

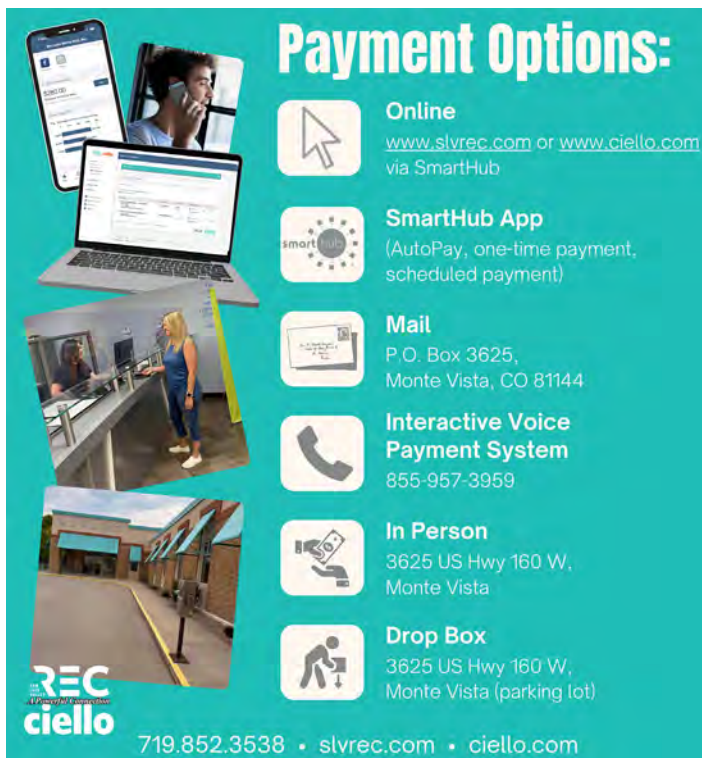
Member Information

Board reduced to six directors

At the June 24 San Luis Valley REC board meeting, an adjustment was made to the composition of its Board of Directors, with the reduction of board seats from seven to six. The Costilla and Conejos County board positions have been combined into one. This change comes as the result of unsuccessful attempts to find a replacement after ongoing efforts

See BOARD continued on Page 4

Bank payments ending, many other ways to pay



Payment Options:

- Online**
www.slvrec.com or www.cielo.com via SmartHub
- SmartHub App**
(AutoPay, one-time payment, scheduled payment)
- Mail**
P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144
- Interactive Voice Payment System**
855-957-3959
- In Person**
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- Drop Box**
3625 US Hwy 160 W, Monte Vista (parking lot)

719.852.3538 • slvrec.com • ciello.com

Local bank branches will no longer be accepting SLVREC/Ciello payments as of Oct. 1. As a member-owned cooperative, we provide electricity at the cost of service and do our best to identify opportunities to limit expenses that impact your electric bills. The process of maintaining the additional payment locations for our members has been found to be inefficient, therefore an added expense to your cooperative.

We're here to help you manage this change. Our Customer Service Representatives are ready to assist you in setting up a new way to pay.

See BANKS continued on Page 4

Meet Your Co-op

Valley native joins REC/Ciello team

New mechanic Andy McEwen comes to San Luis Valley REC/Ciello with many years of experience in the industry. He was most recently at PowerZone for the past 10 years, rebuilding pumps and working on heavy equipment.

He was excited to pursue the job opening here, feeling there are great opportunities and benefits at the cooperative.

Andy focuses on just keeping all the trucks up and running and is enjoying the new experiences. "It's a lot different with newer equipment. Sometimes it's challenging to learn the new stuff—computers, newer trucks; it's different working on trucks compared to pumps and machinery. Well, it's the same, but a different way of going about it," he laughed.

Andy is a San Luis Valley native, graduating from



Sangre de Cristo High School. He and his wife have four children and three grandchildren.

He enjoys hunting and fishing, as well as camping in his spare time.

THIS ISSUE

Member Info/Meet Your Co-op

Concern/Efficiency/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Member Information

Recipe/Historical Happenings

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Concern for Community

Adopt-a-Highway Program



SLVREC/Ciello employees hit the highway in May and gathered trash as part of CDOT's Adopt-a-Highway Program.

Community Service Projects



Two of SLVREC/Ciello Leadership groups completed community service projects in June, helping with a horse clinic and setting a pole.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: energy.gov

ciello

This is our why...

"Internet is very strong & reliable! The customer service is top notch! I have had one problem due to a lightning strike on my Internet antenna, and they addressed the problem after-hours & promptly! The best thing is when you call. You will get someone on the other end of the line you, and can understand what they are saying!"—*Theresa Shown, Google*

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



Eric Eriksen

Tree trimming reduces outages, wildfire risk and rates

The San Luis Valley wildfire season typically starts in June and continues until October. However, wildfire preparation requires year-round activities for SLVREC. No matter the season, we continuously take action to mitigate wildfire risk to help ensure reliable and safe service to our members and communities.

