

Turret Peak

It may have taken several loads carried in on horseback, but Humphreys Ranch is now equipped with a new solar site set atop Turret Peak.

Sitting at 10,663 feet in elevation, San Luis Valley REC completed the new site in September to complement the present solar that wasn't adequately serving the microwave radios that deliver high speed internet to the ranch.

Humphreys Ranch foreman Casey Adelman bundled up horses with pack saddles loaded with a battery on each side making several trips up the mountain. Next came the solar panels and the cabinet to house the batteries, which was skidded up on a sled arrangement.

San Luis Valley REC team members Chris Villagomez, Andy Price, Ernesto Villalba and Monroe Johnson

followed a short time later, making the one-mile hike with the tools and framework to put the solar panel into place.

The new site serves three purposes: to provide phone/ internet through Ciello to the Humphreys Ranch, the ability to read REC meters remotely, and eventually REC will be able to connect to the dam to read output from the hydro plant located there.

With Forest Service approval, Humphreys Ranch was also looking to set up a new communication site for their two-way radios.

As REC moves into the future, Ciello's goal remains to bring state-of-the-art broadband service to every business and residence in the Valley, and Humphreys Ranch is just one more step in the right direction.



THIS ISSUE

Turret Peak

National Co-op Month

Loren Howard

Meet Your Co-op!

Recipe, Crossword Puzzle

OCTOBER 2019 | VOLUME 46 | ISSUE 9

October is National Co-op Month



By the Community, for the Community

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it's National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including the San Luis Valley REC celebrate who we are and more importantly, the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how San Luis Valley REC was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of

the community because we are locally governed. San Luis Valley REC's leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by neighbors like you.

We know our members (that's you!) have a valuable perspective. That's why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as high-speed broadband, community solar programs, equipment and technology upgrades and electric vehicle programs.

We hope you will think of San Luis Valley REC as more than your energy provider, but instead as a local business that supports this community and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.



October is National Co-op Month.

Electric co-ops are proud to power more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.



Loren Howard

Cielo Broadband Grants

More and more, throughout the rural areas of the United States, attention is focused on bringing great Internet access to these less populated regions. For so many reasons having fast and reliable broadband Internet access is important in today's world. Sure, streaming movies without buffering makes that part of our entertainment desires more enjoyable, but there are many more important reasons for reliable Internet access.

Think of all the regular tasks which are now commonly performed online such as paying bills, ordering prescriptions, scheduling service on your car and maybe most important

– visiting via video with family and friends. San Luis Valley REC started its telecommunications subsidiary, Cielo, in 2014 with a small pilot build of fiber to about 20 homes in the San Luis Valley. Today, Cielo has over 4,000 subscribers. Reaching more than 90% of the residences and businesses has been financially viable, but there are some areas where it has been just too far and too few to consider building a fiber network to that location.

Cielo's goal is to bring fiber to every business and residence in the Valley

and to help accomplish that goal Cielo has applied for two grants. The first grant with the Colorado Department of Regulatory Affairs (DORA) was received in 2018 to build a fiber plant in the most northwest portion of the Valley to places like Hermit Lakes, Ptarmigan Meadows and Pearl Lakes. This grant made it possible to provide Internet and phone service to these places (and a few more in the area). In 2019, Cielo applied and was selected for a grant with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural



POWERED BY REC

Utility Service's ReConnect Program. This grant, which is still in the final approval phase, will provide financial assistance for places north such as Villa Grove and Bonanza and also, south in Costilla County extending to the New Mexico border.

In 2017, an online magazine published an article titled "The Worst Internet In America" identifying Saguache County as the county to earn such an ignominious distinction. Grants, such as the two noted above, significantly help bring high speed, reliable Internet access to the remote locations throughout the Valley.

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Meet Your Co-op!

Say hi to Swapnil!

Hailing all the way from Mumbai, India, Swapnil Modak has joined the San Luis Valley REC team as a network engineer. Swapnil recently completed his master's degree in New Jersey focusing on cyber security.

Following the completion of his bachelor's degree in India, Swapnil obtained a Student Visa to continue his education in the United States, where he looked forward to the practical hands-on work American programs provide. He chose to dive deep into networking and the complexities of cyber security.

