedness Month |
| Sept. 26 | Member Choice Grants Nomination Deadline |
| OCTOBER All Month | National Co-op Month |
| April 15, 2026 | Annual Meeting & Director Election |



Mitigating Wildfire Risk

Proactive Strategies to Protect Members & Communities

October is Recognized as Fire Prevention Month

A small neighborhood on the northeast side of the Gross Dam Reservoir in Coal Creek Canyon was evacuated late last summer after a fire erupted at a work site in the community. The Lake Shore Fire damaged at least two structures and burned nearly seven acres before it was contained. Although United Power members were minimally impacted due to the rapid response of local emergency management teams, the close call demonstrates the reality of wildfire risks in Colorado.

October is nationally recognized as Fire Prevention Month, but for the cooperative, every day is an ongoing effort to improve fire mitigation strategies that protect members and

communities. United Power debuted its first official Wildfire Mitigation Plan in 2019 to highlight existing programs and guide future initiatives. It directs the cooperative to implement industry-leading strategies and utilize innovative technologies that identify and address risk factors. Like *Our Cooperative Roadmap*, the plan evolves each year through review and revision, accounting for emerging technology and new data about the service territory.

“A wildfire mitigation plan is essential for any electric utility and is top of mind at United Power,” said Adam Dillon, Vice President of Operations. “Not only does it prepare us for a wildfire event and help protect our communities, it also helps improve our system reliability and keeps us engaged with the communities we serve.”

The single largest element of the plan is its robust and aggressive approach to vegetation management, which includes clearing rights-of-way and increasing accessibility to electrical equipment for maintenance and outage restoration (*see page 6*). Clearing overgrowth is critical and removes hazards that could create

an ignition or fuel source. The cooperative onboarded a new solution for efficiently scheduling and tracking vegetation management projects called AiDash in 2021. The sophisticated software leverages artificial intelligence with satellite imagery to establish growth patterns and identify risks in real time. The implementation was so successful that AiDash recognized United Power for its impact on wildfire risk reduction.

One of the cooperative’s challenges in wildfire mitigation is serving a rugged mountain territory with difficult terrain for crews to inspect efficiently. United Power recently enhanced its drone inspection program with light detection and ranging imaging – more commonly known as LiDAR – to map high risk areas and conduct line inspections. This imaging helps quickly identify issues so that repairs can be made sooner. The first flights took place late last year with additional focus earlier this summer.

The implementation of AiDash and LiDAR continues the cooperative’s historical trend of reviewing and deploying new technology



www.unitedpower.com

Report an Outage 303-637-1350
Member Services 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.

There has been a lot of talk recently about “saving” certain forms of electric generation, stopping other types, and investing significant resources in technologies that are not ready for prime time. There have also been announcements about building thousands of miles of new transmission line.

When it comes to choices in generation, “all of the above” really needs to be “ALL of the above” if we are going to support electrification across the West and certainly for United Power.

We recognize that diversity of resources is key to effectively running the cooperative, and we are taking action to ensure a safe, reliable, and affordable electric supply.

United Power partnered with Kindle Energy to open Mountain Peak Power in July. It is the newest and most efficient natural gas plant in Colorado. The 162 MW facility in Weld County provides critical electric capacity and is conveniently located near one of our substations that also has an 11 MW battery energy storage system. This project is a great example of our hyper-localization strategy and highlights the vision we laid out in *Our Cooperative Roadmap*. The plant was permitted in 10 months and constructed in 10 months. The same project today would take at least four years to obtain the needed equipment at 50% greater cost.

We are also in the final stages of negotiations for an additional 200 MW of solar, bolstered by 150 MW of battery storage, to replace other expiring thermal generation contracts. These will come online in 2027. The solar facility will be among the largest in Colorado, increasing the carbon-free generation resources in our portfolio to nearly 64% and representing a continued reduction in greenhouse gas emissions since leaving our former wholesale power supplier in May 2024.

The cooperative pioneered the use of distributed batteries with 115 MW spread across our system at nine substations, ranging in size up to 33 MW. Our engineering team has developed a unique way to automatically manage how we charge and deploy stored

energy. These batteries are not only utilized to store energy but also provide critical contingency reserves that save United Power approximately \$300,000 per month.