SLVREC implements several mitigation procedures. The first measure is our proactive vegetation management program, otherwise known as tree trimming. We partner with [Asplundh](#), who is the global (and Colorado) leader in vegetation management. There is a good chance that if you see their trucks, equipment or people working on vegetation in the Valley, they are working for us.

These crews trim or remove encroaching branches, vegetation or hazard trees in our 2,800 miles of powerline rights-of-way (ROW) that threaten to contact. They adhere to Rural Utility Service (RUS) industry standard clearance requirements. Well-maintained ROWs serve as effective firebreaks, slowing or stopping wildfire progress and providing critical time and access for firefighting and powerline operation. The benefits of SLVREC's proactive program go beyond reducing wildfire risk. It reduces outages, enhances grid reliability and protects people.

Occasionally, trees do touch powerlines, such as during a high wind

event. The second proactive measure is using electric system automation for early detection and isolation to mitigate the impact of trees contacting



powerlines. This automation will attempt to determine if the contact was momentary by briefly isolating power, and re-energizing (reclosing). If the event was not momentary, then the automation

will permanently lock out power to the area. If you wonder why sometimes the power blinks, this could be the reason; automation is working to mitigate a potential hazard event. Finally, the automation reports back to our system operator triggering deployment of SLVREC linemen to patrol and repair the system.

The third measure is working with subject matter experts to analyze and revise our vegetation and wildfire mitigation plan for continuous improvement. Technology, weather and regulations are examples of how the environment we live in is constantly changing. We must evolve too. Tree trimming is not optional; it's essential. We are continually evaluating data driven steps to develop the best program resulting in safe, reliable and affordable operation of the electric system, therefore, reducing outages, wildfire risk and rates. In 2025, we are adopting an improved vegetation and wildfire

See TRIM continued on Page 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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719-588-0430

Wade Lockhart, Vice-President
719-588-9246

Creede Hargraves, Secretary/Treasurer
708-638-0039

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Email: power@slvrec.com

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

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719-852-3538

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Member Information

Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub

Life is fast, and it can be hectic, but it doesn't all have to be complicated. Paying your SLVREC/Ciello bill shouldn't be a complex task, and with our SmartHub web and mobile app, it won't be.

SmartHub can help you take control of your account like never before, giving you more time to focus on other responsibilities.

SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, view your usage, contact customer service and more.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks... or taps, if you're using the app. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous summer, if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual electric use. You can see how your use is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to

lower your bill.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

You'll be able to select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging.

Reporting a service issue is also quick and easy from the SmartHub mobile app. There's no need to call the office, just let us know about the issue with a few taps.

Access SmartHub by visiting our websites: www.slvrec.com (www.ciello.com) or downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).

Plenty of things in life are complicated. Manage your REC and Ciello accounts simply, quickly and easily with SmartHub.

Smart Management. Smart Life. SmartHub.

TRIM

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management program.

So how can you help? Send us your feedback. Whether it's asking to learn more, identifying a hazard, asking for help or letting us know when we make a mistake, we want to hear from you. 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.

For more information or feedback on SLVREC vegetation and wildfire



management, please email power@slvrec.com or call 719-852-3538 to visit with our electric operations team.

BOARD

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following Kim Wakasugi's resignation from the Costilla County district.

"Costilla and Conejos counties combined make up less than 10 percent of our membership, and with the close geographic proximity, it made the most sense to combine those two districts. Stephen Valdez, current director in that area, is very knowledgeable of the industry and has stayed very involved with the Conejos County members for the past eight years. Costilla County members will be pleased with his guidance and commitment," stated CEO Eric Eriksen.

REC remains committed to its mission of "Serving a Powerful Connection..." and is confident that this transition should be seamless to members.

