

Concern for Community

Lineworkers help library get into the Christmas spirit



SLVREC crew members hung lights at Monte Vista's Carnegie Library in early December. As one of our cooperative principles, we take "concern for community" to heart.



The crew (pictured above) included Jordan Barbosa, Wade Warman, Dylan Stroud and Chad Willschau.

Eric Eriksen named new CEO



The San Luis Valley REC Board of Directors has hired Eric Eriksen to replace current CEO Loren Howard when he retires at the end of February. Eric comes to REC from the Northwest Lineman College in Idaho, where he is the VP of Engineering Operations.

THIS ISSUE

Concern for Community/New CEO

Community/Info/Conservation/Ciello

Loren Howard

Member Info: New rates

Recipe/Historical happenings

JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 51 | ISSUE 1

Concern for Community



Foundation gifts Society Hall for 100th



SLVREC Director Steve Valdez and Marketing/Sales Coordinator Jennifer Alonzo presented a gift to Society Hall from the SLVREC Foundation in celebration of the building's 100th birthday. Accepting the donation were board members Lisa Absmeier (in red), Pete Magee, Ruthie Brown and Don Richmond. For more information on Society Hall, find them online at www.societyhall.org.

Member Information

Beat the Peak

If you look around your home, you likely have more devices and equipment that require electricity than ever before. Our connected lives are increasingly dependent on more electricity to function. At the same time, as demand for electricity rises, San Luis Valley REC must deliver an uninterrupted 24/7 power supply— regardless of market conditions or other circumstances.

As you would expect based on your family's habits, electricity use fluctuates throughout the day based on consumer demand. REC must be able to provide enough electricity to meet the energy needs of all members during times of highest energy use or "peak hours." These peak times are typically in the morning as people start their day and in the evening as people return to their homes.

What you may not know is that

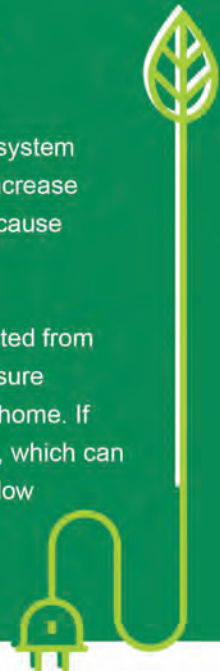
See PEAK continued on Page 4

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Blocked air vents force your heating system to work harder than necessary and increase pressure in the ductwork, which can cause cracks and leaks to form.

Make sure all air vents are unobstructed from furniture, drapes or other items to ensure sufficient circulation throughout your home. If necessary, purchase a vent extender, which can be placed over a vent to redirect air flow from underneath furniture.

Source: energy.gov



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—Ray Hawkins, Saguache

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Year in Review and What's Next

I hope all REC and Cielo members and customers had a very Merry Christmas and the New Year brings everyone happiness and prosperity.

Having sent my best wishes, I am not one to avoid the difficult topics. I know that news of rate increases for both Cielo and REC causes angst and questions of why? The fundamental cause is the inflation of everything including fuel, equipment and supplies. Recently, a comment came into the office comparing Cielo rates to Internet services along the Front Range. The compactness of living in the Front Range has no comparison to the vastness of living in the Valley. Rolling a truck to a service call in Denver likely averages a few miles where here in the Valley it averages tens of miles. When the price of diesel has doubled, that is not an insignificant increase in costs. This applies even more to REC members than to Cielo when the typical line crew has at least two trucks. I just want to acknowledge that increasing rates to both REC and Cielo services brings more questions and more dissatisfaction, but also want to assure you that REC and Cielo are doing everything possible to keep reliability up and your cost of service down.

Now that I have that off my mind, many good things have happened in the past year. The electric outages this past year were all small and locally contained. There were outages of course, but nothing like what happened in December of 2021 when 80+ poles were taken down by a straight line wind

and some electric members were out of power for days.

