

Member Information



This month we're excited to launch the **Electrify and Save On-Bill Repayment Program** available to our members.

See details on **Page 3** of this **Newsboy!**

Are you interested in being a member of the Board?

Petitions for the nomination of director candidates for the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative are now available. Members can find information online at slvrec.com (About Us tab, "Annual Meeting").

For a petition packet, call Michelle at 852-3538 or email mtrujillo@slvrec.com to have a petition packet mailed or pick up at SLVREC's office at 3625 US Hwy 160 W., Monte Vista.

At the June 11, 2024 SLVREC Annual Meeting, two directors will be elected: one from Costilla County, District 2 and one

See **BOARD** continued on Page 4

Specialized drone places diverters

Bird flight diverters were installed on energized lines between Del Norte and South Fork at the beginning of February. FulcrumAir's special Mini LineFly™ drone placed the diverters on REC lines above a frozen river adjacent to the highway.

These diverters reduce the probability of unintended bird collisions by enhancing line visibility, helping to protect diverse avian species and mitigate potential costly

See **DRONE** continued on Page 2



Photo courtesy of FulcrumAir

THIS ISSUE

Member Information

Concern/Efficiency/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Valdez elected

Recipe/Historical Happenings

MARCH 2024 | VOLUME 53 | ISSUE 3

Concern for Community

REC employees give back



REC/Ciello employees Michelle Trujillo, Eric Eriksen, Jennifer Alonzo, JoAn Waudby, Monroe Johnson and Stacy Valdez served breakfast at the 42nd Annual Southern Rocky Mountain Agriculture Conference at the Ski Hi Complex on Feb. 7.



DRONE

continued from page 1

and problematic power outages. FulcrumAir's technology helps to significantly reduce safety concerns for lineworkers while also increasing project efficiency.



About

FulcrumAir

Founded in 2016 and having invested over 60,000 hours into design and engineering to date, FulcrumAir is the leader in aerial robotics for the powerline industry. FulcrumAir's portfolio of UAVs and aerial robotics are specifically designed to address critical challenges facing electric utilities by robotically performing line construction tasks such as installing line spacers and bird flight diverters. Additional robotic solutions are currently under development.

Bird flight diverters

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

Lengthen the life of your clothes dryer with regular cleaning. Clean the lint filter after every load, which improves air circulation and safety. Check the lint trap opening to ensure it's clean. Use a vacuum to remove any lint that's fallen inside the opening.

If you use dryer sheets, check the lint filter for residue buildup. Remove any residue with hot water and a nylon brush or toothbrush. Over time, dryer sheets can leave a film on the filter, which can affect the performance of the motor.

ciello

THIS IS OUR WHY...

"OMG, my internet went out this afternoon. After a short and sweet call to customer service, I was told that someone would contact me within the next 24 hours about a service visit. I was readying myself to have to go somewhere else to get my work done for about 10 minutes or so, when a knock came at my door. It was like a miracle. The technician came in, gave me a new router, and voila within 30-45 minutes, everything was running smoothly!!! Unbelievable service that no one I know in any other part of America gets. I love you guys and support you 1000%. You are a community gem, and we are thankful for all you do!"

-Leslie Henslee, Crestone

POWERED BY REC

719.852.3538 • www.ciello.com

Ciello is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in issues of the Newsboy. Send your testimonials to jalonzo@slvrec.com.



Eric Eriksen

Helping members save

Are you wanting to save on your home energy bills... in the market for new insulation, windows, doors, lighting, water heaters, HVAC systems and other qualifying energy-efficient technologies that increase your home value?

March 4th is the official launch of the new SLVREC **ELECTRIFY AND SAVE ON-BILL REPAYMENT PROGRAM**. This program will help improve the lives of our members through energy savings and increased home values. I know this statement will be true because I've experienced the positive impacts of a similar program first-hand in Alaska.

Most homes in the San Luis Valley can save money today with home efficiency upgrades (see below Table 1). So why aren't we seeing our neighbors installing upgrades? If presented with an opportunity to save money through home efficiency upgrades, then most people would choose "yes." However, there have been barriers preventing this opportunity. These barriers include knowing which upgrades to choose, how to install them and how to pay for them. The new Electrify and Save Program removes these barriers.

SURVEY QUESTION	SLVREC MEMBERS
Homes heated with propane	74%
Home heating systems 15 years old or more	46%
Homeowners considering heat pumps	1%
Home water heaters 10 years old or more	63%
Homes with no cooling systems	87%

Table 1: 2021 Survey Data (SLVREC Members)

a report explaining the current condition of your home energy usage along with recommended energy saving improvements. From here you'll be connected with an authorized contractor to prepare a project proposal, including costs and steps to implement. This proposal will be uploaded into the program portal for review. Once the project scope is approved, then your contractor will schedule work to begin. No upfront payment is required. Once work is completed and after taking advantage of all rebates, then the remaining balance will appear on your monthly REC bill. No additional payment action is required. Learn more or apply at www.slvrec.com/electrify-and-save

It is surprising that in 2021 only one percent of SLVREC members were considering a heat pump (see table above). I want to make sure you have the most recent information to make the best decisions. Heat pumps are the recommended heat source for Colorado homes according to Southwest Energy Efficiency Project's 2022 study (see link to the full study in this Newsboy article online at slvrec.com). If cold climate heat pumps work in Alaska, then they will work in Colorado.

