

# THE NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative

# REC

SAN  
LUIS  
VALLEY

POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

## MERRY AND BRIGHT

The holiday season conjures images of shared moments with family, delicious meals, merriment and delight of children. Sadly, this is not the case for all San Luis Valley residents and families. REC is involved with programs that help give back to the communities we serve.

We will be continuing with the Giving Tree from La Puente, which allows employees to contribute gifts for children and families in need. We will also be sponsoring a family through SLV BOCES MEP. To help with the Adopt-a-Family program this year please contact San Luis Valley BOCES at 710-587-5422. REC will be making a charitable contribution to La Llave once again this year.

The Valley has many great services to assist families in need at this time of year. We at, REC, believe it is important to give back to the community and members we serve. If

you have interest in donating or volunteering time, please see the list of organizations around the San Luis Valley that are happy to accept help. Please remember the need is year round and any help is appreciated.

La Puente — <http://www.lapuate.net>  
(719) 589-5909

Adelante Family Services — (719) 587-0538

Food Bank Network — (719) 589-4567

PALS Children's Program — (719) 589-6316

Rethreads Community Clothing —  
(719) 588-9052

La Llave — <http://www.lallavefrc.org>  
(719) 589-9688

SLV BOCES — <http://www.slvboces.org>  
(719) 589-5851

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# Next Generation of Leaders



What do 1,500 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind – to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative. And in Colorado, 320 students have participated in the program in the last 13 years.

It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and for a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

REC has begun the interview process to select local students to attend Youth Tour 2016. If you are a high school sophomore,

junior or senior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact us for more information.

Perhaps you know of an exceptional student who would be a great candidate for the program. If you do, please share this article with them.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a better skill set and deeper understanding of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student. For more information about REC's Youth Tour program, call (719) 852-3538 or visit [www.slvrec.com](http://www.slvrec.com).



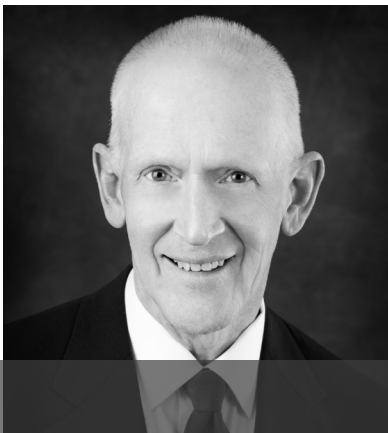
## Conservation Corner

Those old incandescent holiday lights you've been putting up forever are terribly inefficient, and despite careful storage, often emerge only halfway lit with many being tossed in landfills. Instead, save a bundle by replacing them with ENERGY STAR® qualified LED light strands. In addition to using 70% less energy than traditional bulbs, they're brighter, eco-friendly, and are safer, as they are much cooler than incandescent lights. In addition, they're easier to install. Up to 24 strings of LEDs can be connected end-to-end without overloading a wall socket. They last 10 times longer, have no filaments or glass to break, and costs are similar to the age-old standard. If you prefer white lights with the look of incandescent lights, look for "warm" white on the label.

Set timers for lights to automatically turn on when it gets dark and off in the middle of the night, depending on your preferences. You can save a bundle by keeping light displays on only eight hours of the evening (when you can see them). If you are still using traditional incandescent bulbs, this tip is even more important to cut down on energy costs.

Not everything is about strands of lights. Reflective ornaments and tinsel are just as bright at night, so getting creative with your lighting display can multiply your resources for shine. You could even mirror your next door neighbor's tremendously costly display with a string of silver bells on your railing.

<http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-efficient-holiday-decorating-tips>



## LOREN HOWARD

### A Season of Sharing

The holidays bring many things to mind: happy memories of seasons past, good food, and great family. The holiday season also means giving back and sharing joy.

Perhaps you commit random acts of kindness, like sharing a cup of coffee with a friend in need, or cooking and serving food for the hungry. Maybe you give your time or money to local, national or international charities. Or perhaps you simply try to embrace the season by showing gratitude and kindness to those around you.

However you share your own unique holiday spirit, know that we here at REC strive to share our spirit with you.

We hope you see it reflected in our service and commitment. Even during the holiday season – when many people are lighting their homes with festive decorations, or staying up late entertaining and cooking for family and friends — we are still working to provide you with the most affordable electric service.

We help members keep energy use in check by providing energy efficiency tips, such as those we provide monthly in the Newsboy. We help you save driving time by providing the option to pay your bill online or by using our free mobile app. We also help keep your family safe by providing electrical safety tips – information that is especially important this time of year.

I hope you see how much we care through the benefits, savings and services we provide, but I also hope you see it in the ways we give back to our community. REC works with La Puente, the local food banks,

BOCES and other organizations to stay actively involved with the members and communities we serve. We are nothing without our members. We recognize that and understand that we cannot thrive unless you thrive, so we do all we can to make sure that our community is strong.