REC's vegetative management program (i.e., tree trimming) along with the enormous help from Mother Nature (i.e., rain) meant no wildfires of significance. Everyone is happy about that. Every year, the capital work plan includes line replacements, pole replacements and operational equipment upgrades. The work plan for 2022 was substantially completed, ensuring investments in maintaining a reliable electric system and a reliable fiber infrastructure are made.

Efforts to increase REC's and Cielo's active protection against physical and cyber threats will continue for years. Cielo is adding cyber threat mitigation software to every broadband account necessitated by actual Cielo customer systems being compromised by hackers and intrusion events. This is a portion of the rate increases noted above. The electric infrastructure is also constantly being reviewed for cyber and physical threats, working to ensure attacks are mitigated as much as possible.

This year, 2023, will bring a new Chief Executive Officer to REC and Cielo. After 11 years, it is time for me to move on to new adventures and challenges. There will be more information about the new CEO in the coming months, but the first introduction to the new CEO is on page 1 of this month's Newsboy.

Best regards into the coming year to all REC and Cielo members and subscribers.

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Your email will be forwarded based on the direction you provide in your subject line.

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Member Information

New rates effective April 1, 2023



Rate Name	Charge Type	2022 Total	2023 Total
A-Single Phase Residential	Customer Charge	\$ 36.90	\$ 38.40
Rates 01,02,04,05,07,15	Demand Charge	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.00
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.111	\$ 0.108
C-Single Phase Commercial	Customer Charge	\$ 36.90	\$ 38.40
Rates 41,45,47	Demand Charge	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.50
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.096	\$ 0.080
A-TOD Single Phase	Customer Charge	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
Time of Day	Purchased Power Demand	\$ -	\$ -
Rates 08,09	Distribution Demand	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.00
	On-Peak kWh 5PM to 10PM	\$ 0.206	\$ 0.256
	Off-Peak kWh 10PM to 5PM next day	\$ 0.064	\$ 0.064
B -Three Phase	Customer Charge	\$ 52.00	\$ 57.00
Rates 03,06	Demand Charge	\$ 6.43	\$ 5.93
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.088	\$ 0.092
A-TOD Three Phase	Customer Charge	\$ 52.00	\$ 57.00
Time of Day	Purchased Power Demand	\$ -	\$ -
Rates 10,11	Distribution Demand	\$ 1.50	\$ 2.00
	On-Peak kWh 5PM to 10PM	\$ 0.206	\$ 0.256
	Off-Peak kWh 10PM to 5PM next day	\$ 0.064	\$ 0.064
I - Irrigation	Customer Charge	\$ 40.00	\$ 45.00
Rates 60,62,63,65	Fallowing Customer Charge	\$ 30.00	\$ 35.00
Rates 80,82,83,85	Purchased Power Demand (Highest demand from 12PM TO 10PM)	\$ 10.40	\$ 10.40
	Distribution Demand (Highest demand in last 12 months)	\$ 5.17	\$ 5.02
	Fallowing Demand Charge (minimum of 5 kW)	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.75
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.047	\$ 0.051
LP-A Large Power	Customer Charge	\$ 85.00	\$ 90.00
Less than 500 kW	Demand Charge	\$ 12.17	\$ 13.67
Rates 50, 55	Energy Charge	\$ 0.070	\$ 0.069
LP-A Time of Day	Customer Charge	\$ 85.00	\$ 90.00
Less than 500 kW	Purchased Power Demand (Highest demand from 12PM TO 10PM Mon-Sat)	\$ 12.75	\$ 12.75
Rates 54,56	Distribution Demand (Highest demand in month)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.047	\$ 0.051
LP-B Large Power	Customer Charge	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
Greater than 500 kW	Demand Charge	\$ 20.12	\$ 20.12
Rate 51, 52, 53	Energy Charge	\$ 0.0470	\$ 0.0510
YL Yard Light	Non-Metered	\$ 12.77	\$ 12.77
	Metered	\$ 6.10	\$ 6.10
Renewable Resource Surcharge	Per 100 kWh block, per month	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.40

PEAK

continued from page 2

electric utilities, including REC, typically pay more for electricity—either from a power plant or from another utility with excess power—during those morning and evening “energy rush hours.” In addition, the demand for electricity is even higher when it’s especially cold outside, when heating systems must run longer to warm our homes.

