

## Meet your co-op

### Glen Archuleta finishes up 30-year career at REC

“I was somewhere out in the boonocks—lost— looking for a meter outside of Jaroso. I found my way eventually but was way off schedule by then. Ruben [Heredia] and Joanne [Self] didn’t hesitate to help me finish the route. We got back into the office after 8 p.m. that night. That’s the kind of things I’ll always remember about REC; we were family!” REC employee Glen Archuleta reminisced.

Glen hit his 30-year anniversary on July 13 and retired the next day, finishing up a career with REC that has spanned three decades. Glen began as a meter reader in 1992 making about \$6/hour. He made dozens of memories traveling the Valley and met many friends along the way.

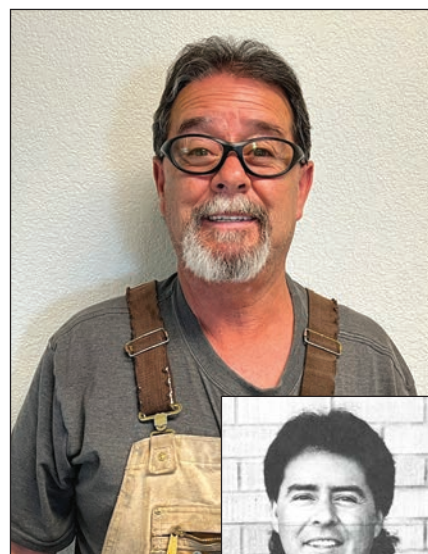
He fondly remembers spending several cold winter days above Creede reading meters with Ruben, often getting the snow machines stuck. Glen recounts numerous times of snowshoeing in the Ponderosa area then having to dig down to read the meters through feet of snow. He enjoyed doing this for 18 years.

Oftentimes he would finish up his route early and head to the mechanic shop to help out. This eventually led to a dual-duty position in February 2011. He would spend two days/week reading meters and two days/week working as a mechanic helper. As meters became fully automated, Glen

fully transitioned to the mechanic shop in November 2011. He’s been repairing tires, performing services and chasing parts ever since.

Glen has worked under three CEOs during his tenure, but recollects a special memory of his first CEO, Chuck Archer. He had been in an accident and was out of work for a while; Chuck gave him a week of his own PTO

to make sure he would be taken care. Then a week later, Glen’s mother passed away, and Chuck gave him another week of his PTO. This is a memory that Glen will always keep with him and appreciate.



Glen Archuleta  
2022,



Inset: Glen, 1992

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### Chad Willschau returning to his roots

Del Norte native and Sargent graduate Chad Willschau has returned to his Valley roots and taken a lineman position at REC.

Following summer work in 2000 and 2001 at REC, Chad was convinced by many of the REC guys (Ryan Christensen, Ronnie Spencer & Terryl Jensen were a few that he remembers) to go to lineman school. Following his graduation from Western Colorado Community College’s lineworker program, he worked for Sangre de Cristo Electric Association, then for the City of Fort Collins.

“After living in the city for 15 years, I was ready to come back to where I started. I was tired of dealing with the traffic and just wanted a change with less



Chad Willschau

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Loren Howard

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### CHAD

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stress,” he said.

“We did nearly all underground work in Fort Collins, so learning the overhead has been new for me. I’m still learning how things are done at REC and familiarizing myself with some areas of the Valley,” Chad mentioned.

“The terrain and altitude, as well as climbing poles have been a challenge for me, but at least it’s not as hot here. Nothing against the guys in Fort Collins, but we work much harder here than I did in Fort Collins,” he laughed.

Chad’s hobbies include old cars, Legos and yoga. He’s looking forward to the winters in the Valley and getting to spend time skiing with friends.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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*Diane Rice, Monte Vista*

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## Loren Howard

### Doing what's important

Almost every organization has some sort of plan for the future whether that is tomorrow's tasks, next week's agenda, a monthly schedule or next year's goals. This is often called "Strategic Planning" which sometimes results in a nice 2-inch document that sits on the shelf only to be picked up again when someone remembers "Don't we have a Strategic Plan?" So, years ago I attended a training on developing "Strategic Plans" and the presenter proposed calling it "Strategic Doing." I found that useful and have tried to make any planning sessions have a very actionable outcome.

REC Board of Directors sat down last year and developed a plan for the next two years with four strategic areas of focus – Workforce, Reliability, Financial and Communication. In each of these areas, staff and directors identified three or four business goals which are the actionable goals to accomplish in the next two years.

In the area of workforce, the business goals identified are:

- Hire a new CEO by Q1 2023

- Workforce development – leadership and technical training

- Build a plan to promote the community and culture

- Continue a competitive compensation program

I am going to pause there for a few words and write about the first bullet point.

In November of 2011, I came to work for REC as the Chief Executive Officer. When I was hired, I told the Board that I would stay for 10 years. Doing the math, this coming November will be 11 years, so the time has come for me to retire, as I like

to say, "for the third time." This writing is really the first public acknowledgment of my intent to retire from REC.

At the end of July, the Board of Directors will be selecting a firm to find and hire a new Chief Executive Officer. This process will take a few months, so the expectation is that by February 2023 a new CEO will take over the leadership of REC. In the coming months, I will reflect a bit more on my time with REC, but for now, enough.

Finishing the other business goals in the strategic area of workforce, REC's workforce development has many tracks including several apprenticeship programs. About five years ago, employees of REC developed a community engagement program which is called "Small Groups." All REC employees are a part of a small group of about nine employees, and each group has an annual goal to work on a community project. Groups have helped construct playground equipment for communities, assisted at food banks and even visited children in hospitals. Even before the "Small Groups," REC has given time and money to communities in the San Luis Valley.