Recently, United Power joined forces with three other public power utilities – CORE Electric Cooperative, Platte River Power Authority, and Colorado Springs Utilities – to explore creating a regional transmission project, nicknamed Lariat Loop, that will better serve their member-customers. This collaboration aims to reduce electric transmission congestion, enhance system reliability, and expand access to renewable energy sources, all while supporting the State of Colorado's ambitions carbon reduction goals.

Our members are directly involved in the “all of the above” electricity strategy. There are nearly 13,000 solar rooftops in our service territory. We will have a new distributed energy resource management system available in January that will allow additional interaction with our members' resources such as thermostats and electric vehicles. We are rapidly moving to expand our distribution system operations plan, allowing resources from our larger members, such as oil and gas, to be bid into the Southwest Power Pool market coming in April 2026.

The bottom line is quite simple. While we support expanding transmission and investing in future technologies, and applaud efforts to bring a wide range of generation to the West, we must be realistic about what can be done today to support our growing member base. United Power lives the “all of the above” mantra every day. We buy wind. We buy solar. We buy natural gas. We buy hydropower. And yes, at times we even buy coal. Our focus remains on providing the most reliable and responsible resources we can in our commitment to you, our members.

As always, please feel free to reach out with your questions, comments, or concerns. I enjoy hearing from you and appreciate your continued support.

Using Technology to Prevent Wildfires & Outages

in innovative ways that improve system resiliency and mitigate wildfire risk. The cooperative has long been an industry leader for its deployment of automated smart devices, which allows the cooperative to quickly restore power during an outage or cut the flow of power during high-risk fire weather. United Power also uses infrared cameras to detect heat signatures at its substations and sensors strategically located in high-risk areas that can detect smoke and gas particulates.

“We are always looking at ways to improve our mitigation plan,” said Travis Rodlin, Mountain Area Manager. “Technology is ever changing. Our use of artificial intelligence may increase as it evolves to improve speed and efficiency of our evaluations and efforts. Hybrid undergrounding is also being researched within the industry, which could benefit areas where undergrounding was not previously cost effective or possible.”

United Power has developed operational procedures, called Wildfire Safety Mode, that are enacted when the National Weather Service issues Red Flag Warnings. These

warnings mean the combination of weather conditions — high temperatures, low humidity, and strong winds — increase the risk of fire danger. While in wildfire safety mode, the system will automatically de-energize line segments when foreign objects are detected, and they will remain off until crews have completed a manual inspection. Another inspection is completed after power is restored. This may temporarily increase outage restoration times but substantially increases safety and reduces fire risk (*read more on page 7*).

“Ultimately, wildfire mitigation cannot be the sole responsibility of any single utility,” Rodlin said. “It requires a community-wide commitment. Proactive measures like home hardening, creating defensible space, and property-wide mitigation are essential to help our communities be better prepared. That is why we actively collaborate at the county and state levels and will continue to support local efforts to build a more resilient community together.”

Members can learn more about the cooperative’s Wildfire Mitigation Plan at www.unitedpower.com/wildfire-mitigation.

RECIPES



Orange & Cranberry Cornbread

- 1 cup yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 tsp kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1/3 cup honey
- 2 large eggs
- 4 Tbsp melted butter
- 2 Tbsp canola oil
- 1 cup roughly chopped cranberries
- 1 Tbsp finely grated orange zest (1 orange)

Place 10-inch cast-iron skillet on middle rack of oven and preheat to 425°F. Whisk together cornmeal, flour, brown sugar, baking powder, salt, and baking soda in a medium bowl. Then mix sour cream, buttermilk, honey, eggs, three tablespoons melted butter, and canola oil in a separate bowl. Mix the wet and dry ingredients. Fold in cranberries and zest. Swirl one tablespoon butter in heated skillet. Pour batter and bake until toothpick comes out clean, about 20 minutes. Cool in pan for five minutes and then on a wire rack for 10 minutes.

Source: *Serious Eats*

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

Wildfire Mitigation

United Power’s Wildfire Mitigation Plan includes a multi-pronged approach using a number of new devices and technologies to address the greatest wildfire risks across its service territory and protect the local grid.

