

Concern for community

Scholarship application now available

San Luis Valley REC makes secondary education a priority when giving back to the Valley. With just over \$235,000 given in the past seven years, REC annually awards up to 11 scholarships to local students.

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

"My college experience is going great. I am very grateful for the scholarship and the opportunities that it gives me. ASU is a great fit for me while I earn my biology degree due to how personable the professors are and the comforting sense of community," said Adams State freshman Desiray Tolsma.

Tolsma was awarded the **2021 SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship**, which 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.

"Receiving the REC 4-year scholarship has impacted my college experience because I am now able to afford living on campus, which has allowed me to be more present for extracurricular activities. For example, I am the treasurer for the Tri-Beta Biology Club, where I will be given the chance to volunteer for my community. Overall, this scholarship has given me the chance to pursue my passion, and I am enjoying my time so far," she said.

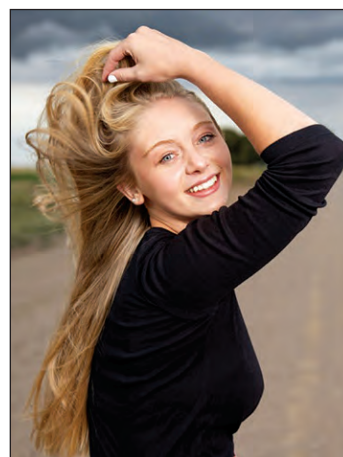
In addition to the four-year scholarship, REC awards the **Martin Christensen Electric Lineworker Scholarship**, which may be used at any accredited lineworker school. The value of the scholarship is \$4,000 and may be used to cover tuition costs, required textbooks or minimal basic tools for the program. Although first consideration will be given to graduating high school seniors, this scholarship is open to all individuals.

Other scholarships include the following:

The \$1,000 **Robert Wolfe Scholarship** was established for students furthering their education in an agricultural or

engineering field and may be used at any trade school, college or university.

A student looking to further their education at any trade school, college or university should apply for the **SLVREC Past Director Scholarship** and the **SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO**



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2021 Four-Year Scholarship Winner Desiray Tolsma

Meet your co-op

Sergeant Zekeal Bernal joins REC/Ciello

Alamosa native Zekeal Bernal recently joined the San Luis Valley Rural Electric/Ciello team as a telecommunications coordinator.

Before coming back to the San Luis Valley, Zekeal was known as Sergeant Bernal. He served six years active duty in the United States Army as an Information Technology Specialist and was stationed and deployed

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Zekeal Bernal

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Conservation corner



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing.

Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



ciello

Connecting our neighbors

"Jeff was remarkable and very personable. He answered all of my questions. He helped and showed me how to set up my devices. With most of these big companies I would have never received the fast and friendly service that I had with Jeff. He did an amazing job, and I am very pleased with Jeff and the company."

—Ray Hawkins, Saguache

POWERED BY REC

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Ciello, Powered by REC, is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in upcoming issues of the Newsboy. Send your testimonials to jalonzo@slvrec.com to be featured.



By Loren Howard

Net metering— dos and don'ts

This past year and a half seem to have encouraged REC members to think about the state of the world, especially as it relates to the reliability of power. First, I want to review the reliability of the electric service members receive from REC. Two of the most common measures of reliability are "System Average Interruption Duration Index – SAIDI" and "System Average Interruption Frequency Index – SAIFI". REC's current indices are about 100 for SAIDI and SAIFI is just shy of 1.0 which means that about once a year, on average a member will experience an outage of 100 minutes. For electric cooperatives, those are just about average.

Despite pretty good reliability of REC's electric service, members continue to consider and invest in their own generation options which are mostly solar net meter installations on homes. REC is supportive of these net meter installations while working to ensure that the members who choose not to do net metering are not subsidizing those members who do.

Almost every day, REC receives a new application for a net meter installation. These applications are typically completed and sent to REC by the contractor installing the equipment, but from time to time REC members send in the application. To ensure timely review and to avoid difficulties in the approval process, members should follow these steps.

If you are contemplating a new net meter installation, please call the office and ask for the Net Meter Manager.

Doing this upfront can avoid future disappointments or delays.

Go to www.slvrec.com/net-metering installations and download the net meter application and supporting documents. Review these carefully.

When the net meter application is complete, send it to REC along with the \$100 application fee.

REC does not maintain an "approved list" of solar installers but will provide a list of installers who have installed systems for REC members in the past two years. REC members interested in a net meter installation should do their own due diligence on potential installers.

Once a member has selected an installer, be thorough on who is doing what. Are you—the member— sending in the application? Who is arranging for the state electrical inspection? Who is sending the state inspection report to REC for review?

When the net meter installation is complete and state inspection is complete, contact REC to pay the \$100 meter installation fee.

Once the net meter facility is complete and REC has received the state electrical inspection and the \$100 meter fee, REC will schedule a final inspection by REC personnel and will set a second meter which measures the output of the net meter facility. This second meter ensures that REC can accurately report to the State of Colorado how much renewable distributed generation is on REC's

See NET METER continued on Page 4

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Member info

Sign up for paperless billing

As postage costs continue to increase, now is a good time to think about signing up for paperless billing. For every 1,000 members who choose to go paperless, more than 24,000 envelopes, 36,000 sheets of paper, and \$6,000 in postage is saved each year.

