

## Concern for community

### SLVREC & Tri-State take part in Annual Safety Day



*The Story Behind the Switch*

SLVREC Apprentice Lineman Spencer Rasmussen and Journeyman Lineman Russ Witherspoon spent April 28 teaching third graders about electrical safety at the Monte Vista Coop's Annual Progressive Agricultural Safety Day. More than 200 third-grade students from across the Valley participated.



Photos by Jennifer Alonzo  
Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association's Michelle Pastor (pictured) brought the traveling demonstration "The Story Behind the Switch" to Ski-Hi for the annual safety day. The program explains how electricity is made and how it gets from the power plant to homes. Hands-on demonstrations include a Van de Graaf generator, plasma ball (pictured above) and more.

### SLVREC Energy Foundation donates to local Care and Share

The SLVREC Energy Foundation recently made a donation to Care and Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado to help with needs at the new San Luis Valley distribution center.

Care and Share works to gather and sort food from multiple sources, distributing to 282 partners across 31 counties with 12 food pantries and meal programs in the San Luis Valley alone. The organization receives donated or low-cost food from suppliers, community partners and federal nutrition programs. Dedicated staff and volunteers then sort and organize the food to be supplied and



Sarah Stoeber, Care and Share, and Jennifer Alonzo, SLVREC marketing director

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Loren Howard

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# Meet your co-op



## Rasmussen joins SLVREC as apprentice

Spencer Rasmussen comes to San Luis Valley REC as an apprentice lineman following about a year working with Mastec.

He grew up in Springfield, Missouri, but relocated to Colorado after meeting his wife who is a Valley native. Spencer worked for Vendola Plumbing before deciding he wanted to go to line school. He attended Rocky Mountain Line School in Colorado Springs, graduating in the fall of 2020.

Spencer was excited to come to SLVREC for the apprenticeship program; he's looking forward to continuing his education to become a journeyman lineman. "I'm trying to learn as much as I can. I hadn't worked on underground before, so that's all been new to me," he said. "The guys have been really good to work with; they're not impatient and take time to teach me."

Spencer says he is really **See SPENCER continued on Page 4**



Spencer Rasmussen

## Vialpando takes over North Area

Following the retirement of North Area Serviceman Charlie Booth, SLVREC Journeyman Rudy Vialpando has shifted into that position.

Rudy graduated from Trinidad State Rocky Mountain Lineman School in 2010. He joined SLVREC in 2014 after working for a Castle Rock contractor, Foothills Energy, building line. Coming back to the Valley allowed Rudy to be closer to his and his wife's families.

As the north area serviceman, Rudy will have a lot more member interaction, which he's looking forward to. There will also be more troubleshooting, as well as working on his own and with local electricians. Since taking over for Charlie, Rudy has been getting to know the Baca area and spending a lot of time driving—nearly 1,000 miles/week.

Rudy will miss working **See RUDY continued on Page 4**



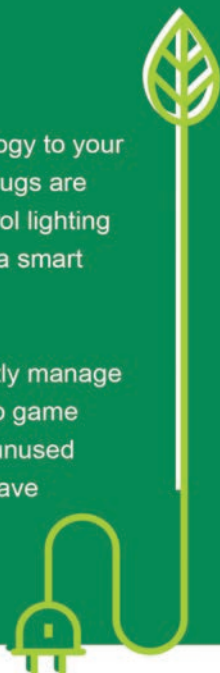
Rudy Vialpando

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

If you're looking to add smart technology to your home, consider smart plugs. Smart plugs are inexpensive and can be used to control lighting and other electronic devices through a smart phone app.

With smart plugs, you can conveniently manage lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. By powering off unused devices when you're away, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)



# ciello

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You guys did what you said you'd do."

*-Marvin Thomas, Sanford*

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Ciello, Powered by REC, is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in issues of the Newsboy. Send your testimonials to [jalonzo@slvrec.com](mailto:jalonzo@slvrec.com) to be featured.



## Loren Howard

### Rates and the final esoteric concept

Over the past three years, I have written many articles on the topics of rates as a way to continue to help REC members understand their electric bills, what the various charges are, why they are there and why they are part of how REC develops rates. With all the changes in the supply of electricity, it has been necessary to redesign rates to ensure the most equitable recovery of costs. This month's topic is not an explanation of the various components of charges on your bill, but a review of a concept that is really fundamental to electric infrastructure design and most utility systems design including water, telephone, etc. This concept is coincidence versus noncoincidence.