If the “peak times” concept is a bit puzzling, here’s an easy way to think about it; it’s similar to a major concert. We know costs go up when there is strong demand for tickets (or electricity), and both are subject to the basic economic laws of supply and demand. When a lot of people want the same thing, it’s more expensive. When they don’t, it’s cheaper—like a bargain matinee or an “early bird” special at a restaurant.

We encourage you to take simple steps to save energy, such as turning your thermostat down a few notches, turning off unnecessary lights and waiting to use large appliances during off-peak times.

You can also save energy by plugging electronics and equipment such as computers, printers and TVs into a power strip, then turn it off at the switch during peak hours. When we all work together to reduce energy use during periods of high electricity demand, we can relieve pressure on the grid and save a little money along the way.



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

4 bunches broccoli, cut into florets
 6 T. butter, divided
 1 small onion, finely chopped
 1 garlic clove, minced
 1/4 c. all-purpose flour
 2 c. 2% milk
 1 large egg yolk, beaten
 1 c. grated Parmesan cheese
 1/2 t. salt
 1/8 t. pepper
 1/2 c. seasoned bread crumbs

BAKED PARMESAN BROCCOLI

1. Preheat oven to 400°. Place half broccoli in a steamer basket; place basket in a large saucepan over one inch water. Bring to a boil; cover and steam 3-4 minutes or until crisp-tender. Place in a greased 13x9-in. baking dish; repeat with remaining broccoli.

2. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan over medium heat, melt 4 tablespoons butter. Add onion; cook and stir until tender. Add garlic; cook 1 minute longer.

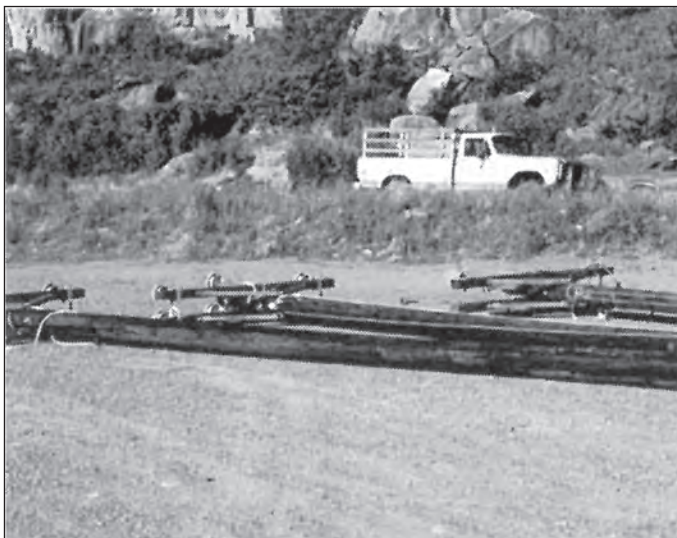
3. Stir in flour until blended; gradually add milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir 2 minutes or until thickened. Stir a small amount of hot mixture into egg yolk; return all to the pan, stirring constantly. Cook and stir 1 minute longer. Remove from heat; stir in the cheese, salt and pepper. Pour over broccoli.

4. In a small skillet, cook bread crumbs in remaining butter until golden brown; sprinkle over the top.

5. Bake, uncovered, 15-18 minutes or until heated through.

TasteofHome.com

Historical happenings



Photos taken from
 March 2004 Newsboy

Early 1980s

New poles were set by helicopter behind Sweenies Cafe in South Fork in the early 1980s.





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P.O. Box 3625
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January 2023



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

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

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, Jan. 31, 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.

Application Deadline Approaching

SCHOLARSHIPS
Feb. 2, 2023

REC
SAN LUIS VALLEY

POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

Details at
www.slvrec.com

Youth Camp/Tour
Jan. 10, 2023