

Concern for community

SLV students looking to the future



San Luis Valley BOCES, the Colorado Army National Guard and Colorado Workforce Center hosted a career fair in November. High school students from across the Valley took part in the event. Above: journeyman lineman Russ Witherspoon and below: journeyman lineman Rudy Vialpando talked with students about the training required to become a lineman and the safety protocols that go along with the career.



Remembering Frank...

We lost one of our own in November. SLVREC locator and telecom installer Frank Henningsen will be remembered and missed by his REC family.



Frank Henningsen
3/16/65-11/21/21

THIS ISSUE

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JANUARY 2022 | VOLUME 50 | ISSUE 1

Member info



Are portable space heaters efficient for my home?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. Unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating



and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in

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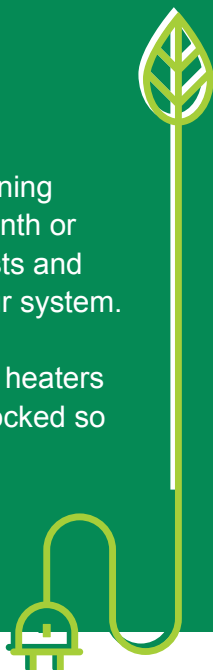
Conservation corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system.

Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: Dept. of Energy



ciello
This is our why...

"My name is Patrick Dooley. I live over here in Creede and use your services, and I would call myself an expert in customer service in that I teach it to customers all over America (for the past 20 years).

I recognized one of your people that is an outstanding example of customer service—going above and beyond. Marvin was his name; we were having a lot of trouble trying to get our system back up... But Marvin came out and helped us, and I'm telling you, you need to get more like him. He's the best and wanted you to know how much we appreciate having people like Marvin help us!"

—Patrick Dooley, Creede

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Ciello, Powered by REC, is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in upcoming issues of the Newsboy.

Send your testimonials to jalonzo@slvrec.com to be featured.



By Loren Howard

Closing out 2021

Writing this column as the end of the year approaches, I find myself considering the past year what was good (and bad) and what the New Year will bring to REC. Looking into the next year, I believe we will be able to finally have an in-person annual meeting barring some further health emergencies, aka pandemics. REC annual meetings are the second Tuesday in June, so mark you calendar. The meeting should be at the new Ski-Hi conference center in Monte Vista but look for specific details in March.

The REC's 2022 budget has been reviewed by the Board of Directors and received final approval in December. While there is not an overall increase in the electric rates, there are modest changes in some of the rate structures to continue to reduce subsidies between rate classes and within rate classes. Those changes will not go into effect until April 1, 2022. Individual member comparisons will be available in February, so if you have a question about the changes, connect with Customer Service after the start of 2022 and they can help you with your comparison.

This past year we have been hit with long delays in getting many of the electric products used in building and maintaining electric services. Transformers are taking more than six months to get delivery; wire and conduit is not much better. If you are considering new electric service or

upgrades to your existing service, you should contact Customer Service today to get on the schedule. In addition to delays in delivery, the price of most products has risen sharply. Considering all the industry information I have heard, the challenges of delivery and pricing are not likely to improve in 2022.

Continuing to look back to 2021, the most challenging and important project completed was the replacement of one and a half miles of electric wire on Wolf Creek Pass. This project was driven by wildland fire risk mitigation. The project replaced bare wire with an insulated wire that is substantially less susceptible to breaking and causing a fire. As we have seen, fires have taken large tolls on property and forests. This has become a national issue and continues to receive attention at the local, state and national levels.

Fires are an important topic this time of year. Many members use wood to heat their homes or supplement heating with portable electric heaters. Ensuring safe operation of wood stoves and portable heaters should be part of your regular inspections.

REC staff and the Board of Directors wish all members a safe, enjoyable and prosperous New Year. 2021 with all its challenges is all but behind us and with some luck, care and attention to cooperation, 2022 looks to be getting us all back to a more normal life.

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Member info

SmartHub notifications offer full convenience

SmartHub has several features to make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web or smartphone, you'll be able to pay your bill, view your usage, manage notifications and much more.

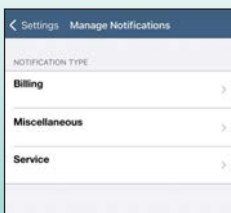
Through either email or text, SmartHub notifications can alert you to power outages, past due bills, payment confirmations, etc. offering full convenience to REC members.

