

# THE NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative

## Lighting the Way



As REC moves into 2017, we celebrate our 80th year of service to the San Luis Valley. We are proud to be the second oldest electric cooperative in Colorado. We serve the counties of Rio Grande, Costilla, Saguache, Alamosa, Conejos, Mineral and Hinsdale. More than 7,500 member owners work with our team to power their homes, schools, farms and other small businesses.

While we look toward the future, it is important to not forget our roots. With the same pioneering spirit our cooperative founders exhibited in 1937, we strive to make life easier for our members. Cielo powered by REC continues expansion throughout the Valley. In 2016, we reached over 1,000 consumers signed up for either high-speed internet, telephone or both. Our goal for 2017 is to double that number, move through Del Norte and into the Monte Vista area. We want to deploy a reliable, high-speed network that boasts service comparable to that of any in a metropolitan area. We believe that through these services, businesses, education, and medicine can function more effectively. It is our goal to provide internet and telephone service that will enable people to live and thrive in the beautiful San Luis Valley.

2017 will see the dawn of our Penitente Solar project, which will contribute to our 5 percent of self-supplied power. The project will be located in Saguache County and is scheduled to break ground in the spring of 2017. This is another way REC can contribute to renewable power initiatives, and we are pleased to do our part.

We wish our members health and prosperity in the new year!



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Loren Howard

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JANUARY 2017 | VOLUME 42 | ISSUE 1



# ENERGY STAR Buyers Guide



Purchasing **ENERGY STAR**-certified appliances and electronics is a great way to save energy in your home. But how do you choose the right product? It depends on your energy-saving goals *and* how you use energy in your home.



Do you wash multiple loads of laundry each week? Investing in an ENERGY STAR-certified washer could save you around \$45 on your utility bill each year. Some of the top-rated ENERGY STAR-certified large washers come from LG and Samsung. Visit ENERGY STAR's "Most Efficient 2016" page to learn more.



Home computers can use a shocking amount of energy each year. If all computers in the U.S. were ENERGY STAR certified, we would save more than \$1 billion in energy costs per year. If you can't buy an ENERGY STAR-certified computer, consider updating the power management setting on your computer. Visit [energystar.gov/products/office\\_equipment/computers](http://energystar.gov/products/office_equipment/computers).



The larger TVs get, the more energy they use. But ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are, on average, 25% more efficient than conventional models. LG, Samsung and Vizio make the list of ENERGY STAR's most efficient 2016 TVs.

**There are many different types of ENERGY STAR-certified products, including:**

- Air purifiers
- Roof products
- Set-top boxes and cable boxes
- Decorative light strands
- Data center storage
- Pool pumps
- Vending machines
- Dehumidifiers

Learn more about **ENERGY STAR** products.  
Visit [energystar.gov/products](http://energystar.gov/products)



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES



**LOREN HOWARD**

## Cooperative Commitment

Evolving technology is changing the way energy is generated and distributed through the electric grid to homes and businesses. These changes have brought new challenges and opportunities to electric co-ops working to keep pace with the evolving landscape.

Within the electric cooperative workforce, new skills and experience are needed to help co-ops meet shifting market and consumer demands. San Luis Valley REC is always looking for ways to provide even greater value to our members. We have a broad range of highly trained professionals working behind the scenes at REC.

Lineworkers are the most visible and identifiable employees of the co-op, but their responsibilities go far beyond climbing poles and repairing lines. They are also information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely.

Experts in information technology are increasingly important for safeguarding the grid and protecting data and other sensitive cyber assets. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the utility, particularly as system upgrades and more renewable energy choices become available.

Professionals in business administration, communication and digital media help co-ops deliver messages through multiple platforms to keep members informed of critical information in today's 24/7 media environment.

We have a strong commitment to the communities we serve. Important decisions are made locally with input from a democratically elected Board of Directors whose interest is the greater good of the community. We are proud to give back to our community through employee volunteer efforts and with donations to local charities. We have made a significant impact through SLVREC Energy Foundation Inc.

In addition, we are making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Through our network of 900 electric co-ops across the country, we have helped bring electricity to more than 140 million people in 43 developing countries across the globe. Through international electrification projects, America's electric cooperatives are helping millions of people in developing countries improve their living standards.

Simply put, we believe cooperatives build a better world.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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[www.twitter.com/SLVREC](http://www.twitter.com/SLVREC)



## COMPANY NEWS

### Welcome Sam Sparrow!

Sam Sparrow joined the REC family in October 2016. She came to us from First Southwest Bank in Alamosa. Sam graduated in 2014 from Adams State University with a degree in accounting and has already acclimated well to her role in the customer service team.

Sam hopes to bring a spirit of fun and her love for learning to REC. She says the electric co-op provides new learning experiences daily. Sam says the position with REC was a great opportunity for personal and professional growth.