Covered Conductor

Specially coated “tree wire” is more resistant to wind and tree interference, reducing the overall fire risk

Wildfire Cameras

Strategically placed cameras help with early wildfire detection



Wildfire Detection

Sensors detect smoke and fire ignition and send alerts to emergency response and the utility

Vegetation Management

Regular tree trimming and right-of-way clearing to remove hazardous vegetative fuels away from utility infrastructure



Satellite & Drone Imaging

High-resolution imaging and LiDAR help to prioritize vegetation management and detect needed equipment repairs



Non-Expulsion Fuses

Equipment that contains the arc inside the fuse during faults to reduce fault current and heat energy at the fault site

Smart Grid Technology

Devices that automatically de-energize line sections during periods of high wildfire danger



Wood Pole Protection

Fire-resistant coated mesh protects poles from fire damage

Are You Prepared for a Disaster?

September is National Preparedness Month

Colorado is no stranger to weather-related disasters and record-breaking storm systems. Strong storms may dump feet of snow, generate destructive wind speeds, or spark a devastating wildfire. Each September, the Federal Emergency Management Agency recognizes National Preparedness Month to educate and empower Americans to take simple steps to prepare for and respond to potential emergencies that could affect us where we live, work, and visit. Plan ahead this year and be prepared for disasters.

Make a Plan. Expecting the unexpected begins with having a plan in place. Coordinate with your family, loved ones, or caregivers to respond quickly in a disaster or weather-related emergency. A plan should include the following:

- Create a support network of family, friends, and others, including caregivers, who can assist you during an emergency. Establish two-way communications, transportation, and living arrangements between you and your care community, especially if power is interrupted. Consider how pets or service animals can continue receiving care, if necessary.
- Make sure at least one person in your support network has an extra key to your home, knows where you keep your emergency supplies, and knows how to use life-saving equipment or administer medicine.
- If you undergo routine treatments at a clinic or hospital, find out their emergency plans and work with them to identify backup service providers.
- If you rely on any devices for physical assistance, plan on how you will have those with you during an evacuation, if required.

Build a Kit. Gather supplies for several days, considering your unique needs. Include items such as food and water; medications and medical supplies; any necessary medical documentation, such as Medicaid, Medicare, and other insurance cards; pet supplies; batteries and chargers; etc. You may also include items such as a first aid kit, flashlight, and radio. Remember to keep your kit updated.

For more information on National Preparedness Month, including sample emergency communications plans, organizations you can volunteer with during disasters, and more, visit www.ready.gov.



READER REWARDS

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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:

Operation Round Up turns 30 this year. Tell us why you round up! You could be featured in the newsletter.

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. For complete contest rules, visit www.unitedpower.com/newsline.

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



Laura Strother, Firestone, traveled to Turks and Caicos where she met this lively whale and regaled it with stories of the cooperative.

United Power Pride Photos

Snap a photo with the United Newsline 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.

Dirt, Dust, and Electricity

Sending Aid to Power the Navajo Nation

Miles of vacant desert land often separate homesteads in the sparsely populated territory of the Navajo Nation. The summer months are a grueling combination of temperatures exceeding 100 degrees and very little moisture. And many of the Nation's people still endure the environment without access to electricity.

The Light Up Navajo initiative was launched as a collaboration between the Navajo Tribal Utilities Authority (NTUA) and the American Public Power Association to bridge this gap in electrification. The initiative's sixth project since 2019 aimed to power 175 homes in remote parts of the Nation this summer.

Four United Power lineworkers volunteered to participate in the summer project. They were dispatched to New Mexico for a week in July. The crew included Foreman Zach Reynolds, Journey Lineworkers Ted Pierce and Dillon Scroggins, and Apprentice Lineworker Isaiah Segoviano.

"I did not know what to expect when I volunteered for this project," said Reynolds. "It was a very humbling and eye-opening experience. It is crazy to think that we have the luxury of power every day, but we get upset and complain when the power goes out. Some of the Navajo people have lived more than 50 years without power."

Reynolds and his crew would wake up as early as 5 a.m. to drive to the staging station

before spending nearly an hour on the road to their work site. They spent the week setting poles and hanging line extensions under the hot sun.