Imagine the homes in a neighborhood. Normally people go about their lives turning on appliances, lights, etc. in a rather random basis. One home turns on the electric dryer; another turns on the TV, while another turns on the electric stove. The rate at which electricity is being consumed is constantly changing, going faster then slower then faster again. Each home is setting an individual "demand," the highest rate at which electricity is being used at each home. If you added all the individual demands up, that is noncoincident demand. However, if you measured demand, the highest demand for the neighborhood is less than the sum of

the individual demand at each home. That is coincident demand.

In all the studies I have personally performed on the ratio of noncoincidence versus coincidence, the ratio is 3 to 1. Noncoincident electric demand is three times the coincident demand. If every electric consumer in a community turned all their electric devices on at once, it is likely that the circuit coming from the substation would trip. Every utility system, water, telephone, electric, sewer, is not designed to handle a coincident demand equal to the sum of all noncoincident demands. Using the analysis above, REC's electric system would be at least three times more expensive than it is today.

When REC performs periodic studies of electric consumption and evaluates rates and rate design, coincidence and noncoincidence is an important analysis performed to fairly allocate costs. When REC's engineering department evaluates how to appropriately size power lines, transformers, circuit breakers and other electric system components, coincidence and noncoincidence are important factors in building the electric system with enough capacity to handle any reasonable demand while not overbuilding and thus incurring unnecessary costs.

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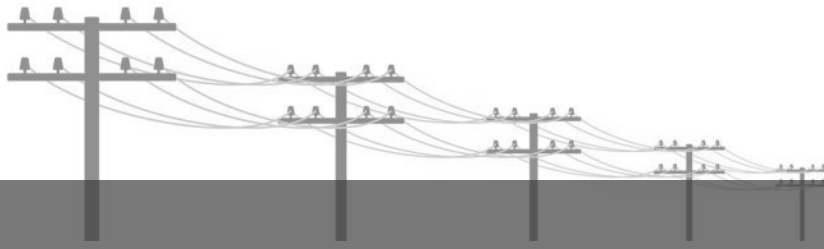
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### The Steps to Restoring Power

When a major outage occurs, our crews restore service to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible - until everyone has power.

- 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines**  
These lines carry large amounts of electricity. They rarely fail but must be repaired first.
- 2. Distribution Substations**  
Crews inspect substations, which can serve hundreds or thousands of people.
- 3. Main Distribution Lines**  
Main lines serve essential facilities like hospitals and larger communities.
- 4. Individual Homes and Businesses**  
After main line repairs are complete, we repair lines that serve individual homes and businesses.

**We do our best to avoid them, but there's no way around it: power outages occasionally happen. For most REC members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms, like the December windstorm that hit San Acacio, impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable... See the graphic at left for steps REC takes to restore power.**



## SHARE

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dispersed to partner food pantries.

Opening in September 2021, the new distribution center, located just outside of Alamosa, will allow Care and Share to streamline this process in the San Luis Valley and cut lengthy and expensive stops out of a supply chain to help feed southern Colorado. Hopes are to have the new distribution center remodeled by late summer or early fall. After it is completed, racking, and shelving will be installed, and then food can be brought in following food safety audits.

Until the remodel is complete, food is being brought into the center daily via semi-truck. A truck picks up the incoming load and takes it further west to Durango or the Four Corners area based on need, and the original incoming truck switches trailers and returns empty for a reload the next day.

Care and Share plans to host a grand opening after the building is complete and will invite the community to catch a vision of the work.



**Sarah Stoeber, Care and Share San Luis Valley Development Director, presents to the REC board of directors at the April board meeting.**

“We are so grateful for the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative Foundation and the contribution they have made toward our mission in the fight against hunger. Their generous gift will make it possible for us to get more food to our neighbors in need, quite literally, by allowing us to purchase a new forklift. The addition of our San Luis Valley distribution center will change the way we serve our neighbors across the Valley for the better, and we certainly couldn’t do our work without the support of

community partners,” said Lynne Telford, CEO of Care and Share Food Bank. For more information on Care and Share, visit <https://careandshare.org>.

The SLV REC Energy Foundation obtains funding through REC members’ round-up funds. Under this program, monthly electric bills are rounded up to the next highest dollar amount, and that contribution goes toward the Foundation’s mission of providing funds for charitable purposes.

## RUDY

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with the guys on the crew but is looking forward to the change and getting to know members in the area.

On his time off, Rudy enjoys spending time with his wife and two children. He also likes to golf,

go camping and devotes a lot of time helping with his father-in-law’s farm.

## SPENCER

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enjoying doing different things with different crews; “At my previous job, I felt like I did the same thing over and over. I got good at what I did, but I needed a change of pace. I wanted to learn new things so I can grow.”

“One thing that has been

challenging for me is that I feel like some materials have 10 different names! One of the guys will ask me to get one thing, and I think ‘I don’t know what that is,’ but then I see it, and I know exactly what it is... it just has a different name,” he laughs.

