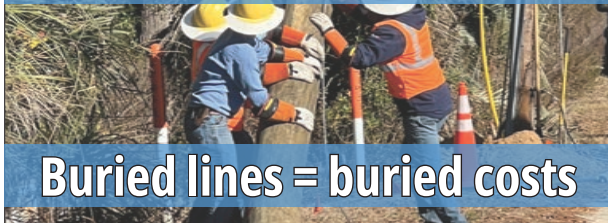


Power Line

YOUR CO-OP NEWS | JULY 2026



Buried lines = buried costs

A question we hear, especially after a major storm: Why doesn't Clay Electric just put more lines underground? It sounds like a common-sense solution.

It sounds like a simple fix. The reality is more complicated, and a lot more expensive.

The cost is massive. Burying power lines can cost five to 10 times more than overhead construction, and sometimes more in areas with established roads, landscaping, wetlands or high water tables. For a member-owned cooperative, that cost does not disappear. Every dollar spent on infrastructure is reflected in the rates members pay. Undergrounding even a portion of Clay Electric's system would mean a significant, long-term rate increase for members.

Underground doesn't mean storm-proof. Buried cables are still vulnerable to flooding, soil movement and Florida's high water table. Above-ground equipment, including the pad-mounted transformers seen in many neighborhoods, remains exposed to the weather. The idea that burying lines eliminates outages simply isn't accurate.

Repairs are longer, not shorter. When an overhead line is damaged, crews can often spot the problem from the road and begin repairs quickly. A fault in a buried cable requires specialized equipment to locate and excavation to reach. After a major storm, those extra hours matter.

Clay Electric uses underground lines where they make sense. But burying large portions of the system would come with a major cost, and it would not eliminate outages. Reliable power matters, and so does affordability.

BOARD MEETINGS

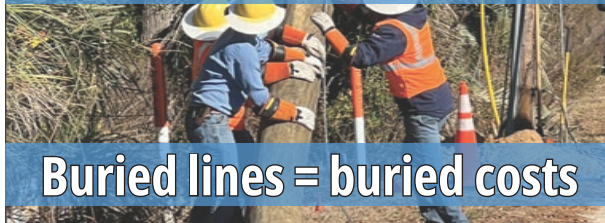
Clay Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees will meet at the headquarters building in Keystone Heights at 11 a.m. (or shortly thereafter) on July 30, Aug. 27 and Sept. 22.

ClayElectric.com

800-224-4917

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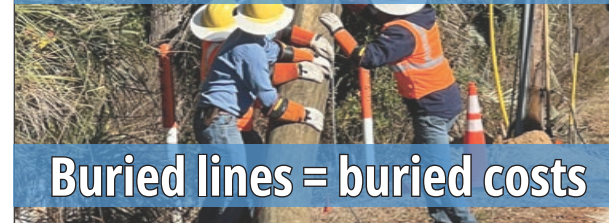
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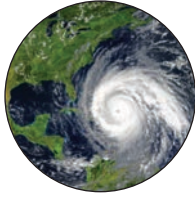
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Download 2026 Hurricane Preparedness Guide

June marks the official start of hurricane season, and the 2026 **Hurricane Preparedness Guide** is here.

Colorado State University forecasters expect a slightly below-average season, but still predict 13 named storms, including six hurricanes.

It only takes one. Download the guide at **ClayElectric.com/storm-center** or scan the QR code:

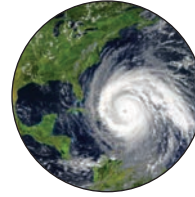


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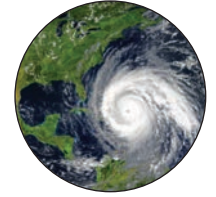


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Improperly using a generator can create dangerous conditions, especially when power is backed into the co-op's distribution system. Backfeeding can lead to **injury** or **death**. Never connect a portable generator to a breaker panel or wall outlet. Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty outdoor extension cord. Standby generators must have a **transfer switch**.



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Outdoor light out?

To report an outdoor light that's out or not working properly, sign in to your MyClayElectric app and select **More**, then **Contact Us**, **Report An Issue** and **Outdoor Light Problem**.

If it's your light, you can tap **Share Current Location**. For another light, include the location and details in the form. You can also call **1-800-224-4917**.



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