Every dollar the cooperative saves in postage and printing expenses goes right back to the members in the form of lower power bills. Going paperless is great for the environment and members benefit in other ways too:

- A monthly email notification will be sent via email.
- View or print your electric bill anytime with 24/7 secure access to your online account information.
- No fees – you can pay your electric bill online for free.
- Reduce your paper clutter and more misplaced bills at home.



It only takes a few minutes to sign up via SmartHub online or on your mobile device.

Log into your SmartHub account (SmartHub is REC's online billing and payment website). You can navigate directly to slvrec.smarthub.coop or visit our website slvrec.com and click on "SmartHub/Pay My Bill."

If you don't have a SmartHub account, you can create one in three easy steps. Below the sign-in boxes, click on "New User." You just need your account number,

mailing zip code and access to your email account.

To access paperless billing:

1. Click on "My Profile"
2. Choose "Update my Paperless Settings"
3. Click the button to turn "ON" paperless billing and choose "Yes" to confirm



BERNAL

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to different parts of America and Foreign soils. Zekeal provided secure forms of communication over equipment such as radios and secure networks.

"While serving I was a SYSAdmin working under the system/network engineers; at that time, I worked on numerous types of networks, tech equipment such as radios, servers, switches, routers, satellites, fiber lines etc. I led a team in customer support to continue to provide service for our fellow soldiers. We made customer accounts, applied new operating systems/applications on old and new systems, repaired broken or non-working laptops and monitored and secured networks," he explained.

"What made me gravitate to Ciello was the core values they stand for, the climate of the work environment and the way I would be working with a new team. I love that I can communicate with the fiber installers, troubleshoot, and if need be, get my hands dirty. I am ecstatic that I get to continue to expand my knowledge, learn new things from not only the fiber team but the network team and our chief technology officer," Zekeal commented. "I enjoy getting out in the communities here in San Luis Valley to do site surveys and determine if we can provide the customers with our service."

Zekeal grew up in Alamosa and graduated from Alamosa High School in 2015. Shortly after high school he enlisted in the United States Army and is currently in the process of obtaining his bachelor's degree in Digital Forensics at American Military University. In his spare time he likes to spend time with his family, pup and enjoying the great outdoors Colorado has provided us with.

We're happy you're here, Sergeant!

NET METER

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system.

The only "don't" is don't install the net meter installation and then seek approval. Neither you, nor REC want to be in a position where the installation must be removed or reduced in size.

If you have other questions about REC's net meter program, please call Customer Service and ask to speak to the Net Metering Manager.

SCHOLARSHIPS

continued from page 1

John Villyard Scholarship, both of which are valued at \$1,000/each.

In addition, six **Tri-State GeT Scholarships** are offered at \$500 each. Dependents of employees and directors of SLVREC are eligible, as are members.

For full requirements and details, see the scholarship application online at <https://slvrec.com/scholarships>



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

1 medium head cauliflower (3 lbs. / 1.3 Kg.)
trimmed and cut into florets

3 cloves garlic

1 T. extra virgin olive oil

½ t. salt

⅓ t. freshly ground black pepper

For garnish:

Chopped fresh thyme, extra virgin olive oil,
flavored salt, freshly ground black pepper

Healthy Cauliflower Mashed Potatoes

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil; add the cauliflower and garlic and cook for about 10 minutes or until the cauliflower is fork tender. Drain, return it back to the hot pan and let it stand for 2 to 3 minutes with the lid on.

2. Transfer the cauliflower and garlic to a food processor, add the olive oil, salt and pepper and purée until smooth. (You can also use a potato masher or hand blender).

3. Adjust the salt and pepper to taste.

4. Garnish with chopped fresh thyme, salt, pepper, and a drizzle of olive oil.

5. Serve immediately. Enjoy! (Refrigerate for up to three days.)

Recipe by aseasyasapplepie.com

Historical happenings

March 1941— A new location

In March 1941, SLVREC Superintendent Willard Johnson broached the subject of needing more office space. At the time, the office was located on Washington Street at the rear of a building. Johnson had located a larger facility on Adams owned by Roy David. The following month, the cooperative moved to the new facility with a rent of \$40 per month.



The first office of SLVREC, located across the street from the Monte Vista Elks Club encompassed 600 square feet of space.

Humphreys family celebrates 10 years of generating hydroelectric power



Photo courtesy of Keith Cerny

Pictured are former State Senator Gail Schwartz, right, and Ruthie Brown discussing the importance of hydroelectric power for Colorado.

Descendants of A.E. Humphreys and their friends gathered at the dam holding back the reservoir by the same name in August to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the hydroelectric plant that continues to deliver single phase power to Creede through an agreement with SLVREC. The single-phase, crossflow turbine generator operating on Humphreys Ranch can produce up to 300 kW which could provide power to 200 homes.



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November 2021



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ENERGY ASSISTANCE

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

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 30, 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.



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SAN LUIS VALLEY