

Concern for Community/Member Information

Seven scholarships available, apply online

San Luis Valley REC makes secondary education a priority when giving back to the Valley, annually awarding up to seven 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.

The **SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship** 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.

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 currently \$5,500 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 \$4,000 **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. The \$4,000 **Mike Rierison Scholarship** can be used toward further education at any trade school, college or university. REC also offers the **SLVREC Past Director Scholarship** and the **SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard Scholarship**, both of which are valued at \$2,500/each.

In addition, the **Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship** is available to dependents of members and dependent children of SLVREC employees.

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



2023 Four-Year Winner
Rachael Fritz

Wakasugi joins REC board of directors

Kim Wakasugi was recently voted onto the board to fill a vacancy left by her husband, Cole, who passed away last spring. During the October 24 board meeting, Kim was unanimously appointed to serve as the next Costilla County, District 2 director



Kim Wakasugi

by the other six board members and will serve the remainder of the term ending in 2024.

Born in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, Kim moved to the San Luis Valley as a teen and graduated from Sierra Grande, then earned her Bachelor's degree in elementary education at Adams State.

With two small children, Brisha and Bradley, Kim was a stay-at-home mom and

See KIM continued on Page 4

No credit cards by phone

Due to the volume of credit cards we process and PCI compliance, we can under NO CIRCUMSTANCES accept credit card payments over the phone (only through the IVR system). We offer many ways to pay:

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THIS ISSUE

Concern for Community/Member Info

Concern/Conservation/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Member Information

Recipe/Member Information

DECEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 52 | ISSUE 11

Concern for Community



Leadership tour/camp opportunities for high school students

If your parents get their electric power from SLVREC and you're a high school junior or senior, then you can apply for a trip you'll remember forever.

SLVREC invites high school students to represent the co-op at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. from June 17-24, 2024.

Spend a week in Washington D.C. with other local student leaders learning the history of cooperatives, meeting with state representatives and developing leadership skills. Students will also visit historical sites, including the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery and the Smithsonian.

Or if Washington, D.C. doesn't interest you... REC will also send one student to the Youth Leadership Camp near Steamboat Springs from July 13-18, 2024. The camp brings young people together to learn about how electric cooperatives operate and build their leadership skills.

To be the lucky winner of the Youth Tour or the Youth Leadership Camp, the application process includes submitting a 500-word essay or a three-minute video. The deadline for submitting applications is Jan. 9, 2024. More details can be found online at slvrec.com (Community tab) or contact Jennifer Alonzo at jalonzo@slvrec.com.

COMPLIANCE

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In-Person: at our office during normal business hours (Mon.-Thurs., 7 a.m.-5 p.m.) date. Visit www.slvrec.com, click on pay my bill, set up your account under the billing and payments tab, select auto pay accounts. We can draft a bank account or charge through most major credit cards.

Night Drop: located in our parking lot at 3625 Hwy. 160 W, Monte Vista (available 24 hours/day)

By Mail: P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144

By Phone (IVR): 1-877-760-7468 (available 24 hours/day)

Online: www.slvrec.com (click on pay my bill)

By Bank/Credit Card Draft: the amount is automatically drafted from your account on the due date. Visit www.slvrec.com, click on pay my bill, set up your account under the billing and payments tab, select auto pay accounts. We can draft a bank account or charge through most major credit cards.

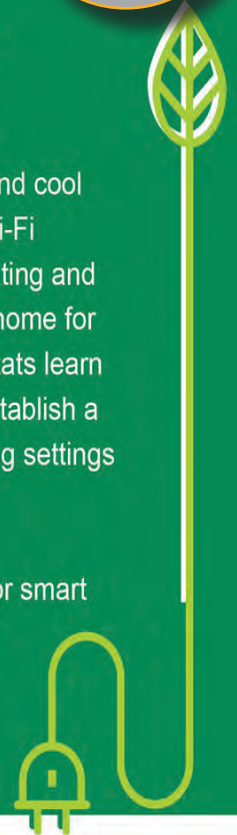
Local Banks: payments are accepted on our behalf at: Community Banks of Colorado in Alamosa, La Jara and South Fork; First Southwest Bank in Alamosa, Center and Saguache and Del Norte Bank in Del Norte and Creede

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Get smart with a better way to heat and cool your home! Smart thermostats are Wi-Fi enabled and automatically adjust heating and cooling temperature settings in your home for optimal performance. Smart thermostats learn your temperature preferences and establish a schedule that adjusts to energy-saving settings when you're asleep or away.

