

THE NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative

ciello

POWERED BY REC



Hello Neighbor!



Hello Neighbor!

Ciello and Colorado Central Telecom are proud to announce a new partnership that will dramatically expand state-of-the-art broadband and phone service throughout the upper San Luis Valley.

The collaboration will provide faster internet service at lower cost to customers in Crestone, Moffat, Saguache, Center, and surrounding areas.

“This is a powerful extension of Colorado Central Telecom’s mission to bridge the digital divide,” Colorado Central Telecom CEO Ralph Abrams said. “Our experience with fixed wireless, combined with Ciello’s fiber infrastructure, means faster speeds for our local communities.”

The partnership will leverage Ciello’s fiber network to improve the reliability and affordability of the upper San Luis Valley internet service. Fiber-to-the-home connections will be capable of providing gigabit service, while enhanced fixed wireless will offer speeds up to 50 Mbps.

“Ciello is very pleased to have worked with Colorado Central Telecom in developing our collaborative arrangement. This effort will bring significant value and improvements to San Luis Valley residents today and into the future as Ciello and Colorado Central Telecom bring their knowledge and experience together,” said Loren Howard, CEO of San Luis Valley REC and Ciello. “This is just the beginning of what we can do together for the benefit of all residents in this part of Colorado.” *(Continued on next page)*

THIS ISSUE

Hello Neighbor! 

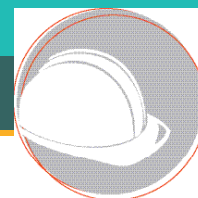
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In areas where fiber-to-the-home is not immediately available, Colorado Central Telecom fixed wireless customers will be upgraded to Cielo equipment capable of delivering 50 Mbps — two times the fastest service currently available.

“This is an amazing upgrade for Saguache County,” Abrams said.

The first phase of the project is already underway, with work set to continue through 2019. Both Colorado Central Telecom and Cielo are dedicating staff to the upgrades.

Colorado Central Telecom customers will be moved to Cielo as they transition to upgraded service. Colorado Central Telecom and Cielo staff will contact customers to coordinate last-mile upgrades and transfer billing. Current Cielo customers will not be affected by the transition.

About Cielo

The Valley’s premier fiber optic broadband internet service provider, Cielo delivers what other broadband companies in our area simply cannot: reliable connections at cutting edge speeds. Our state-of-the-art network will put connection at your fingertips. Our focus on innovation and progress will bring new opportunities to our community. At Cielo, we’re not just offering broadband that unites us here at home, but connects us to the world.

About Colorado Central Telecom

Colorado Central Telecom is bridging the digital divide throughout the upper San Luis Valley, Chaffee County, and Lake County. Our hybrid fiber/fixed wireless network connects 2,700 home, business, and enterprise customers with fast, reliable broadband internet and VoIP phone service.

Conservation Corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it’s half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.

Source: energy.gov





LOREN HOWARD

Improving Reliability

“The only things certain in life are death and taxes,” as the old saying goes. Well, we can add another to the list: power outages. An outage can range from annoying to dangerous, depending on its timing and length.

San Luis Valley REC’s primary goal is to deliver the highest possible quality of electric service at the lowest possible price. Perhaps the key measure of quality in the eyes of members is the number of times their lights blink or go out.

Let’s talk a bit about how the grid is designed as a backdrop to how technology is improving reliability by reducing blinks and outages. Along the power lines that bring electricity to your home, REC installs protective devices in the form of fuses and reclosers (high-voltage circuit breakers). Fuses and reclosers serve the same purpose as the fuses and circuit breakers in your home.

A fuse is a one-shot device, fuses have to be replaced. When a fault occurs the fuse blows, and everyone downstream from it loses power. Reclosers are multi-shot devices, meaning they can operate a certain number of times before they stay open and an outage occurs. A common setting is what’s known as a triple-shot. Here’s how that works. A tree limb contacts the power lines and creates a fault or short circuit condition. The recloser senses it and opens, creating the first blink.

Here’s where a recloser differs from your home circuit breaker. It waits a certain amount of a time (typically a few seconds), then recloses to try and complete the circuit. If the fault is still there, it opens again. This creates the second blink. Triple-shot settings allow the device to reclose a third time and if the fault is still there it stays open, and the members downstream experience a power outage.

Blinks are a nuisance, but they eliminate a lot of extended outages by protecting wires and equipment from serious damage.

So, what kind of technology is improving service reliability? Grid technologies are

spawning an amazing array of equipment and software that are already improving reliability. When combined with field construction practices, like building multiple ways to feed power loads and the deployment of advanced metering systems (AMI), the future of reliability is bright —pun intended.

Electric co-ops are starting to use more of what are called Intelligent Electronic Devices. “Intelligent” basically means a co-op can program the device to behave a certain way when a specific event occurs. It also means the co-op can remotely command the device to take an action, either preprogrammed or ad hoc.

Eventually, there will be a power outage despite the best efforts of REC. That is where AMI and outage management systems (OMS) earn their keep. The basic element of an AMI is a meter that can communicate with your electric co-op. The OMS maps system data and meter locations into a piece of software that models the electric grid. When a device on the grid reports loss of power, the OMS runs calculations to determine the exact location of the device that opened or cleared and the number of members impacted.