BANKS

continued from page 1

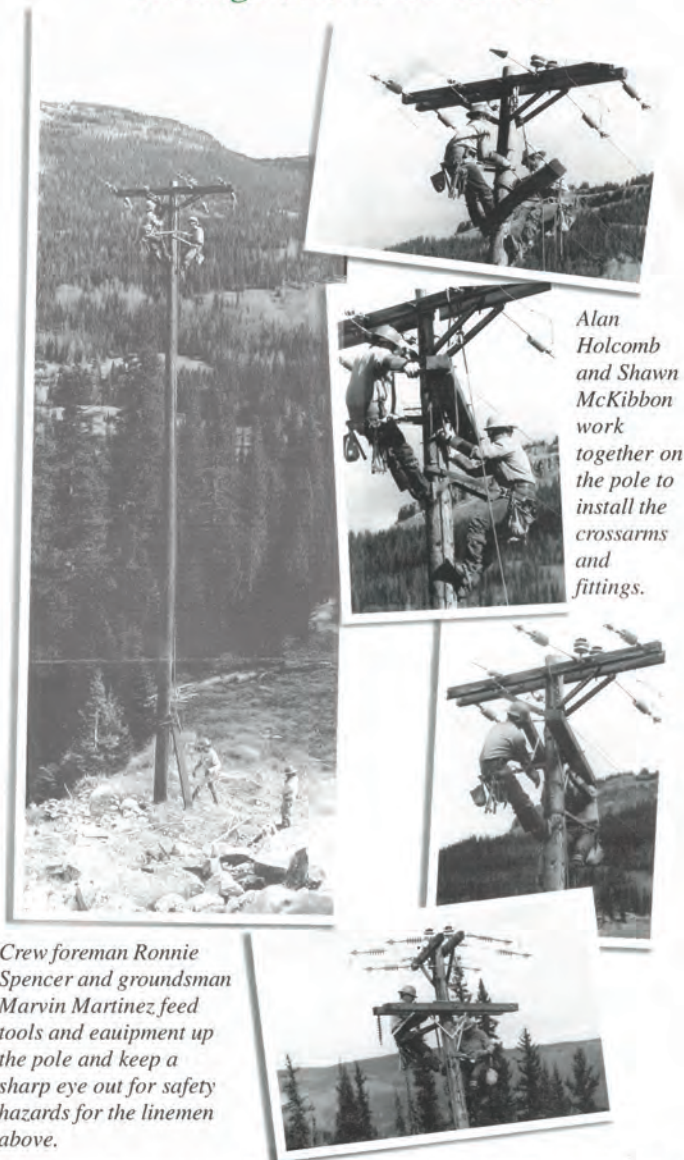
Payments can be made by mail, online, via the SmartHub app, by calling the automated phone line, in person at the front desk during office hours or at the drop box located at our office. We appreciate your understanding as we work through this change. Please call 719-852-3538 with any questions.



Historical Happenings

From the December 2001 Newsboy

Getting Power to the Tunnel



Alan Holcomb and Shawn McKibbin work together on the pole to install the crossarms and fittings.

Crew foreman Ronnie Spencer and groundsman Marvin Martinez feed tools and equipment up the pole and keep a sharp eye out for safety hazards for the linemen above.

Underground power lines will provide electricity to the tunnel on Wolf Creek Pass. But the power supply will come from the 14.4 kV line shown above.

Here, a crew is installing a set of cross arms on an existing power pole to provide a link between the above-ground supply and the underground system. ‡

Recipe of the Month

BREAKFAST NACHOS

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 lb. breakfast sausage
- 6 large eggs
- 2 t. water or milk
- Kosher salt and black pepper, to taste
- 11-oz. bag tortilla chips
- 3 c. shredded cheddar or Mexican blend cheese
- 15-oz. can black beans, rinsed/drained (or pinto beans)
- 1/4 c. diced red onion
- 1 large avocado, peeled, pitted, and finely diced
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- 1 jalapeño pepper, sliced
- 2 T. freshly chopped cilantro

For serving: salsa, hot sauce, sour cream, optional

1. Preheat oven to broil. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. You can also use foil, shiny-side up, spray the foil with cooking spray. Set aside.

2. In a medium skillet, cook the breakfast sausage over medium-high heat, breaking the meat apart with a wooden spoon, until sausage is browned and the fat is rendered, about 5 minutes. With a slotted spoon, transfer sausage to paper towels to drain.

3. Crack the eggs into a medium bowl and add the water or milk. Whisk until well combined. Add a little butter or oil to a medium nonstick skillet and turn the heat to medium-low. Add the eggs and let them cook for a few seconds without stirring. Use a rubber spatula to push the eggs across the bottom of the pan to form soft curds of scrambled eggs. Continue cooking, folding and stirring the eggs every few seconds to make sure they don't stick to the pan. Remove the pan from the heat when the eggs are mostly set, but a little liquid egg remains. Slightly undercook the eggs because they will continue cooking in the oven. Season with salt and pepper, to taste, and set aside.

4. Place the tortilla chips in an even layer on the prepared baking sheet. Sprinkle half of the cheese evenly over the chips. Add the cooked sausage, scrambled eggs and beans. Sprinkle with remaining cheese and red onion.

5. Broil until the cheese melts, about 2 minutes. Don't walk away. Make sure you keep an eye on the nachos as broilers vary and yours may take less time or a little more time.

6. Remove the nachos from the oven and top with avocado, tomatoes, jalapeno slices and cilantro. Serve immediately with salsa, hot sauce and sour cream, if desired.

twopeasandtheirpod.com

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August 2025

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POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

REC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1.

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

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Cooperative 

SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, Aug. 26, 2025, 9:30 a.m.
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.