ENROLLING IN TEXT OR EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS IN THE SMARTHUB APP

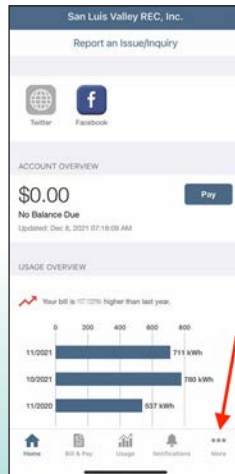
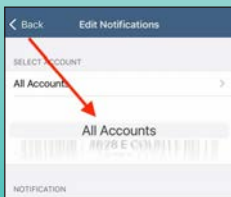
1. If you're already a registered user, sign in using your e-mail address and password.
2. Once logged into your account, choose "More" on the bottom right of the screen.
3. Select "Settings."
4. Select "Manage Notifications."



5. Choose "Billing," "Misc." or "Service."



6. Choose which account.



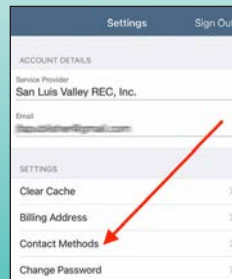
7. Enroll in the notifications of your choice.



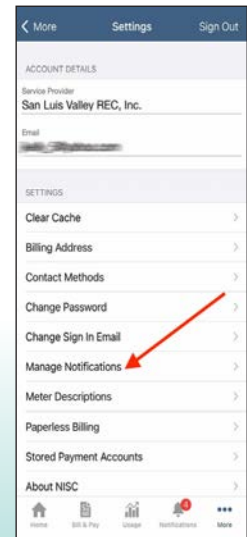
3. Select "Settings."



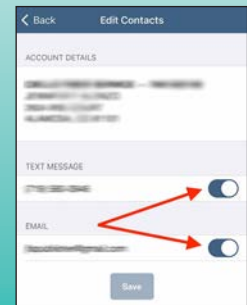
8. When enrolling for text message notifications, be sure you have a cell phone number listed in your "Contact Methods" (this can be found under "Settings.") After adding the number, you will receive a validation code text message to "opt in." Following verification, you can enable text notifications.



4. Select "Manage Notifications."



9. If the toggling is on, you're now enrolled in notifications.



For web instructions or to register your account, go online to slvrec.com/smarthub

HEATERS

continued from page 2

small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries

the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 2 c. diced baby red potato
- 3 c. trimmed and halved green beans
- 1 large head of broccoli (2 cups)
- 1 & 1/2 c. chopped bell peppers (2 large or 6-7 mini sweet bell peppers)
- 13 oz. smoked sausage (turkey, chicken or beef)
- 6 T. olive oil
- 1/4 t. red pepper flakes, optional
- 1 t. paprika
- 1/2 t. garlic powder
- 1 T. EACH: dried oregano & dried parsley
- Salt & pepper