See SAVE continued on Page 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keenan Anderson, President
719-849-8304

Stephen Valdez, Vice President
719-588-0430

Wade Lockhart, Secretary
719-588-9246

Carol Lee Dugan
719-588-4711

Creede Hargraves
719-588-0741

Scott Wolfe
719-852-0966

Kim Wakasugi
719-588-3440

Email: power@slvrec.com

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

CEO

Eric Eriksen
719-852-6630

SLVREC Office (toll free)
800-332-7634

SLVREC Office (local calls)
719-852-3538

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

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Valdez elected CREA president

During its Jan. 31 meeting, the Colorado Rural Electric Association (CREA) Board of Directors elected officers to lead the statewide board for 2024. The new officers took office following the CREA Annual Meeting.

CREA's new board president is Stephen Valdez, who serves on the San Luis Valley REC Board of Directors. Valdez joined the CREA board in 2017.



Stephen Valdez

He is deeply rooted and involved in his community in Conejos County. As a Valley native, he is committed to doing his best for the co-op membership. Transparency in addressing membership interests and concerns is paramount to Valdez.

He also believes that cooperatives must be on the cutting edge of available technologies to maximize efficiency.

CREA is the statewide trade association representing Colorado's 21 electric cooperatives

SAVE

continued from page 3

You may recall from previous Newsboy articles that our SLVREC employees have been piloting this program internally since the fall of 2023. About 20 percent of our employees have signed up. This was to help prepare us to provide you with excellent service.

In February, a contractor training event was held at the SLVREC headquarters in Monte Vista. This event trained contractors on program process and technologies, including heat pumps, to best serve you. We have a limited number of authorized contractors currently. If you or someone you know is interested in being an authorized contractor, then please complete the contractor application on the electrify-and-save webpage. I am excited to hear your success stories.

Upcoming Road Show

I will be presenting a "Road Show" around the Valley to provide members with an overview of our 2024 Road Map and goals. Here is the current schedule:

Upper Rio Grande Economic Development, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7 a.m., Rio Grande County Annex

Saguache County BOCC, Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2:45 p.m.

Rio Grande County BOCC, Wednesday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m.

Costilla County BOCC, Tuesday, March 5, 10 a.m.

Mineral County Commissioners, March 6, 10:30 a.m.

Alamosa County BOCC, Wednesday, April 10, 8:30 a.m.

Conejos County BOCC, Thursday, May 16, 9:30 a.m.

SLVREC is leading the way forward and stands by our commitment to serve you. As the second oldest electric cooperative in Colorado, SLVREC has a long tradition of serving its more than 7,500-member community and improving quality of life in the San Luis Valley. Innovating new energy resources and programs are another way that SLVREC is demonstrating its commitment to our members and the wellbeing of the San Luis Valley.

We're here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person or through our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.

BOARD

continued from page 1

from Alamosa County, District 4.

Completed petitions must include 15 valid SLVREC member signatures and be returned to SLVREC no later than Thursday, April 11, 2024 (or Thursday, April 4 to have a brief bio included in the Annual Report). It is recommended to obtain 20 signatures in the event that any of the signatures are invalid. Please call Michelle at 719-852-3538 with any questions.

If you're interested in having a brief bio included in the Annual Report and online, please contact Jennifer Alonzo at jalonzo@slvrec.com by Thursday, April 4, 2024.

Ballots will be mailed to members no later than May 9, 2024.



Recipe of the Month

INGREDIENTS

- 8 oz. unsalted butter, melted
- 1-1/2 cups brown sugar
- 2 t. vanilla extract
- 1 large egg + 1 egg yolk, at room temperature
- 1 c. carrots, finely grated
- 1-1/2 c. plus 2 T. all purpose flour
- 1/2 t. ground ginger
- 1/2 t. cinnamon
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans

Cream Cheese Frosting:

- 4 oz. unsalted butter, VERY soft
- 8 oz. cream cheese, VERY soft
- 1 t. vanilla
- 2 c. confectioners sugar
- 1/2 c. chopped pecans

CARROT CAKE BLONDIES

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees (F). Line a 9x9" inch baking pan with parchment paper and lightly spray with non-stick baking spray; set aside.

2. In a large bowl combine the melted butter, brown sugar, and vanilla; whisk smooth. Beat in the egg and egg yolk, then fold in the carrots. Add in the flour, ginger, cinnamon, and salt and whisk just until combined. Fold in chopped pecans.

3. Pour batter into prepared pan, smooth the top. Place pan in the oven and bake for 32 to 35 minutes. The edges will be brown and the center should be set. Cool completely— in pan before removing and frosting. You don't want to rush the cooling!

Frosting:

1. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, combine the cream cheese and butter and beat on medium speed until smooth, about 3 minutes. Add in the vanilla and beat smooth. Gradually add in the confectioners sugar, a 1/2 cup at a time, and whisk until smooth.

2. Frost cooled bars by simply scooping the frosting onto the blondies and smoothing it evenly across the top. Sprinkle with pecans. Cut into small squares and serve!

bakerbynature.com

Historical Happenings



March 1985

Work on the 115 kV Hooper transmission line was completed by Larry Jones, Gary Fine, Eddie Pacheco, Dale Clare, Keith Mullenix, Ronnie Spencer and Jim Clare in March 1985.

Photos courtesy of Jim Clare





Periodical Postage
Paid at Monte Vista, CO

POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144

March 2024



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

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

ENERGY ASSISTANCE
866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)
www.energyoutreach.org

Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

SCHEDULED MEETINGS
March Board Meeting: TBA
The REC Board of Directors typically meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

