



# [MCREA News]

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MAILING ADDRESS  
P.O. Box 738  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701-0738

STREET ADDRESS  
20169 U.S. Highway 34  
Fort Morgan, CO 80701-4401

970-867-5688 [phone]  
970-867-3277 [fax]

customerservice@mcrea.org [email]  
www.mcrea.org [web]

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*Morgan County Rural Electric Association is a member-owned cooperative that exists to provide goods and services that enhance the quality of life in rural America.*



Colorado's 2011 Youth Tour delegates meet with Rep. Cory Gardner (R-Dist. 4)

## LOCAL TEEN RETURNS FROM NATION'S CAPITAL

Heather Brown of Wiggins recently participated in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program in Washington, D.C. sponsored by Morgan County Rural Electric Association. She spent a week in Washington, D.C., with 24 peers representing electric cooperatives from across Colorado. Each June, an action-filled week provides high school students opportunities to learn firsthand what it is like to be involved in politics, community service and the energy industry.

Students started the weeklong trip by learning about co-ops and electricity, touring the Colorado state capitol and meeting with state senator Shawn Mitchell. In Washington the students participated in a congressional simulation that helped them to understand the difficulty of representing people with diverse interests. They had many questions to ask during their meetings with Sens. Mark Udall (D) and Michael Bennet (D) and Reps. Cory Gardner



Heather Brown in Washington, D.C.

R-Dist. 4) and Scott Tipton (R-Dist. 3). Rep. Tipton also took time out of his hectic schedule to show the students the Capitol, including the view of the Washington Mall from the Speaker of the House's private balcony — a thrill for everyone.

Understanding patriotism and seeing the memorials to those who fought for the freedoms we enjoy today is another important part of the trip. Also important is meeting new people representing co-ops from across the nation. Imagine a ballroom with more than 1,500 students cheering for their states. National Youth Day, sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, provided an opportunity for students to learn from public figures and other inspirational

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speakers.

This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion. Schlappi shares his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

Heather said she had the experience of a lifetime meeting with peers from other states. "The Youth Tour was so amazing," she said. "It was really cool to meet my senators and representative, and learn about politics up close. Plus, I made friends from other states and experienced history firsthand. It really made me think about what it means to be an American and show that people my age do care about this country."

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of Morgan County REA, the Colorado Rural Electric Association and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for 47 years. Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 40,000 high school juniors and seniors who visit their U.S. congressional delegations, attend energy and grassroots government education sessions and sight-see in Washington.

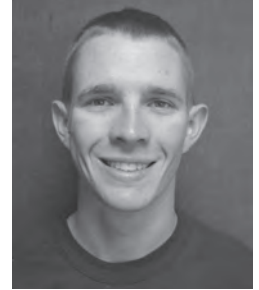
For more information on how you can participate in MCREA's Washington Youth Tour program, contact member services at 970-867-5688 or go to [www.mcrea.org](http://www.mcrea.org).



Angie Larson



Alan Mason



Justin Stair

## MCRECA WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEES

**MORGAN COUNTY REA PROUDLY WELCOMES THREE NEW EMPLOYEES — ANGIE LARSON, ALAN MASON AND JUSTIN STAIR** — to the MCREA family. (Andrew and Kimberly Boldt, acct # 1940100)

Angie began her duties as staff assistant the end of February. Her job duties include offering management staff administrative support and assistance. She and her husband, Cactus, live in Fort Morgan.

Alan and Justin both began with Morgan County REA as apprentice linemen in June. They have joined the MCREA line crews performing the various and all-important duties of keeping the power flowing to MCREA members.

Alan is a 2010 graduate of Fort Morgan High School and was a winner of the MCREA line worker scholarship the same year. He graduated line school from Mesa State College in Grand Junction this year. He resides in the Fort Morgan area.

Justin comes to Morgan County by way of Grangeville, Idaho, his hometown. He graduated line school this year from Northwest Lineman College in Meridian, Idaho. He and his wife, Amy, have a 10-month old daughter, Amelia.

Morgan County REA's board, staff and employees welcome these three valuable employees to the MCREA family.

### Win \$25 Off Your Electric Bill

Each month Morgan County REA gives two lucky members a \$25 credit on their electric bill, just by reading *Colorado Country Life*.

Congratulations, John A. Samples (account #2317400). You saw your name and account number in the June edition of *Colorado Country Life*. You received a \$25 credit on your bill.

Sorry, James and Mary Boyd (account # 1961900). We didn't hear from you. Your name and account number were also in June's *Colorado Country Life*.

There are two MCREA member names and account numbers hidden somewhere in this issue. If you find your name and account number, call member services at 970 867-5688 by July 29 to claim a \$25 credit on your electric bill.