Now, the whole suite of systems your co-op uses comes into play. The co-op dispatcher can call out or redirect a crew to the exact location of the problem. A map of the outage and number of impacted members is generated and member service reps are notified that an outage is in progress.

The end result of all this technology is the minimization of outages and their length, plus more availability of up-to-date information for the consumer.

Mother Nature is a tough opponent, and it’s impossible to eliminate outages and blinks altogether. But with the way technology is advancing, we can expect to see some remarkable improvements.

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Meet Your Co-op!



Meet Kurt Taffin!

I joined the REC team in 2006. Time spent working with my colleagues as well as the membership has been more than fulfilling.

I began as a Journeyman Lineman before transitioning to Staking Engineer in 2014. Learning insight along with new, efficient techniques has contributed to everyone's success at the Cooperative.

I try to maintain a testament of high character and integrity in everything I do. As a husband and father of two boys, fostering positive interaction and being the best role model I can be is most important. Whether it's designing for a new power service or new fiber optic deployment, I look forward to my work with everyone at REC and Cielo.

Bylaw Changes

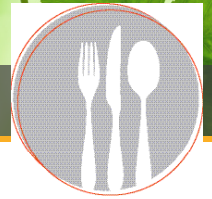
Proposed Changes to Article I, Sections 3 and 4 of the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. Bylaws

Section 3. Joint Membership. ~~A husband and wife~~ Two individuals living in the same household may hold a joint membership. The term "member" as used in these Bylaws shall be deemed to include ~~a husband and wife~~ two individuals holding a joint membership and any provisions relating to the rights and liabilities of membership shall apply equally with respect to the holders of a joint membership. The following shall apply to joint membership:

- a) The presence at a meeting of either or both shall be regarded as the presence of one member and shall constitute a joint waiver of notice of the meeting.
- b) The vote of either separately or both jointly shall constitute one vote and if they shall not agree, they shall be considered to have abstained.
- c) A waiver of either separately or both jointly shall constitute a joint waiver.
- d) Notice to either shall constitute notice to both.
- e) Expulsion of either shall terminate the joint membership.
- f) Withdrawal of either shall terminate the joint membership.
- g) Either, but not both, may be elected or appointed as an officer or director.

Section 4. Conversion to Joint Membership. A membership of a person may be converted to a joint membership with ~~his or her spouse~~ another individual living in the same household upon the written request of the holder thereof and the agreement by such holder and ~~his or her spouse~~ the other individual to comply with the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. Upon the death of either ~~spouse~~ individual who is a party to a joint membership, such membership shall be held solely by the survivor. However, the estate of the deceased shall not be released from and shall be jointly and severally liable for any debts due to the Cooperative.

RECIPES OF THE MONTH



INGREDIENTS

1 5-6 lb corned beef, with seasoning packet
2 lbs small red potatoes
1 lb carrots, peeled and cut in half
1 onion, peeled
1 head cabbage, divided into 6 wedges

Corned Beef and Cabbage

Fill a large stockpot with enough water to cover corned beef. Place beef, and contents of seasoning packet if included with purchase, into stockpot and bring to a simmer. Cook for 2 to 3 hours, until a toothpick or wooden skewer can be inserted easily into the meat.

Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Remove beef from water and place in roasting pan along with a ladle of cooking liquid. Place in oven to keep warm.

Meanwhile, place potatoes, carrots, and onion into the stock pot and bring to a boil, cooking for 10 minutes. Add cabbage and boil an additional 10 minutes.

Remove beef from oven and slice against the grain. Serve with drained vegetables.

INGREDIENTS

1 1/2 cups flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp kosher salt
1/4 tsp baking soda
1 stick unsalted butter, at room temperature
3/4 cup packed light brown sugar
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup powdered sugar
2 large egg yolks
1 large egg
1 tsp vanilla extract
8 oz Reese's peanut butter cups, coarsely chopped (about 11 full-sized ones)
1/3 cup coarsely chopped pretzels
Flaky sea salt

Reese's Peanut Butter Cup Pretzel Cookies

Place racks in upper and lower thirds of oven. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, kosher salt, and baking soda. Set aside.

Beat butter with brown sugar, sugar, and powdered sugar for 3-4 minutes, until light and fluffy. Add egg yolks, egg, and vanilla and beat for an additional 4-5 minutes, scraping down the sides as needed.

With mixer on low, add dry ingredients, beating just until combined. Use a spatula to fold in pretzels and chopped Reese's peanut butter cups.

Spoon rounded tablespoons of cookie dough onto 2 baking sheets lined with parchment paper. Leave 1 inch between cookies. Sprinkle cookies with sea salt.

Bake cookies for 10-12 minutes, rotating pans halfway through, just until golden brown on the edges. Allow cookies to cool slightly on baking sheets before transferring to wire racks to cool completely.



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POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144

March 2018

If you are interested in running for the San Luis Valley REC Board and are located in the Mineral/Hinsdale County area, board packets are available for pickup in our office or online at www.slvrec.com. If you have questions contact our office at 719-852-3538.

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 



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

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting — March 27, 2018 @ 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

