

Concern for Community

Shape Your Future Day held for AHS seniors



In early October Alamosa High School held “Shape Your Future Day” at the National Guard Armory. Students from the class of 2023 attended workshops, and visited booths manned by local businesses to gain knowledge about what their next step might be after high school graduation. Pictured above: Future linemen AHS seniors Cody Lopez (far left) and Kade Jones (far right) talk with current SLVREC linemen Spencer Rasmussen and Alec Higel. Top right: An AHS senior tries on special gloves used when doing work on energized power lines. At right: Linemen Spencer and Alec and REC marketing coordinator Jennifer Alonzo try out the photo prop.



Meet your co-op

Stetson Edgar joins REC as apprentice lineman

Sanford graduate and Valley native Stetson Edgar has joined San Luis Valley REC as an apprentice lineman. Stetson graduated from Rocky Mountain Line School in Colorado Springs in May 2021. From there he did contract work with Primoris in Texas and Mastec in Oklahoma City, as well as a quick stint with Foothills Energy in Fort Collins.

While working as contractor, Stetson spent three weeks at a time on the road, so he’s excited to get back to the San Luis Valley where he can be home every night with his family.

While he’s still learning how things are done at REC, he’s enjoying being out on the crews building power lines. He’s also continuing the bookwork for his apprenticeship, which he should complete in 2026.

Stetson and his wife have a two-year-old son. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time outdoors.



Stetson Edgar

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

ciello

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“The Ciello team was very quick to respond to our request for fiber Internet. Our installation was a little complex. The team was able to resolve our specific obstacles and execute a timely plan. Every person on the team was incredibly professional and courteous. Just amazing service!”

-Heidi Camp, South Fork

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REC's Strategic Plan, Part 4 - Communication

In the last three Newsboys, I have reviewed the Strategic Areas of Focus in the 2022 Strategic Plan. This plan was developed, as the plan states, to focus efforts of the organization on what is important. Reiterating, the four focus areas are Workforce, Reliability, Financial and Communication. The final area, not the least important, is Communication. Certainly, there have been times when my communication with members needed to be much better but communicating has always been important to REC and to me. Three actionable goals were established to focus on maintaining existing efforts and bringing on new ones.

- Improve communication channels, messaging and interactions
- Collaborate with local leaders to build a viable economic development program
- Engage employees in process improvement and improve business acumen

In the past two years, we have opened many new ways to communicate to members and Valley businesses. Focus groups of both residential and commercial members have helped guide initiatives. Customer Service has increased efforts and added avenues of communication when a member is behind on their monthly bill. This helped reduce disconnections and reduce REC's uncollectable revenues. Another new avenue of communication that is being employed is online surveys. One example is the current survey to gauge members' thoughts on moving to online voting. REC is considering implementing online voting for director elections and

bylaw changes. If you haven't taken the survey, please go to our website and click on the link to participate.

REC has always been engaged in economic development throughout the Valley. Staff of REC are actively engaged in organizations, such as Upper Rio Grande Economic Development and several local Chambers. And while it might seem a bit indirect, REC's development of its telecommunications subsidiary, Ciello, has enabled existing and new businesses to compete in this ever-increasing connected world more effectively.

Employees of REC have worked hard at process improvement in many areas. One outcome of this effort is there are 54 employees today versus 51 employees 10 years ago. Having added a whole new business, finding more efficient ways of doing business has resulted in adding only three more employees. Another process improvement effort is the barcoding of warehouse materials which reduces manual enter of materials entering and leaving the warehouse and improves inventory accuracy.

We continue to work on notification procedures through texts and emails for electric outages. While they're annoying, knowing the status of the outage helps reduce member anxiety by knowing that the outage is being working on and knowing estimates of restoration time.

Communication has always been a key to success, and REC employees and board members continue to improve and add channels of communication with REC members and Ciello customers.

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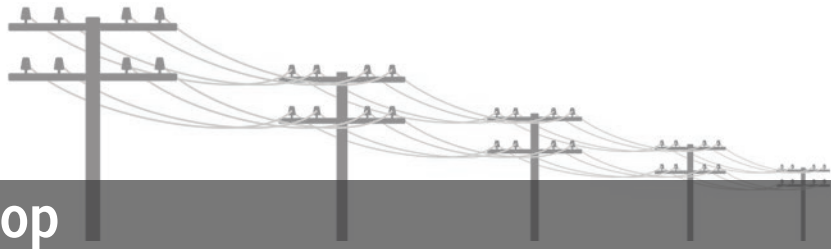
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Meet your co-op



Telecom coordinator joins SLVREC/Ciello

Following 18 years with Del Norte Bank, Glen Archuleta has joined SLVREC/Ciello as a telecommunications coordinator.