It was frequently a challenge to set poles because of the loose dirt embedded with small stones and rocks. Using traditional equipment to dig post holes was nearly impossible due to the conditions, and it was common for holes to collapse.

The week ended with a larger project that included setting 40 poles to power a single residence on an isolated plot of land. Its occupants were the grandchildren of a former World War II code talker, a special unit of Marines who used their native Navajo language to create and transmit coded messages during the war. They were a crucial element in the victory.

"He was a code talker and a prisoner of war," said Reynolds. "He waited his whole life to see his home energized, but he sadly passed just before our project powered his home."

Reynolds said the NTUA emphasized meeting the families who received power.

"Meeting the families and hearing their testimonies was one of the most memorable experiences," he said. "Until you see how they live, you don't have any idea how impactful and life-changing this was for them."

United Power crews have volunteered to help with Light Up Navajo on three separate



Line crews work to set poles and hang line in the New Mexico region of the Navajo Nation. Loose dirt and rocks along with scorching heat made conditions challenging.

projects since July 2024. The cooperative will continue to support this initiative on future projects.



DRIVE CLEAN
COLORADO

NATIONAL DRIVE ELECTRIC MONTH

EV SHOWCASE

EV DISPLAYS & TEST DRIVES

SEPTEMBER 27
9 AM - NOON

FREE!



ENTER TO WIN
AN E-BIKE!



UNITED POWER

CARBON VALLEY SERVICE CENTER
9586 E I-25 FRONTAGE ROAD



Member Choice Grants Deadline Nominations Accepted Through Sept. 26

United Power members can nominate local nonprofits that are providing services to cooperative members for Member Choice Grants through Sept. 26. Your nominations help the co-op identify which causes are important to the local community.

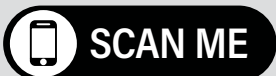
Since the program's launch in 2020, members have helped United Power recognize 30 nonprofits. These organizations provide services addressing housing and food insecurity; mental health and equine therapy; youth empowerment and job training; medical devices and support; and more.

Nominations must be received by Sept. 26 to ensure consideration. Nonprofits must provide services to United Power members. Recipients will be announced in the December newsletter.

The process is quick and simple. Tell us a little about the organization and why you believe it deserves support from the cooperative. To access the nomination form or learn more about Member Choice Grants, visit www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice.

Nominate A Nonprofit!

www.unitedpower.com/memberchoice



Why United Power Trims Trees

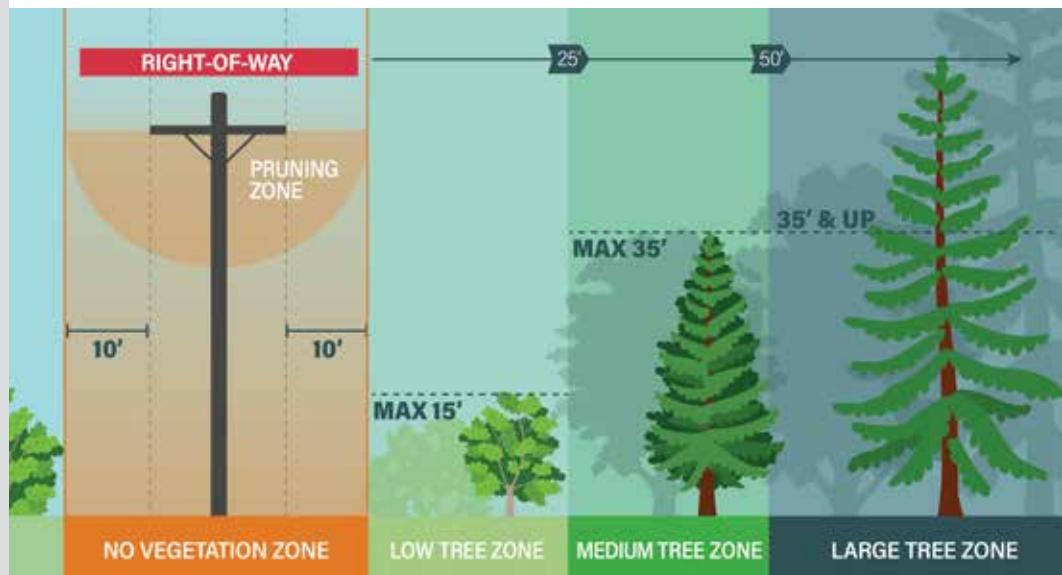
Trimming or Removing Problem Trees Helps Ensure System Reliability & Member Safety

Trees are often the favorite aspect of a landscape, and everyone appreciates the beauty, value, and shade that a tree provides. Overgrown trees and vegetation around overhead power lines or near poles and other utility equipment threaten reliability and safety and increases wildfire risk. That is why United Power invests time and resources into regular tree trimming and removal operations in utility rights-of-way.