On his days off Spencer enjoys doing anything outdoors— hunting, fishing, camping, the mountains— and he loves spending time with his wife, Elena and his dog Winston.

Welcome to SLVREC, Spencer! We’re happy to have you here!



## Recipe of the month

### INGREDIENTS

2 lbs. fresh strawberries, cut into quarters (approximately 4-½ c.)

1/2 c. granulated sugar

1/4 c. strawberry preserves

4 oz. cream cheese, softened

1/2 can (7 oz.) sweetened condensed milk

8 oz. whipped cream

1 angel food cake, cut into bite sized cubes

### STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE TRIFLE

1. In a medium bowl, mix together the strawberries, sugar, and preserves. Place in the refrigerator to chill while you prepare the remaining ingredients.

2. In a separate medium mixing bowl, combine cream cheese and sweetened condensed milk with a hand mixer. Fold in whipped topping.

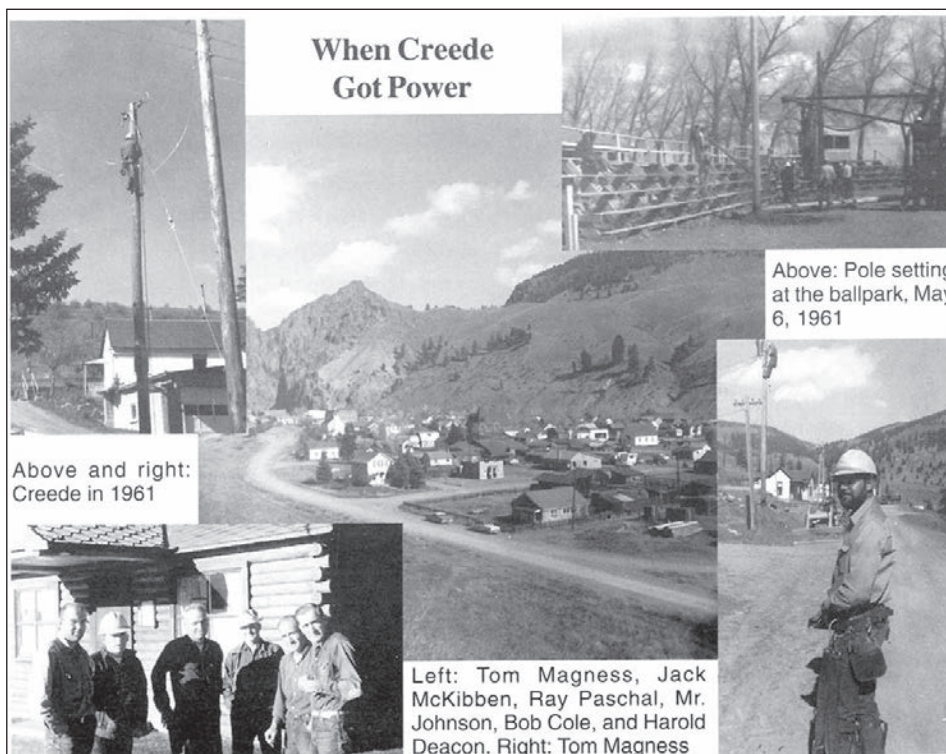
3. To assemble: In a large trifle bowl, add ⅓ of the angel food cake, ⅓ of the strawberry mixture, and ⅓ of the cream cheese mixture. Repeat the layers two more times.

4. Refrigerate until ready to serve.

[www.iambaker.net](http://www.iambaker.net)

## Historical happenings

### 1961—Creede residents want SLVREC power



It wasn't easy getting SLVREC power to Creede. The process began in June 1953; it took letters, years, meetings and money. In April, 1961 Creede Mayor Byron Fairchild Sr. and several Creede residents submitted letters to SLVREC requesting power to replace the town-owned generating system with SLVREC's reliable power. Alfred E. Budaey wrote, "For the last 40 years we no more than get one [town] plant paid for then we have to buy another one. Our power fluctuates so much that it causes motors and lights to burn out. There isn't enough power for electric stoves and water heaters for those who would like to install them." On May 17, 1961 SLVREC applied for a federal loan which included a request "for the purpose of providing electric service to the Town of Creede, Colorado and its inhabitants."

### SLVREC Annual Meeting, Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Registration Opens: 5:30 p.m., Business Meeting: 7 p.m. at Ski Hi Events Center

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP with the number in your party by June 6, 2022.

Call 719-852-3538 or email [2022AnnMeet@slvrec.com](mailto:2022AnnMeet@slvrec.com)

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June 2022



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**SCHEDULED MEETINGS**  
Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 28, 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.

