



A New Pavilion
for Ridgway
Athletic Park



How
Scholarships
are Evaluated



Take Advantage
of 2020 Rebates!

JULY 2020

ENERGYWISE



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YOUR SAN MIGUEL POWER MEMBER NEWSLETTER



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Both Offices Open:
M - TH, 7:00a.m. - 5:30p.m.

www.smpa.com
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In the event of a power outage,
contact your local SMPA office to
reach our 24-hour dispatch.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

energywise@smpa.com
(970) 626-5549 x212

SAFETY TIPS

Do you see branches on
or near your property
that are growing into
power lines?

Never attempt to trim
these branches yourself.

Instead call:
(970) 864-7311 ext.119

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
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Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intakeusda.gov.

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Ridgway Athletic Park Pavilion Receives Support from SMPA, Basin Electric and Mystery Donor

In the fundraising game, the phrase, "I'll match three dollars to every one that you raise," is not a common one. Yet, that's the challenge that was put before the Town of Ridgway in raising funds for a much-needed Athletic Park Pavilion. "The Pavilion will include shelter from the sun and snow, storage for local athletic groups like soccer, and a concession stand for groups to operate during events," says Shay Coburn, Town Planner.


In mid-2019, an anonymous donor offered the generous match in order to augment Ridgway's events field, as well as its athletic programs, and the "Perk Up the Park Pavilion Project" was born. In December, Coburn requested \$5,000 from San Miguel Power Association (SMPA). The Board voted to award the town of Ridgway \$2,500. Additionally, Director Kevin Cooney donated \$200 of his Director donation funds for a total of \$2,700. This number was then submitted to SMPA's Cooperative Partner, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Basin committed a dollar-for-dollar match, bringing the total to \$5,400.

This donation, combined with many others from local individuals and organizations, helped the town reach its goal. The community donated over \$85,000, while the Town committed to contributing in-kind support valued at more than \$25,000. The anonymous donor also contributed an additional \$100,000 bringing the project total to about \$516,000.

Now, comes the fun part. The Pavilion is currently under construction with completion expected before the end of the year. "We're so grateful to all the donors including SMPA, Director Cooney and Basin Electric!" said Coburn. "This pavilion will be a true community asset, and even though the major donor remains unnamed, I hope they will know that their generosity was an inspiration to so many others."



SMPA would also like to thank its cooperative partner, **Basin Electric Power Cooperative** for matching our donation to this project.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



...From the Viewpoint of an SMPA Scholarship Evaluator

Many are aware of SMPA's Scholarships program, and how it supports the educational goals of high school graduates throughout the territory year after year. But the scholarship selection process, with its removal of applicant and evaluator names, can be a bit of a "black box."

Although our volunteer evaluators, who represent the local fields of education and community service, remain necessarily nameless, their experience can be shared. To this end, we asked one of these unsung heroes a few questions about the recent evaluation cycle:



How difficult is it to evaluate scholarship applications? How do you ultimately attribute a numeric score to the students' submissions?

It was extremely difficult evaluating the applications. You have to have a base that you work out for what is a perfect score, what you require for it to be perfect and then compare each individual application against that base.

What conclusions can you draw about the skills and abilities these students are bringing with them to college?

There are some amazing young adults that will bring so much to any school/job that they choose.

What can you tell about the ideas and attitudes and concerns of our young people, using this year's applicants as representatives?

So many of these kids are bringing a true sense of love and wonder for our planet into adulthood. They truly want to make this a better place to live.

What surprises, if any, did you encounter as you read through the students' submissions?

I was surprised that most of the applicants were very aware of the great things that SMPA does for its customers.

Finally, how did you feel after having read through these applications? Did the experience affect you in any way? How?

I felt so proud to know that the future of our planet has some amazing people looking out for future generations. I also felt inspired by so many kids working so hard to make their dreams come true.

On behalf of the students, parents, teachers, administrators and communities, we thank these volunteers for their time and efforts to promote higher education and training for our young people. It couldn't happen without them!

What Will You Remember about 2020?

Why not make it the year you started saving money with energy-efficient appliances?

With economies down and budgets stressed, it's natural to think about ways to save money. An ENERGY STAR-certified appliance will use anywhere from 10 to 50 percent less energy each year than a non-energy efficient equivalent. Given that home appliances are rated to last 10 to 20 years, many calculations reveal substantial savings over the life of a given appliance.

Even better, Tri-State Generation and Transmission and San Miguel Power Association are pleased to help accelerate your break-even date with rebates for energy-efficient appliances.

You can now apply for rebates online at: www.ecoactionpartners.org/smparebates (preferred) and mail-in applications are still accepted.

Email rebates@smpa.com with questions or call our office at 970-728-1340.

Note these updates to our rebates program in 2020:

- Appliance rebates now apply to new purchases without replacement of an old unit.
- You can get \$100 (up to total cost) for disposing of refrigerators and freezers without the purchase of a new unit.
- Bruin Waste Management will pick up from your house for around \$100 depending on your location.
- Air-Source Heat Pump rebates have been significantly increased to \$900 per ton up to 2 tons, and an additional \$450 per ton above 2 tons.



Rebates Available from SMPA:

- Electric Heat Pumps
- Residential LEDs
- Kitchen Appliances
- Fridge/Freezer Disposal Only
- Water Heaters
- Energy Audits
- Thermal Storage (ETS)
- Power Equipment
- Electric Vehicle Charging
- Electric Vehicles
- Commercial LEDs
- Walk-in Coolers
- Irrigation Motors
- Variable Speed Drives

Thanks to EcoAction Partners for administering these rebate programs!



Do you wish you could pay your power bill at a different time?

A new program from SMPA may be right for you. Learn more about SmartPay. www.smpa.com/content/smartpay

- No security deposits, late fees, or reconnect fees.
- Pay whenever it makes sense for you.
- Convenient texts or emails help you keep track of your balance.



SMPA POWER PLAY

This Month's Puzzle: C THIR CLEER GHOST RECITAL
 Hint: This would be a Lighting Technician's favorite band from the 1970's.

SUBMIT YOUR ANSWER and be entered into a drawing for a fun prize to:

EnergyWise
 PO Box 1150
 Ridgway, CO 81432

Last Month's Scramble Answer: MICHAEL FARADAY
 Last Month's Winner: Renee Koski

Notice: We're a bit behind. If you have won the Power Play, but have not received your prize, please be patient, we'll get to you when the time is right. Promise.

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