Trees are susceptible to damage from strong storms and winter weather. Regularly monitoring rights-of-way helps identify where trees could pose a risk to electrical equipment. Loose branches, damaged limbs, or new growth can be removed and prevent potential outages. Removal also allows United Power line crews to easily access equipment during maintenance work or outage restoration without having to clear vegetation, which can delay recovery and extend outages. "Hazard trees" and other excess vegetation that could potentially contact utility equipment also increases the risk of wildfires. United Power dedicates significant resources to reducing the threat of fires and keeping the community safe.

The cooperative uses experienced tree trimming contractors who are specifically trained to remove vegetation near high voltage electric equipment. They prioritize densely forested parts of the territory and areas where overgrowth is more prevalent with the help of artificial intelligence software to manage and track projects. Crews will trim around equipment when it is safe to do so, but they may have to remove any vegetation that could compromise equipment when trimming is not sufficient. Members are contacted in advance when tree trimming contractors will be active in their area.

United Power urges members to contact the cooperative when they recognize trees that are growing into power lines or when overgrowth is encroaching on electrical equipment. Members can learn more about vegetation management and report concerns online at www.unitedpower.com/vegetation. Information about home beautification projects, including plant spacing around electrical equipment, can be found at www.unitedpower.com/plant-safe.



What are Utility Rights-of-Way?

Utility rights-of-way designate access for utilities and must be kept clear so that crews are able to access equipment for maintenance and repair. United Power maintains a minimum of 10 feet of clearance on either side of utility equipment within the right-of-way and trims or removes vegetation growing under power lines.

Although a utility right-of-way may cross a member's property, United Power is obligated to keep these areas clear of any vegetation blocking equipment and potentially causing a threat to safety or reliability. Vegetation around electrical equipment that cannot be trimmed safely may need to be removed entirely, especially if it could damage or compromise equipment.

Wildfire season brings unique challenges for utilities to keep the lights on and protect the communities they serve. When fire danger increases, your cooperative adjusts how the electric system operates to reduce risk. Here are the ways wildfire danger can affect your power:



Normal Settings

On a typical day, the local grid is set to balance reliability and safety. Devices on the system can detect and “blink through” objects on power lines, like a tree branch brushing a line, without causing an outage. This may result in momentary blinks while the system automatically re-energizes the circuit.



Wildfire Safety Mode

During extreme fire danger or Red Flag Warnings, United Power’s system is set to the most sensitive settings. Automated devices immediately interrupt power if they detect objects like tree branches touching lines. Crews will inspect the area to ensure the line is clear before power is restored. This measure may result in more frequent or longer unplanned outages, but the extra precautions ensure the safety of the local community and electric system.



Public Safety Power Shutoff

United Power does not plan to use Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) on its local system, however, transmission providers that supply power to United Power may preemptively shut off power during extreme fire-risk times. While rare, these outages are beyond the co-op’s direct control. United Power is committed to attempting to contact members in the event of a planned safety shut off and keeping members informed along the way. Members are encouraged to update their contact information so the cooperative can notify them of planned outage events. Learn more ways to prepare at www.unitedpower.com/power-shutoff.