From all of your friends at REC, we hope you have a happy holiday season!



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Your e-mail will be forwarded based on the direction you provide in your message.

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## COMPANY NEWS

# Working Together to Build a Brighter Tomorrow

When it comes to electric cooperatives, it is more than just working together; it's about the commitment to do so. Your Touchstone Energy cooperative invests time, money and expertise to build the local economy and strengthen relationships with members. Across the nation, co-ops improve their members' quality of life by taking leadership roles in community development projects, educating the youth, and generously donating time, energy, and resources to schools, charities and community events. Located in the communities they serve, electric cooperatives and their members work together to achieve a better life and build a brighter tomorrow.

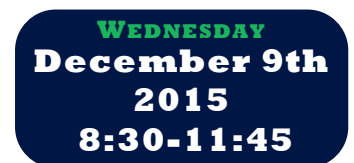
With the help of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who established the Rural Electrification Administration in 1935, friends and neighbors banded together to create a new kind of electric utility, where the voice of every person made a difference.

Today, with the same focus on member needs, electric cooperatives are committed to improving the quality of life in their communities and for the member-owners who live there.

When it comes to working together, Jo Ann Emerson, CEO of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, said, "The most special thing about Touchstone Energy cooperatives is how they embrace their local presence and humanize the relationship between the co-op and the people - the owners - in the homes and businesses they serve."

As a member of a Touchstone Energy co-op, you have a voice. Together they work in harmony. Together we can all build a brighter tomorrow.

Plug in to the power of REC's Touchstone Energy Cooperative membership at [www.TogetherWeSave.com](http://www.TogetherWeSave.com).



## CAREER FAIR!

The San Luis Valley BOCES Counselor Corp Grant along with Adams State University, Trinidad State Junior College, the San Luis Valley Workforce Center/The Training Advantage, SLV AHEC, and RMSER would like to invite your students, grades 9-12, to the upcoming 2015 Career Fair at ASU Plachy Hall (FIELD HOUSE)! Schools will be staggering in and will have an hour and a half each (schedule to be determined).

Olivia Arreguin: [garreguin@slvboces.org](mailto:garreguin@slvboces.org) or 719-587-5432  
Cindylee Hererra: [cherrera@slvboces.org](mailto:cherrera@slvboces.org) or 719-587-5443



## RECIPES OF THE MONTH

### INGREDIENTS

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour  
2 teaspoons ground ginger  
1 teaspoon baking soda  
3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
3/4 cup margarine, softened  
1 cup white sugar  
1 egg  
1 tablespoon water  
1/4 cup molasses  
2 tablespoons white sugar

### BIG SOFT GINGERBREAD COOKIES

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Sift together the flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, and salt. Set aside.

In a large bowl, cream together the margarine and 1 cup sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg, then stir in the water and molasses. Gradually stir the sifted ingredients into the molasses mixture. Shape dough into walnut-sized balls and roll them in the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar. Place the cookies 2 inches apart onto an ungreased cookie sheet, and flatten slightly.

Bake for 8 to 10 minutes in the preheated oven. Allow cookies to cool on baking sheet for 5 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely. Store in an airtight container.

### INGREDIENTS

6 cups sweet potato, cubed  
1/2 cup white sugar  
2 eggs, beaten  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
4 tablespoons butter, softened  
1/2 cup milk  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 cup packed brown sugar  
1/3 cup all-purpose flour  
3 tablespoons butter, softened  
1/2 cup chopped pecans

### SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Put sweet potatoes in a medium saucepan with water to cover. Cook over medium high heat until tender; drain and mash.

In a large bowl, mix together the sweet potatoes, white sugar, eggs, salt, butter, milk and vanilla extract. Mix until smooth. Transfer to a 9x13 inch baking dish.

In medium bowl, mix the brown sugar and flour. Cut in the butter until the mixture is coarse. Stir in the pecans. Sprinkle the mixture over the sweet potato mixture.

Bake in the preheated oven 30 minutes or until the topping is lightly brown.

### INGREDIENTS

1/2 part Red Stag by Jim Beam®  
1/2 part DeKuyper® Buttershots® Schnapps  
1/2 part Irish Cream  
Cinnamon, Ground

### CINNAMON SUGAR COOKIE (SOMETHING NAUGHTY)

Shake all ingredients with ice and strain into a chilled cocktail glass. Garnish with a dash of fresh-ground cinnamon.





Periodical Postage  
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## POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625  
Monte Vista, CO 81144

December 2015



## POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's offices are open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday through Thursday.  
Offices are closed Friday through Sunday.

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE

866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)  
[www.energyoutreach.org](http://www.energyoutreach.org)

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting December 15 @ 9:30 a.m.  
The Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each  
month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.



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*The power of human connections®*