## Help Us Communicate With You

To ensure top quality service for our members, we are updating our membership contact information — including cell phone number and email address — so we can better communicate with you. Just cut out this form, fill it out and return it to us with your payment. Or better yet, fill out the information on our website at [www.mcrea.org](http://www.mcrea.org). Everyone who responds will be entered into a drawing to be held in August. Four lucky members will receive a \$25 credit on their MCREA bill. Don't worry, we won't load your inbox or cell phone with unnecessary emails or provide your information to anyone for any reason. We just want to communicate things like planned or unplanned outage information, emergency safety details, member surveys and other information quickly. Thanks for your participation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Contact (circle one) Home Cell

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Medical apparatus/necessities that require electricity (i.e. oxygen) \_\_\_\_\_

By returning this form, you are entered to win a \$25 credit on your electric bill!



# COLLEGE FIRE SAFETY TIPS

**MOST STUDENTS ATTENDING SCHOOLS FAR** from their hometown or state find college to be their first opportunity for independent living. College provides new and exciting opportunities, including community living for students in dormitories, fraternity and sorority houses and other locations, but not even an impeccable safety record can safeguard someone against the actions of other residents in shared college housing facilities. Therefore, it is extremely important to develop and practice an escape route should there be a fire.



The Delta Upsilon fraternity at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst was destroyed by a fire started by an unattended candle. In addition, smoke alarms in the building had been covered by plastic and tape so that they would not be activated during parties.

Fire is the third leading cause of accidental death in the United States. A residential fire occurs every 82 seconds in the U.S., and, once burning, the size of a fire doubles every 30 seconds. If a fire occurs in your building, evacuate as soon as possible. Do not try to act bravely or put the fire out. That is a fight too easily lost and is just not worth it.

You should have an escape plan. Follow it at the first sign or smell of a fire. Never exit a door if it feels hot to the touch, as flames are likely on the other side. It is also a good idea to know where all the fire extinguishers are located in the building.

## PULL THE PLUG ON YOUR ENERGY COSTS.

Save \$222 a year by unplugging things and turning off power strips. What else can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).

### Stop fire before it starts

In community living facilities, all residents must do their part to make their dwelling safer. Here are a few easy steps you can take to help prevent fire through electrical hazards:

- Look for the Underwriters Laboratories, or UL, mark on all products. It means samples of the product have been tested for safety.
- Make sure outlets are not overloaded.
- Check electrical wires and cords to make sure they are not worn or frayed.
- Never run electrical wires or extension cords under carpets or heavy items, and never bunch them up behind a hot appliance. (Donnie and Kelly Jo Gilliland, Acct.# 2124200)
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Make sure building management installs at least one smoke alarm on each level, and make sure they are maintained and tested regularly.

### Fire facts

Fire is a chemical reaction involving fuel, oxygen and heat. Take away any of these three elements and a fire cannot last. There are four classifications of fires dependent on their fuels:

- Class A — Ordinary materials like wood, paper, cloth, rubber and plastics. Most home fires fall into this category.
- Class B — Combustible liquids, such as gasoline, kerosene, alcohol, paint and propane. These tend to be more severe and dangerous than Class A fires because liquid fuel is highly flammable and can propagate easily.
- Class C — Electrical equipment like appliances, switches and power tools. These fires are extremely dangerous due to added shock hazards and because the source is energized. An energized fire source supplies a steady and constant ignition condition.
- Class D — Combustible metals like magnesium, titanium, potassium and sodium. These fires burn at an extremely high temperature and can react violently with water or other chemicals.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories

## Looking for Story Ideas

Morgan County REA is looking for human interest stories from the membership to spotlight in future editions of *Colorado Country Life*.

Story ideas could be just about anything involving our members, from interesting businesses or occupations to compelling historical stories as well as fun and exciting things our members are doing. We would prefer that submissions be focused around Morgan County REA members.

Please submit all story ideas to MCREA Communications Specialist Geoff Baumgartner by calling 970-867-5688 or emailing [geoff@mcrea.org](mailto:geoff@mcrea.org).



Wednesday, August 3

Judging begins at 12:30 p.m.

Morgan County  
Fairgrounds in Brush

Come out and enjoy watching the area's best Dutch oven cooks do their thing, then stick around to sample the dishes following the judging. See you there.



The Fort Morgan State Bank & Fort Morgan Chamber Foundation's

# Ag Appreciation Days



## September 1st & 2nd, 2011



Ryan Hoffman  
2011 Ag Scholarship Winner



Rebecca May  
2011 Ag Scholarship Winner

**Thursday, September 1st**  
**Free Barbeque**  
 (for those who make their living in the agriculture industry)  
**5:00 PM - 7:00 PM**  
 Morgan County REA picnic area  
 Vendor booths – Kid's activities  
 Live Auction at 6:00 PM

**Friday, September 2nd**  
**Golf Tournament**  
 Fort Morgan Golf Course  
 8:00 AM Shotgun Start

**All proceeds from Ag Appreciation Days goes toward the Fort Morgan Chamber Foundation Agriculture Scholarship Program.**



Travis Covelli  
2011 Ag Scholarship Winner



Ezekial Mora  
2011 Ag Scholarship Winner