The biggest challenge since moving to the Valley has been a small bit of culture shock. Swapnil was accustomed to highly populous areas; going from the densely populated Mumbai to a similar life in New Jersey to small-town life in the Valley has been difficult. He hopes to adapt to the Valley's slower pace now that he's settled into his own apartment after spending a few weeks hotel-living.

Swapnil passes his free time Face-timing and talking to his family in India, which includes his mom, dad, grandma and long-time girlfriend (who he hopes to marry someday soon). He hasn't been home to visit Mumbai since 2018,

although he plans to go in January 2020.

Swapnil enjoys playing table tennis (ping-pong), which is a popular indoor recreation sport in India, but has yet to explore the outdoor life the Valley offers. "My entire life has been in the city— hanging out with friends, going shopping in malls. This is a completely different experience," Swapnil commented.

He looks forward to celebrating the upcoming Diwali festival with his four cousins that also live in various parts of the United States. They'll gather together in Houston, Texas in early November to celebrate their home country's traditional festival of lights and Goddess Laxmi.

Swapnil is unsure of what the future holds, but he hopes to receive a work visa (H1B) in the next year and continue his work at the REC.



Make A Difference Day is Saturday, Oct. 26

Clean up your yard and community
Bring trash to the SLV Regional Landfill
on Saturday, Oct. 26, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

Cost: Non-perishable food items (not outdated!)

- pick-up or carload- cost 12 items
- single axle trailer- cost 12 items
- loaded pick-up & single axle trailer- cost 24 items
- double axle trailer; cost 24 items loaded pick-up & double axle trailer-cost 36 items
- dump truck- cost 48 items

Please call 852-3810 for tire costs and for more information.

All contributions collected are donated to the Monte Vista Food Bank

Conservation Corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

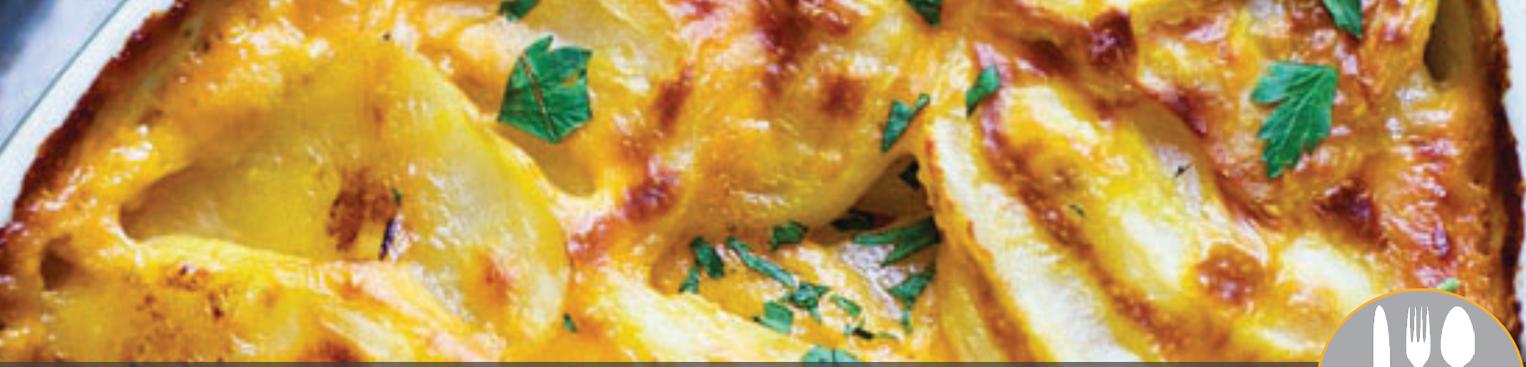
Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov



PAGE 5 ANSWER KEY

1. DOWN: LOCAL
2. DOWN: MEMBERS
3. DOWN: PRINCIPLES
4. ACROSS: COMMUNITY
5. ACROSS: LED



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 cup hot milk
- ½ teaspoon salt
- Heaping ¼ cup pumpkin puree
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 3 large russet potatoes cut into ¼-inch thick slices (3¾ cups ¼-inch sliced potatoes)

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

Creamy Pumpkin and Cheddar Scalloped Potatoes

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter or grease a one-quart oval casserole dish.