Serve with: fresh parsley, quinoa/rice, lots of freshly grated Parmesan cheese

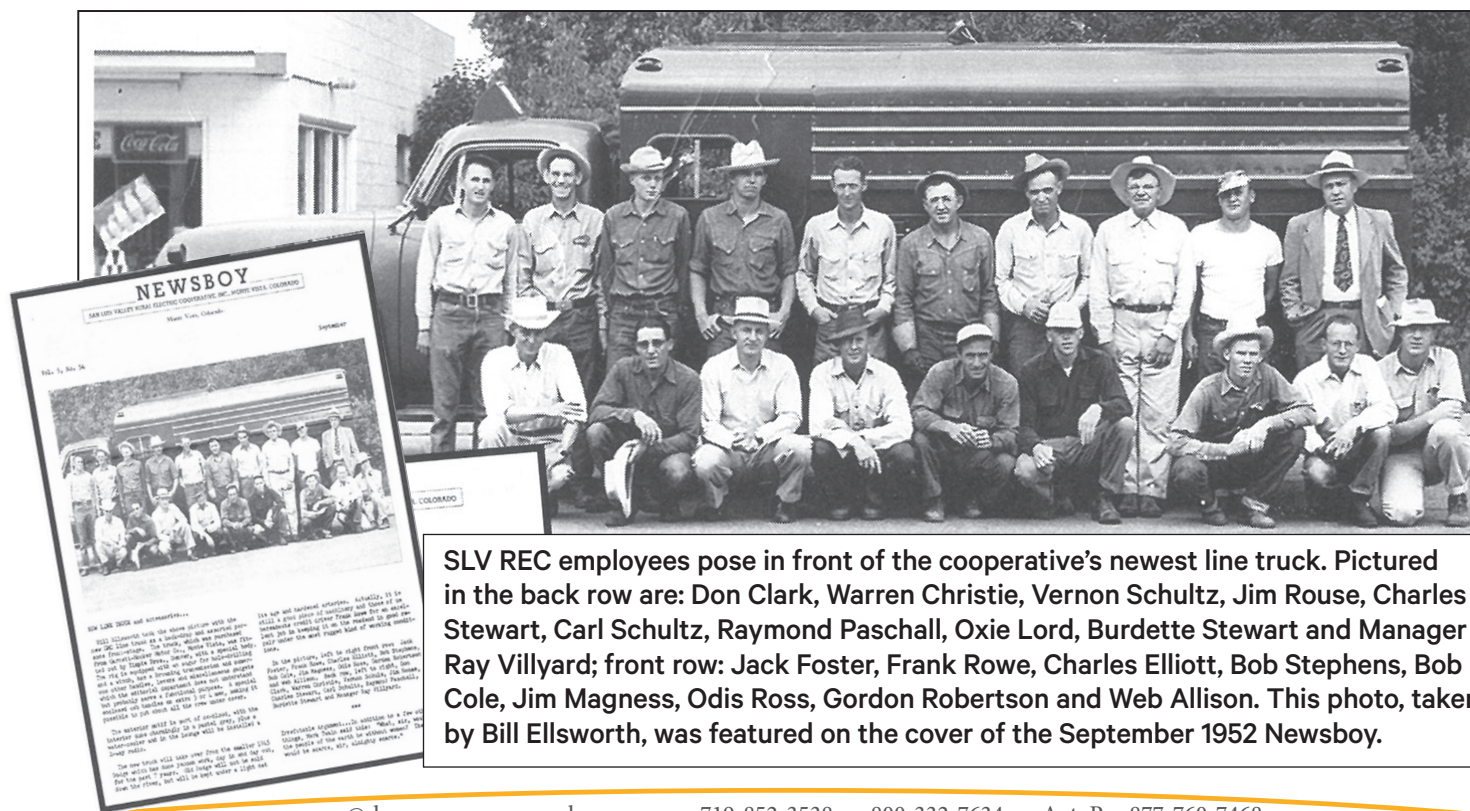
SHEET PAN SAUSAGE & VEGGIES

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Line a very large sheet pan (15"x21") or two smaller pans with parchment paper.
2. Wash & chop the unpeeled baby red potatoes (halve & then dice each half; this yields a total of 10-12 pieces per potato). Trim the green beans and then cut in half, chop the broccoli into florets, chop the peppers into one-inch pieces, and coin the sausage in thick (1/2-inch) slices.
3. Place all veggies & sausage on sheet pan. Pour olive oil and all the seasonings on top. Season to taste with salt and pepper (1/2 t. salt & 1/4 t. pepper). Use your hands to toss and evenly coat all veggies & sausage with seasonings. Space everything out so it has plenty of space to cook. If veggies are overlapping they will take longer to cook.
4. Bake 15 minutes; remove from the oven & flip/stir all the veggies around. Return to oven & bake for another 10-15 minutes or until vegetables are crisp-tender.

Recipe by chelseasmessyapron.com

Historical happenings

Summer 1952— New line truck



SLV REC employees pose in front of the cooperative's newest line truck. Pictured in the back row are: Don Clark, Warren Christie, Vernon Schultz, Jim Rouse, Charles Stewart, Carl Schultz, Raymond Paschall, Oxie Lord, Burdette Stewart and Manager Ray Villyard; front row: Jack Foster, Frank Rowe, Charles Elliott, Bob Stephens, Bob Cole, Jim Magness, Odis Ross, Gordon Robertson and Web Allison. This photo, taken by Bill Ellsworth, was featured on the cover of the September 1952 Newsboy.



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January 2022

Happy
NEW YEAR

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Application Deadline Approaching

SCHOLARSHIPS
Feb. 3, 2022

REC
SAN LUIS VALLEY
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Details at
www.slvrec.com

Youth Camp/Tour
Jan. 12, 2022

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 25, 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.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