Beginning at the bank as a loan processor, Glen worked his way up to IT manager/assistant vice president. While at the bank he did a lot of security training and earned a certificate in VMware. Glen also worked



Glen Archuleta

with many Ciello employees as a vendor, which has helped make his transition here a little smoother.

“Working at Del Norte Bank was a good chapter, but I was ready to change the page. Security issues are a serious thing, and that stress kept me up at night. I’m excited to be with Ciello and feel less stress,” Glen commented.

As a telecom coordinator, Glen will be troubleshooting customer issues, setting up new clients, sketching plans and more. He’s looking forward to having more customer interaction and likes the flexibility of being on the road some days and in the office some days; it’s a good mixture of both.

Learning which specific areas “have light” (are install-ready) has been a little challenging, as has making sure he and the customer are on the same page when doing troubleshooting. “The customers are the most important part of the business, so I want to make sure I’m correctly understanding their issues,” Glen said.

Glen and his wife have four children; the oldest works construction in Boulder; his two daughters attend Monte Vista High School, and his youngest son is a seventh grader at MVMS. Glen is a San Luis Valley native and graduate of Del Norte High School. He loves basketball, football and fishing. He has spent many hours coaching and following his children’s sports. “My kids grew up in the gym. We spend a lot of time focusing on sports, which I love,” he stated.

If Glen’s name seems familiar to the REC family, that’s because it is. His dad, Glen Sr., worked for SLV REC for 30 years before retiring in July. “I have big shoes to fill. Everyone knows and loves my dad,” he mentioned.

We’re sure you’ll fill those shoes just fine, Glen, we’re happy you’re here— welcome to the team!

New scholarship offered in honor of Michael Rierson



Ross Rierson, son of former SLVREC Board Member Michael Rierson, attended the June Board of Directors meeting to inquire about offering a scholarship in honor of his dad. The new scholarship, the Michael Rierson Scholarship, will award \$4,000 to a San Luis Valley graduate to further their education at any trade school, university or college. For details, go online to www.slvrec.com, Community tab, Scholarships.



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

CHICKEN:

- 2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 T. Italian seasoning
- 1 t. mild paprika (optional)
- salt and pepper to season

SPINACH ARTICHOKE DIP:

- 4 oz. frozen spinach, thawed
- 8 oz. block cream cheese, (light or reduced fat), at room temp
- 6 oz. bottled or canned artichoke hearts in brine, finely chopped
- 1/2 c. shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 c. finely grated parmesan cheese
- 1 T. minced garlic
- Salt to taste

OPTIONAL CREAM SAUCE:

- Remaining spinach / artichoke dip
- 1 c. half and half or heavy cream

www.cafedelites.com

SPINACH ARTICHOKE STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST

For the Chicken:

1. Place each chicken breast on a flat surface. Season both sides of each breast with the Italian seasoning and paprika. Cut a slit or pocket about 3/4 quarter of the way through.

For the Dip Filling:

1. Squeeze any and all excess liquid out of the spinach and discard the water. Combine the spinach, cream cheese, artichokes, mozzarella, parmesan and garlic; mix well to combine.

2. Stuff chicken with 1-2 T. of the spinach artichoke dip, spreading evenly with the back of the spoon. Reserve the leftover dip for later.*

3. Seal chicken breasts with two or three toothpicks near the opening to keep the dip inside while cooking.

4. Heat 1 T. of oil in a skillet or non stick pan over medium-high heat. Sear chicken until golden on both sides, covering pan with a lid, until cooked through, (about 6 to 7 minutes per side). Transfer chicken to a warm plate to make the cream sauce.

*For the Cream Sauce:

1. Combine half and half or heavy cream with the remaining dip (you should have exactly half remaining). Stir until sauce is combined and thickened. Add the chicken back into the pan and serve immediately!

Historical happenings



Mapping in 1975

In 1975, Andy Anderson and Jack Boutwell reviewed SLVREC's map book. The book shows service locations and system information. Today's information is computer generated and much more sophisticated. SLVREC employs a GIS specialist whose primary focus is mapping.

Photo taken from 2005 Newsboy

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Remember SLVREC is considering electronic voting, and we need your input! Please go online to www.slvrec.com before Oct. 31 to take part in a one-question survey regarding electronic voting.



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November 2022



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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
November Board Meeting: TBA
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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