

Decker Fire

Burning more than 6,500 acres as of Tuesday, Oct. 8, the Decker Fire in the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness saw SLV REC member Clint Brown sharing water with the firefighters.

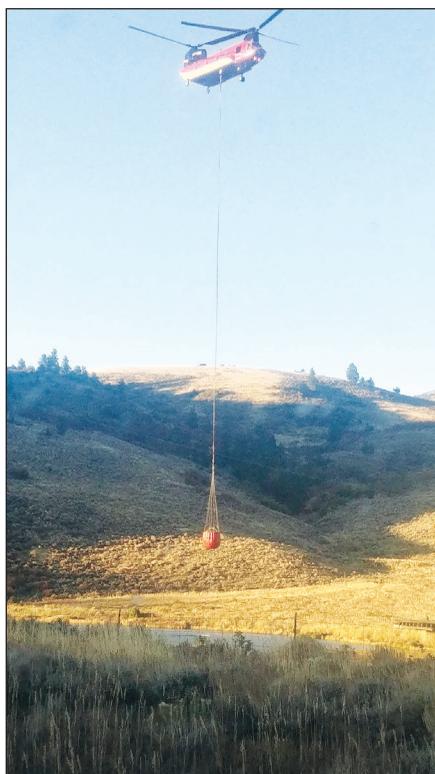
Brown's three-acre pond on Lone Tree Ranch near the burn area was offered to firefighters battling the blaze, which they took advantage of over the weekend.

Brown guessed the Type 1 Chinook helicopter had picked up approximately 200,000 gallons to help tame the wildfire.

When the lightning struck igniting the fire on Sept. 8, two miles south of Salida and into Saguache County, Brown made a point to let firefighters know the pond was available as a resource if they needed to dip into it. With a much quicker turn-around time (5-7 vs. 15-20 minutes), Brown knew the pond could come in clutch. "A longer turn-around time gives the fire time to blow back up. Before they get back with more water, it can really blow up," Brown explained.

"The firefighters greatly appreciated being able to get a lot of water into the area quickly," Brown said. "They worked so hard to contain the fire off of not only the BLM, but local ranches and cabins as well. They've worked really hard; we want to help them— as a community, we want to help them."

As fire personnel continue to fight the flames, the San Luis Valley REC and our members are grateful to them and friends like Clint for making a difference in our communities.



The time is now to apply

For the past several years, the San Luis Valley REC has made secondary education a priority when giving back to the Valley. With just over \$180,000 given in the past five years, the REC annually awards up to 12 scholarships to local students.

The awards are primarily reserved for REC members' children, although a few of the scholarships are available to other Valley students as well.

"The SLVREC scholarship has been such a blessing to me; it has provided me with the means to get my degree and work towards my dream of becoming a teacher," said Adams State freshman Aleceya Tolsma.

Aleceya was awarded the 2019 *SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship*, which

SCHOLARSHIPS

is renewable for up to a maximum of four years. The value of the scholarship equals the total of in-state tuition, some fees and a book allowance for the award year.

Balancing seven classes, Aleceya is majoring in elementary education with an emphasis in mathematics. "The support I have received from the community, specifically through the REC, has become a huge part of my college experience and a wonderful motivator; knowing that I have supporters who are pushing me to succeed. I can't thank this company enough for providing me with my education," she commented.

Anthony Lewis, Alamosa graduate and 2018 four-year scholarship recipient, is majoring in Exercise Science. He commented on his education at ASU, "This scholarship means a lot to me because it is helping me greatly in paying for me to go to college. I just finished my first year of college; it was

See **APPLY**
continued on Page 5

THIS ISSUE

Decker Fire, Scholarships

Learning About Demand

Loren Howard

Meet Your Co-op!

Recipe/Conservation Corner

Why is your demand high?



TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHY YOUR DEMAND IS HIGH? WATTAGE NEEDED FOR COMMON HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

				WATTAGE (KW)
 Phone Charger .01-.1 KW	 Laptop .05-.1 KW	 Electric Blanket .15 KW	 Window Fan .2 KW	.2
 Television .01-.35 KW	 Crock-Pot .25 KW	 Desktop Computer .3 KW		.4
 Freezer (food) .3-.5 KW				
 Washer .5-1.0 KW	 Coffee Maker .85 KW	 Microwave .6-1.0 KW		.6 .8
 Stove Top 1.0-3.0 KW per burner		 Heater, Radiant 1.3 KW	 Refrigerator .6-2.0 KW	1.0
 Toaster 1.1-1.7 KW	 Oven 1.0-5.0 KW	 Hot Plate 1.25 KW		1.5
 Sump Pump .4-3.0 KW	 Window Air Conditioner 2.0-3.0 KW	 Water Heater 3-4.5 KW	 Dishwasher 1.5-2.5 KW	2.0
 Tankless Water Heater 11.0-18.0 KW	 Electric Clothes Dryer 5.0-10.0 KW			4.0 10.0+



Loren Howard

Tri-State and Western Energy Imbalance Service

All around us the world is changing – some good changes, some not so good changes. The electric utility industry has not been immune to change like so many facets of the world. Renewable energy, such as solar, wind and hydro power, have grown into providing a substantial portion of the electric energy supplied throughout the world including the United States. Utility scale solar, such as the large solar facilities in the San Luis Valley, is integrated into the generation dispatch throughout Colorado. Distributed generation resources, typically solar, have expanded significantly almost everywhere in the United States. On the REC system, there are now more than 1000 kW of solar net metering.

All these changes in the industry have added to the complexity and challenges of operating the electric grid, which has an incredible record of reliability. In 2005, the U.S. Congress passed the Energy Policy Act which implemented a whole host of reliability and security regulations for the electric utility industry. One of the most significant outcomes of these regulations was the formation of Independent System Operators (ISO) and Regional Transmission Operators (RTO) which has since 2005, transformed the wholesale electric power system.

Both ISOs and RTOs are providing “markets” which manage either generation or transmission or both. Through these markets, regional generation and transmission is managed or “dispatched” using very complex and sophisticated software; through this dispatch, generation and transmission resources are being

using more efficiently. This dispatching of resources has provided for better integration of renewable resources since solar and wind are not controllable generation facilities.

Tri-State has announced that it will be joining the Western Energy Imbalance Service (WEIS) created by the Southern Power Pool (SPP) which is an RTO. WEIS will provide many of the benefits of an ISO or RTO including effectively dispatching generation and ensuring transmission is reliably and efficiently used.

While you as a member of REC might be wondering “Why is this important to me?” Tri-State, like every other large generator of electricity has in the past, planned and built generation assets necessary to meet future requirements. Adding large, cost-effective generation resources means there are periods of time, typically measured in years, where these entities have more generation than is required to meet current loads plus the required reserves. Tri-State is “long” on generation and joining the WEIS will provide Tri-State a more efficient way of selling their excess generation into the “market,” which in turn means better utilization of the existing generation resources. This translates into keeping the wholesale power cost to member cooperatives of Tri-State as low as possible. Tri-State has not increased their wholesale power costs to REC for more than two years and is projecting it can avoid increases for likely three more years. Joining the WEIS is another way Tri-State is striving to deliver wholesale to its member cooperatives at as low a cost possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Lee Dugan, President
719-852-5412

Keenan Anderson, Vice President
719-849-8304

Stephen Valdez, Secretary
719-588-0430

Scott Wolfe
719-852-0966

Cole Wakasugi
719-937-9514

Kip Nagy
719-850-0749

Wade Lockhart
719-588-9246

Email: power@slvrec.com

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

CEO

Loren Howard
719-852-6630

SLVREC Office (toll free)
800-332-7634

SLVREC Office (local calls)
719-852-3538

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

The Newsboy (publication #551-450) is an official publication of the San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.; 3625 US Hwy 160 W, Monte Vista, CO 81144. The Newsboy is published monthly for SLVREC members. Periodical postage paid at Monte Vista, CO 81144.

Postmaster, send Form 3579 to NEWSBOY, P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144-3625.

© 2019 San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. All rights reserved.

 www.facebook.com/SLVREC

 www.twitter.com/SLVREC

Meet Your Co-op!

From the mountains to the plains

Two of SLV REC's own traded the mountains in for the plains in September, taking a 171-mile bicycle trek. The Eighth Annual Pedal the Plains (PTP) took REC employees Carol Silva and Troy Golden through host communities Lamar, Holly and Springfield with a trail through Kansas as well. Joining approximately 500 other riders Carol and Troy were sponsored by San Luis Valley REC in the three-day ride. Funds raised go toward Energy Outreach Colorado.

Knowing Troy enjoyed riding, Carol convinced him to participate in the event with her. It was a first for both of them.