In a medium saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Add garlic, cook until soft and fragrant, 1-2 minutes.

Whisk in flour. Cook one minute. Slowly whisk in milk. Add salt. Bring to a boil and reduce to a simmer until thickened, about 3-4 minutes. Remove from heat and whisk in pumpkin puree. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

Layer half of the potatoes in the bottom of the prepared dish, pour half of the sauce over. Cover with half of the cheese. Repeat for next layer. Place on a rimmed baking sheet.

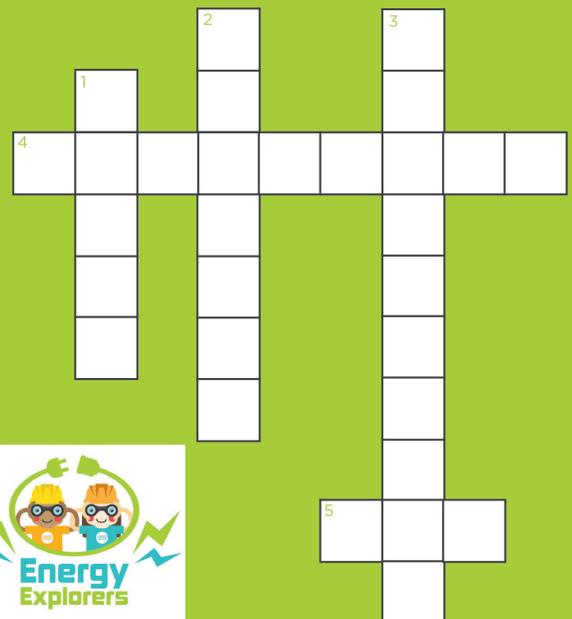
Cook until potatoes are fork tender and top is golden brown, about one hour. If the top starts to get too brown, cover with foil and remove a few minutes before the potatoes are done cooking. Serves 4

Author: Nicole – "Cooking for Keeps"

Just for fun

CO-OP MONTH CROSSWORD

October is National Co-op Month! Complete the crossword puzzle below to learn about ways co-ops are unique.



CLUES:

1. **DOWN:** Co-ops are _____ organizations and businesses, so they understand the communities they serve.
2. **DOWN:** Co-ops don't have customers; they have _____.
3. **DOWN:** All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative _____.
4. **ACROSS:** "Concern for _____" is the seventh cooperative principle.
5. **ACROSS:** Co-ops are _____ by the members they serve.



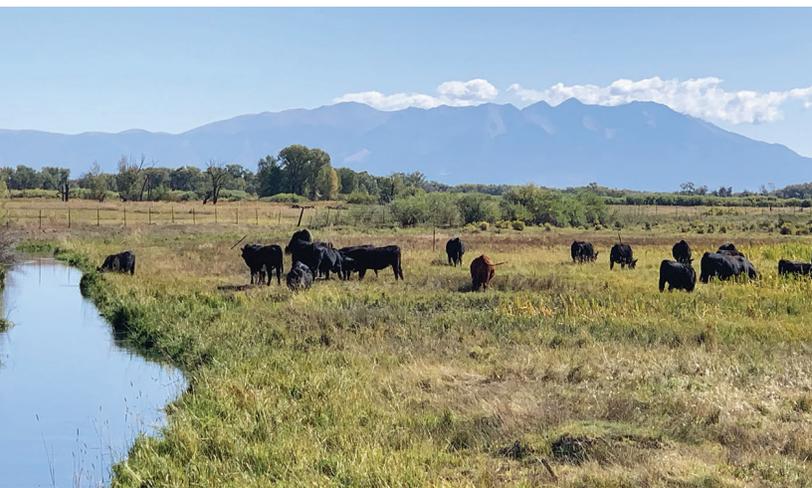


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October 2019



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Providing energy for all
the things you love.

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

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Cooperative 

SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Oct. 22 at 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.

