

THE NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative

Concern for community

Giving back to the Valley

San Luis Valley REC's core job is keeping the lights on, but our passion is serving our members. Because we're a co-op, our purpose is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our community. This service focus is at the heart of who we are.

Over the years, our charitable efforts, volunteer service hours and other locally-focused projects have built playgrounds, supported Valley schools and young

See **COMMUNITY** continued on Page 4



Above and at right: REC employees help out at Sanchez Park.



At left and far left: A new pole was installed at Monte Vista School District's admin office.



Below and below right: An emergency fire well can be created with the installation of the new pole.



THIS ISSUE

- Concern for community
- Youth tour/Conservation/Ciello
- Loren Howard: Approving rates
- Member info
- Recipe/Historical/Veterans

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Looking for next generation of leaders

Some people argue that leaders are born, not made. While it's true that some people are born with certain traits that make them more comfortable in leadership roles, all great leaders need help developing their skills.

Many others who might not be perceived as "natural" leaders can become exceptional leaders if given the right coaching and an opportunity to shine.

What if a high school student in your life – a child, a grandchild or the nice kid down the road who's always willing to help out a neighbor – had the opportunity to participate in a nationally recognized leadership program?

What if previous participants of that program went on to serve as elected officials – or the CEO of one of the most profitable, innovative and highly respected companies in the world? What if that program was available at no cost to the student?

For members of SLV REC and other Colorado cooperatives, these aren't hypothetical questions. Every summer, bright and talented high school students from across Colorado take part in the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. and the Youth Leadership Camp in Steamboat Springs. Each program is all-expenses-paid. Current high school students between the ages of 16 and 18, as of June 2022, are encouraged to apply.

These young men and women represent our next generation of leaders. They are the people who will make our communities better places to live and lead businesses that will provide good jobs and valuable services.

See **YOUTH** continued on Page 4

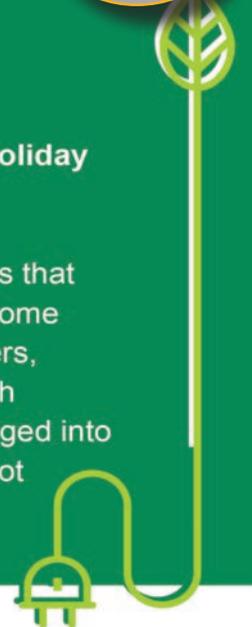


Teens from rural parts of America come together for the annual Washington D.C. Youth Tour.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season?

Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet—even when they're not in use.



ciello Connecting our neighbors

"We decided to get Internet for our house and contacted Cielo to get started. James was so polite & friendly and made sure to answer any questions we had about speed, services, and payment schedules. He was a joy to speak with and got our account set up very quickly, even though we had called later in the day. We're excited to start our Internet service with a company that has such an awesome employee working for them! Thank you, James!"

—Megan P. Del Norte-- Google Review

POWERED BY REC

719.852.3538 • www.cielo.com

Cielo, 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

Process for approving rates

REC, like virtually every business, prepares a budget toward the end the current fiscal year for the succeeding fiscal year. REC's fiscal year coincides with the calendar year, so the budget for 2022 has been prepared and reviewed with the Board of Directors. The final budget will be reviewed again and given final approval by the Board of Directors at the December board meeting. When considering the budget, the overall question is "Does the projected revenue cover the projected expenses?" And once again, the answer is "yes." So in 2022, there will not be an overall increase in electric rates. Having said that, there will be changes in electric rates to continue to more fairly allocate costs.

In 2021, Power Systems Engineering (PSE) performed a cost-of-service study which reviewed all electric rate classes. (A cost-of-service study is a comprehensive study of rates including allocating costs equitably to all rate classes. See September's *Newsboy* for more info.)

The results of the study and recommended changes to rates were reviewed by the Board of Directors in August. The recommended action includes modest changes in all rate classes but shows that an overall rate increase is not needed. New electric rates will not go into effect until April 2022, giving individual members ample time to see how the changes will affect them. Overall, any impact should be small.

In the coming months— before April

1, 2022— REC will prepare individual comparisons of the old rate and the new rate and will be ready to provide that to all members. This information will be provided in several different ways including messages on the monthly bills and via phone or email. As soon as the final rate changes are approved by the Board of Directors, they will be available on the REC website, published in Valley newspapers, included in the monthly bills and can be obtained by phone or email through customer service.

The cost-of-service study in 2018 was of keen interest to some members and as a result, a short video was prepared to review how a cost-of-service study is performed and the results of the 2018 study. That video is still available on the REC website. In addition, REC is working to prepare a second video of the 2021 cost of service study to provide the same insights. This second video will be available in January 2022. If you are interested in more information on the 2021 study, REC will be conducting meetings in February and March for members to attend and discuss the details of the study.

In the past months, the elements of rates— demand, energy and customer charges— have been reviewed. If you have a greater interest in rates and how they are designed, please review the past *Newsboy* articles and read what constitutes these various elements (all previous *Newsboys* are available online).

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

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Listen carefully, menu options changed

In our efforts to continually work to improve outage communications for our members, we have updated our phone system in the past few months.

When calling in to report an outage, please listen to the menu options carefully. For electric outages, choose option 8 for the dispatch center. If the number you're calling from is associated with your account, the automated system will identify your account and advise of any known outages in the area.

This upgraded system provides a quick update without the wait.