## Conservation Corner



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



A crackling fire in the hearth warms the house, but don't let it heat up your electric bill! Caulk around the fireplace hearth and keep the damper closed when a fire is not burning.

*Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy*



# Good for Luck in 2017

## RECIPES OF THE MONTH

### INGREDIENTS

1 cup dried lentils  
4 1/2 cups cold water  
1 1/2 teaspoons salt  
1 medium (3/4-pound) fennel bulb, stalks discarded, reserving fronds  
3 1/2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
1 carrot, cut into 1/4-inch dice  
1/2 teaspoon fennel seeds  
1 1/4 pounds sweet Italian sausage links  
3 tablespoons chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley  
1/2 teaspoon black pepper  
1 tablespoon red-wine vinegar, or to taste  
Extra-virgin olive oil for drizzling

### Sausage with Lentils and Fennel

Bring lentils, water, and 1/2 teaspoon salt to a boil in a 2-quart heavy saucepan, then reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, until lentils are just tender but not falling apart, 12 to 25 minutes.

While lentils simmer, cut fennel bulb into 1/4-inch dice and chop enough fennel fronds to measure 2 tablespoons. Heat 3 tablespoons oil in a 3- to 4-quart heavy saucepan over moderate heat until hot but not smoking, then stir in onion, carrot, fennel bulb, fennel seeds, and remaining teaspoon salt. Cover pan and cook, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are very tender, about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, lightly prick sausages in a couple of places with tip of a sharp knife, then cook sausages in remaining 1/2 tablespoon oil in a 10-inch non-stick skillet over moderately high heat, turning occasionally, until golden brown and cooked through, 12 to 15 minutes. Transfer to a cutting board.

Drain cooked lentils in a sieve placed over a bowl and reserve cooking water. Stir lentils into vegetables with enough cooking water to moisten (1/4 to 1/2 cup) and cook over moderate heat until heated through. Stir in parsley, pepper, 1 tablespoon vinegar, and 1 tablespoon fennel fronds. Season with vinegar and salt.

Cut sausages diagonally into 1/2-inch-thick slices. Serve lentils topped with sausage and sprinkled with remaining tablespoon fennel fronds. Drizzle all over with extra-virgin olive oil.

### INGREDIENTS

4 large eggs, separated  
1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar  
1 1/2 sticks unsalted butter, melted, or a combination of butter and margarine  
1 1/4 cups freshly squeezed orange juice  
1/2 cup brandy  
4 cups all-purpose flour  
4 teaspoons baking powder  
1/4 teaspoon baking soda  
Grated zest of 1 orange  
Grated zest of 1 lemon  
Whole blanched almonds

### Orange and Brandy Cake

Preheat the oven to 375°F. Grease a 10-inch round cake pan. In a large bowl, with an electric mixer, beat the egg yolks with the sugar until light yellow and creamy, about 3 minutes. Add the butter or butter and margarine and beat for 1 minute more. Beat in the orange juice and brandy.

Whisk together the flour with the baking powder, baking soda and the zests in another large bowl. Add to the yolk mixture and stir with a rubber spatula until incorporated.

In a large clean bowl, with clean beaters, beat the egg whites until they form soft peaks. Fold them into the batter. Pour the batter into the pan and shake gently to even the top. Decorate the top with almonds.

Bake the cake for about 1 hour, or until it is golden brown on top and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Cool on a rack before removing from the pan and serving.





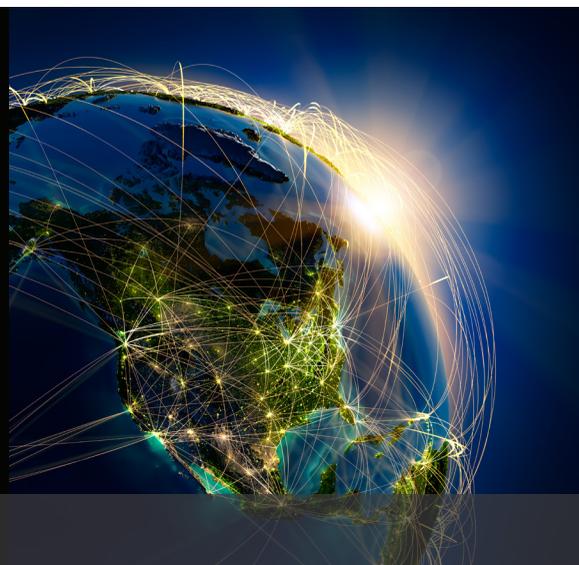
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**POWERING A VITAL VALLEY**

P.O. Box 3625  
Monte Vista, CO 81144

January 2017



## POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Monday through Thursday.  
The office is closed Friday through Sunday.

**ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

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

**SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

Board Meeting—January 26 @ 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.

Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperative 