Carol just began biking seriously last year, completing 1,000 miles from spring to fall on her mountain bike. This year, she purchased a road bike, which shaved 15 minutes off her ride to work.

Leaving her house at 4:15 a.m., Carol rides eight miles one-way to work every day. She finds the morning rides peaceful and has thus far avoided any encounters with local skunks or porcupines. Although, a mishap with her foot clip did almost prevent her from riding the plains, she disregarded her doctor's advice and took the ride anyhow.

Despite a struggle on the day two 74-mile ride, Carol commented that she had "a good time and loved meeting new people." Day two's "wind and heat were just too much. You think the plains are all flat, but

there are rolling hills. Every time we got near the top of a hill, I thought there'd be a break, but then there was another hill. I had to stop." After refueling and hydrating herself, Carol took on day three's 48-mile ride, coming into the finish line with a smile on her face— according to Troy, a big smile.

Previously Troy enjoyed motorcycling in the mountains, but about five years ago, fellow employee Justin Harrison persuaded him to try pedaling instead. "Justin got me hooked," Troy said.

Spending many weekends mountain biking and bikepacking, this ride was a little different for Troy because he's used to doing everything on his own. PTP took care of breakfast and dinner at the host cities and had aid stations set up throughout the race every 10-12 miles. Their tents and supplies were transported for them as well.

Mountain rider or not, Troy made a successful run of the road riding, finishing day two (74 miles) in six hours, faced with the wind and 98-degree weather.

His next major ride will take him to South Dakota in July of 2020 for the Trans South Dakota Race. Dubbed "a bikepacking race across the state of South Dakota with five miles of packrafting across the Missouri River," Troy is looking forward to the challenge. "It's all self-supported through the Black Hills into the Badlands," he commented. He'll spend four days riding 350 miles. The ride will begin



to prepare him for his ultimate goal— after Troy retires in about two years, he wants to ride across the United States.

While Carol won't be joining Troy on the South Dakota ride, she is considering joining Pedal the Plains again in 2020 but would better prepare herself with more training.

The feeling of accomplishment at the finish-line was confirmation how "amazing it is what you can do with your body if you just get into it, do it and take care of yourself properly," Troy said.

"The more you do it, the easier it gets," Carol stated. "To be able to do this in our late '50s (and 60) is incredible," they agreed.

While they're now back home in the mountains, their pedals are still spinning, just not on the plains.



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 1 can (15-oz.) solid-pack pumpkin
- 1 can (12-oz.) evaporated milk
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup Sugar In The Raw
- 4 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 package yellow cake mix (regular size)
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 1-1/2 cups chopped walnuts
- Vanilla ice cream or whipped cream

CALL FOR RECIPES

- Do you want to see your recipe in an upcoming issue of The Newsboy? Send it to us by one of the following means:
- P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144
Attn: Recipe for Newsboy
 - Email to: jalonzo@slvrec.com

Great Pumpkin Dessert

1. In a large bowl, beat first five ingredients until smooth.
2. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Sprinkle with cake mix and drizzle with butter. Top with walnuts.
3. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Serve with ice cream or whipped cream.

©2019 RDA Enthusiast Brands, LLC (tasteofhome.com/recipes)

Conservation Corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install - you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

Source: energy.gov



We would like to wish all of our members a Happy Thanksgiving.
Our office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28.



APPLY

continued from page 1

a very new experience. I enjoyed it very much and had very exciting moments, from the classroom to the soccer field. I am looking forward to another three great years at this university."

Del Norte graduate Bailey Jones was the recipient of the four-year scholarship in 2017. Studying elementary education at Adams State University, Bailey will graduate in December 2020. "Without the help of the REC, I wouldn't have been able to go to college; it's so expensive. I especially wouldn't have been able to do it without student loans," she commented. "It's amazing not to have to pay for anything towards college; it's been so helpful.

In addition to the four-year scholarship, the REC awards the following:

- Electric Lineworker Scholarship:** \$4,000
- Robert Wolfe Scholarship:** \$1,000
- SLVREC Past Director Scholarship:** \$1,000
- SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard Scholarship:** \$1,000

- Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship:** \$1,000
- Tri-State G&T Scholarships (six):** \$500/each

For full requirements and details, see the scholarship application online at slvrec.com/content/scholarships. The deadline to apply is just around the corner on Feb. 6, 2020.

POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144

November 2019



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 and
will be closed on Nov. 28 for Thanksgiving.

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

Your Touchstone Energy
Cooperative 

SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: TBA
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.