October is National Co-op Month

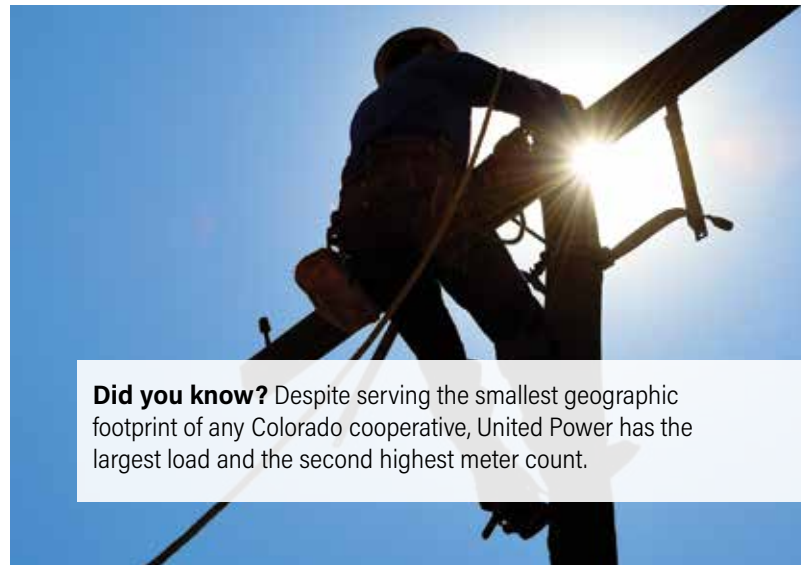
Members Invited to Celebrate Cooperative Contributions

United Power is an electric distribution cooperative. That means it is wholly owned by the members it serves and is designed to meet community needs. Co-ops exist across a multitude of markets and industries, including food and agriculture, finance and banking, consumer retail, insurance, healthcare, and more. Distribution co-ops, like United Power, were formed more than 85 years ago when farmers and business owners in rural areas of the country recognized the need and benefit of electricity and found a way to provide it. Today, there are more than 900 such cooperatives providing power to nearly 75% of the country’s landmass and contributing more than 40% of the nation’s electric grid.

October is National Co-op Month, and members are invited to join in celebrating the contributions of cooperatives in our lives. Co-ops are different from their for-profit counterparts by a commitment to empowering local communities and encouraging a spirit of service.

United Power serves some of the fastest growing cities not just in Colorado but in the country. The cooperative is an innovative energy partner helping meet the growing needs of these transforming communities. It also helps coordinate economic development, supports local nonprofits aiding residents, and sponsors programs that enhance each community. Many employees live, work, play, and serve locally. Their faces are recognizable on local chamber of commerce and nonprofit boards or at fairs, festivals, and other community events.

United Power puts money back into the community every year through scholarships, youth development, sponsorships, and more. The cooperative awarded more than \$35,000 in scholarships to local high school students in the spring and four additional scholarships worth \$7,500 to students enrolled in a dedicated lineworker program in December. Six students were selected to represent the co-op on



Did you know? Despite serving the smallest geographic footprint of any Colorado cooperative, United Power has the largest load and the second highest meter count.

youth leadership trips to Washington, D.C. and Steamboat Springs, where peers elected one of them to return as an ambassador next summer. This summer, United Power was once again the Adams County Fair’s presenting sponsor, in addition to supporting community celebrations and events in Fort Lupton, Frederick, Mead, Keenesburg, Gilpin County, and more.

While United Power’s first priority is ensuring the safe and reliable distribution of electricity to its residential, commercial, and industrial members, the cooperative is more than just your neighborhood energy provider. It is powered locally by local people, supporting the growth, development, and prosperity of the communities they – and you – call home.

Inside This Issue

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Return to Navajo Nation

Line crews from the cooperative helped power families for the first time.

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Why We Trim Trees

United Power trims and removes vegetation for safety and reliability.

Page 6



Fire Safety on the Grid

Read more about how United Power is looking out for the communities it serves.

Pages 1, 6, & 7



National Co-op Month

Members are invited to recognize and celebrate co-op contributions.

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STAY CONNECTED WITH YOUR CO-OP

- www.unitedpower.com
- [/united-power-inc](https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-power-inc)
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CONTACT YOUR CO-OP

Member Services303-637-1300

Outage Line303-637-1350

CONGRATS READER REWARDS WINNERS

1st Place: Maria Jepson, Commerce City

2nd Place: John Holcomb, Mead
Heather Perez, Thornton

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

- | | |
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Information for the members of United Power, Inc.

UNITED NEWSLINE

500 Cooperative Way, Brighton, CO 80603

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