The last business goal of competitive compensation is very important, as hiring and retaining employees in the electric utility industry is very competitive. REC has to compete on a national level for most of the positions. If compensation is not on par with at least other Colorado electric utilities, employees can easily find work anywhere in the state.

Next month, I will address another of the strategic areas identified by the Board's work and the business goals associated with it.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

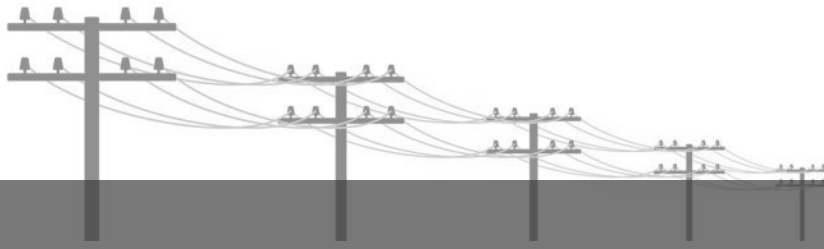
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# GLEN

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Another memory was more recent. “My REC brothers and sisters came and split wood for me this past winter while I was sick; that was special,” he said.

After retiring, Glen plans to spend more time welding. He has helped his brother on some metal art pieces, as well as done some of his own and hopes to expand that hobby. He’s currently working on a cool dolphin project for a former coworker and is proud of an eagle piece he completed as well. “Retirement is scary; it might be better, and it might be worse, but I’m ready for it. I hope to stay busy with my welding and spending time with my family,” he stated.

Glen was born and raised in Monte Vista; his wife, Teresa and he share three grown children: Glen Jr., Ashly and Heather as well as six grandchildren (plus twins on the way).

In his parting words, Glen says, “I will miss all the people I work with; that’s the best part of being here. I love you all and God bless you and your families.”

Good luck in retirement, Glen, REC will miss you!

## What did Glen say?

Question	July 2022	October 1997
<i>Favorite Season</i>	Spring	Fall
<i>Favorite Sport</i>	Football & baseball	Hunting
<i>Favorite Pastime</i>	Welding	Being with my family
<i>Favorite Food</i>	Pasta, shrimp, lobster	My wife’s enchiladas
<i>Hobbies</i>	Fishing	Hunting, fishing, cars
<i>Most Treasured Possession</i>	Grandkids & family	My kids
<i>Person Most Admired</i>	My Mom	My Mom
<i>Favorite Performer</i>	??	Eagles & Fleetwood Mac
<i>Toughest Decision Ever Made</i>	Telling my mom it’s ok to go	Telling my mom it’s ok to go
<i>Motto Lived By</i>	Trust in the Lord	Don’t ever give up
<i>Hope I Never Have to</i>	Bury one of my kids/grandkids	Bury one of my kids
<i>Pet Peeve</i>	??	Trash in the mountains
<i>Last Good Movie Seen</i>	“The Shack”	“Mi Familia”
<i>Last Publication Read</i>	“I don’t like to read”	“Celestine Prophecy”
<i>Worst Habit</i>	Used to be smoking cigarettes	Smoking cigarettes
<i>Job Involves</i>	Repair, services	Reading meters, driving
<i>Best Thing About Job</i>	The People	Being out in the open— seeing the beauty God created & meeting interesting people

### Know the signs of a scam

It’s no secret that consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams, but fraudsters have changed their tactics since the Covid-19 pandemic. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the number one type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker who works for the “power company,” in today’s more connected world, attempts are more likely to come through an electronic device, via email,

phone or text.

#### Common types of scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don’t pay immediately. Whether this is done in-person, by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment, so you don’t have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you’re concerned about your bill, call us at 719-852-3538. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, [www.slvrec.com](http://www.slvrec.com). If the scam is by email or text, delete



See SCAM continued on Page 5



## Recipe of the month

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 T. Louisiana-style hot sauce, divided
- 2 t. ground cumin
- 2 t. chili powder
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/8 t. pepper
- 1 lb. lean ground turkey
- 4 whole wheat hamburger buns, split
- 1 c. shredded lettuce
- 2 celery ribs, chopped
- 2 T. fat-free blue cheese salad dressing

### BUFFALO TURKEY BURGERS

1. In a large bowl, combine 1 tablespoon hot sauce, cumin, chili powder, garlic, salt and pepper. Add turkey; mix lightly but thoroughly. Shape into four 1/2-in.-thick patties.
2. In a large nonstick skillet, cook burgers over medium heat 4-6 minutes on each side or until a thermometer reads 165°.
3. Serve burgers on buns with lettuce, celery, salad dressing and remaining hot sauce.

*Recipe by Taste of Home*  
[www.tasteofhome.com](http://www.tasteofhome.com)

Historical happenings will  
return next month...

## SCAM

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it before taking any action. If you're unsure, you can always contact us. Remember, REC will never attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been *overcharged* on your bill and say they want to give a refund. It sounds easy. All you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, the scammers can drain your account and use personal information such as a social security number for

identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email (known as a "phishing" attempt) or by text ("smishing"), do not click any links. Instead, delete it, and if possible, block the sender. If you do overpay on your energy bill, REC will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

### Defend yourself against scams

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a

utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

Never let anyone into your home that you don't know unless you have a scheduled appointment or reported a problem. REC employees carry ID badges. When we perform work on our members' property or come into your home, our employees are professionals and will always identify themselves.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential scams to us so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim.

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**SCHEDULED MEETINGS**  
Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 23, 9:30 a.m.  
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

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