YOUTH

continued from page 2

The Washington D.C. Youth Tour will take place June 12-19, 2022. The week of activities begins in Denver where students from around the state visit the state capitol and are introduced to the electric cooperative program. The students then head to Washington D.C. with more than 1,800 of their peers for a week of learning and exploring. They will visit the Arlington National Cemetery, stroll through the Smithsonian museums, tour historic monuments, meet elected officials and learn about the role of electric cooperatives in today's world.*

The Youth Leadership Camp will take place July 16-21, 2022. This weeklong adventure brings together about 100 students from Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming and Oklahoma to the mountains near Steamboat Springs. Students will learn about the cooperative business model and leadership skills that will serve them well throughout their life. The students will be asked to form their own cooperative, electing board members and voting on issues. They will participate in a variety of activities designed to develop leadership skills, including communication and teamwork. There is also plenty of time set aside for campers to explore and enjoy the mountains including a raft trip on the Colorado River, a gondola ride to the top of Mt. Werner and a camp that takes advantage of Colorado's great outdoors.*

(*Activities could change due to Covid restrictions.)

Electric cooperatives have sponsored the Youth Tour for more than 50 years because we believe it is our responsibility as not-for-profit, community-based organizations to invest in our next generation of leaders.

Interested students must complete an application form and short essay. For more details go online to slvrec.com (Community tab) or call 719-852-3538 and speak to Jennifer.

COMMUNITY

continued from page 1



Above: A pole was installed by SLVREC employees on the wildlife refuge as part of a new emergency fire well. **Below:** Employees volunteered at Sanchez Park in October.

people, supported local food banks, assisted families in need to keep the lights on and much, much more.

REC employees have recently taken time out of the regular day-to-day duties to assist local organizations.

Starting with improvements at Monte Vista's Sanchez Park, three different REC groups spent time preparing the ground and assembling playground equipment for the new kid-designed play area.

In a second project, another REC group installed a wood pole for a new emergency fire well on the Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge. The project benefits both the Monte Vista Fire Department and the Bureau of Land Management in fire protection/mitigation efforts.

A third endeavor involved placing a pole to hang fiber near Monte Vista School District's admin building.

As a local business, we are proud of our role in helping bring good things to our community. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains constant. Working together with you, the members we serve, we'll continue to be a catalyst for good.





Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 1/3 c. chunky peanut butter
- 1/4 c. 68% vegetable oil spread
- 1/4 c. honey
- 1 c. rice & wheat cereal flakes, coarsely crushed
- 1 c. bran flakes, coarsely crushed
- 1/3 c. finely snipped dried apples
- 2 T. finely chopped peanuts
- 1/8 t. apple pie spice
- 2 oz. white baking chocolate (w/cocoa butter), chopped
- 1/4 t. shortening

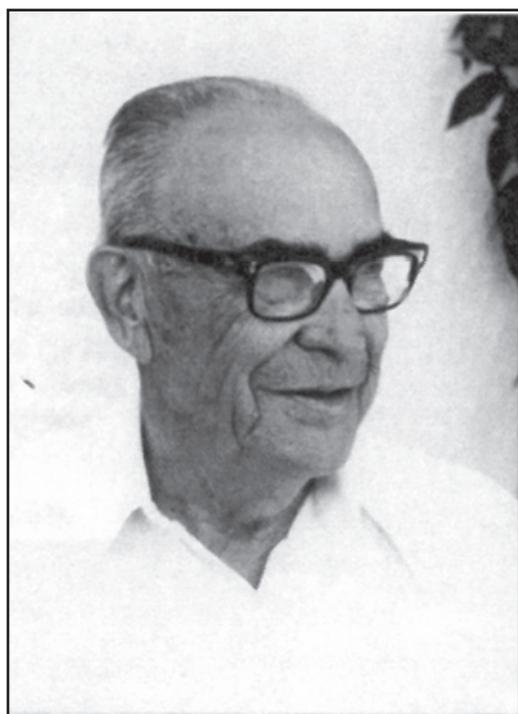
Peanut Apple Crunch Balls

1. In a medium saucepan, combine peanut butter, vegetable oil spread and honey. Cook and stir over medium heat just until mixture comes to a boil. Remove from heat.
2. Stir in cereals, apples, peanuts and apple pie spice until well mixed. Transfer to a small bowl; cover and chill 30 minutes (mixture will be a bit loose and crumbly).
3. Using slightly wet hands, form mixture into 1-inch balls by gently pressing mixture together (does not work to roll the mixture into balls). It is important to keep your hands slightly wet for each ball formed. Let balls stand on a parchment or waxed paper-lined baking sheet about 15 minutes or until firm.
4. In a small saucepan, combine white chocolate and shortening; cook and stir over low heat until melted. Drizzle balls with melted white chocolate.
5. Cover and chill at least 15 minutes. Store, covered, in refrigerator.

Recipe by eatingwell.com

Historical happenings

April 10, 1948— Radio requested



At the regular board meeting on April 10, 1948 Manager Ray Villyard (pictured) recommended securing a “two-way radio emergency station” to the board. With the completion of the “D” section, the cooperative now had over 1,000 miles of line. (Newsboy, March 2004)

CEO Howard salutes veterans

SLV REC CEO and U.S. Coast Guard Retired Commander Loren Howard spoke during a Veterans Day ceremony at the Faith Hinkley Veterans Memorial Park in Monte Vista.

He took a moment to recognize all the families who have sacrificed and supported veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, asking them to stand. “I salute you and thank you,” Loren told the standing crowd.



Monte Vista Mayor Dale Becker and CEO Loren Howard



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December 2021



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. REC will be closed on Dec. 22, 23 and 30 for the holidays.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE
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www.energyoutreach.org

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Cooperative 

SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 14, 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.