For maximum energy savings, look for smart thermostat models with the ENERGY STAR® label.

Source: Dept. of Energy



ciello *Connecting our neighbors*

"I would like to thank you all for the excellent customer service. I asked a tech question via email and received a phone call answering my question right away. The personalized service is top notch.

I also received a text message today informing me of an outage. Thank you for being proactive by informing me of this issue. You ALL ROCK!"

-Stacey Samora, Saguache

POWERED BY REC

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Ciello is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in issues of the Newsboy. Send your testimonials to jalonzo@slvrec.com.



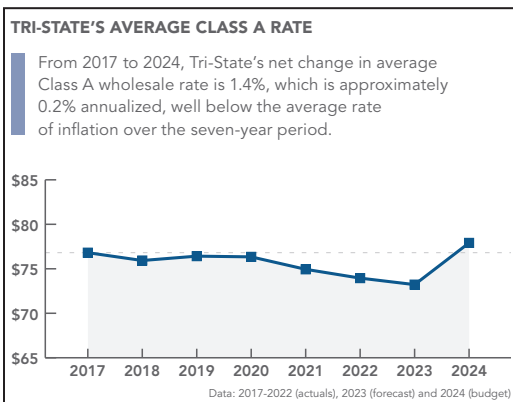
Eric Eriksen

Changes for 2024

2024 ELECTRIC RATES

In the October 24 Board of Directors meeting, electric rates were reviewed and approved effective January 2024. A detailed rate comparison can be found within this Newsboy edition on page 4 and online at www.slvrec.com (Services, Electric Rates). These changes are associated with a three-percent cost of purchased power increase effective Jan. 1, 2024, and a three-year plan to recover rate deficiencies, which was approved 2021. Employee operational efficiencies helped reduce the impact of these changes. Residential members will experience about a 1.3 percent increase, which is less than previously mentioned and well below national inflation trends. This is about \$1.53 per month at a typical 667 kWh home.

At SLVREC we always ask: What's best for members? We first look for ways to improve instead of just passing along the burden of inflation. Affordable rates are the result of strategic planning, members, partnerships and the hard work by every employee.



NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) RATE

A new electric vehicle rate was approved effective Jan. 1, 2024. This is a time-of-day rate is designed to help minimize system demand and create savings opportunities. For example, if a member charges their EV on the new rate off-peak from 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. the next day, then they'll save about 83 percent per kWh. This is also a savings for all members because the EV charging occurred at the same time our cost-to-purchase-power was lowest. It's a win-win to support green energy technology like electric vehicles while also minimizing the demand for building new costly infrastructure or higher energy rates. Qualifying applicants will receive up to an allowable \$1,100 towards installation of new EV metering equipment. Contact us at 719- 852-3538 for more information.

NEW ELECTRONIC VOTING

Technology provides additional opportunity for member engagement and communication. As a member of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, your voice matters. Consideration for bylaw revisions regarding use of electronic notifications and voting were presented to the Board of Directors during the Oct. 24 meeting. They will be voting on these

See RATES continued on Page 4

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keenan Anderson, President
719-849-8304

Stephen Valdez, Vice President
719-588-0430

Wade Lockhart, Secretary
719-588-9246

Carol Lee Dugan,
719-588-4711

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Scott Wolfe
719-852-0966

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Email: power@slvrec.com

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

CEO

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719-852-6630

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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.

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Member information

New rates effective Jan. 1, 2024

Rate Name	Charge Type	2023	2024
A-Single Phase Residential Rates 01,02,04,05,07,13,15	Customer Charge	\$ 38.40	\$ 40.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.50
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.108	\$ 0.104
C-Single Phase Commercial Rates 41,45,47	Customer Charge	\$ 38.40	\$ 40.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 2.50	\$ 3.35
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.080	\$ 0.078
A-TOD Single Phase Time of Day Rates 08,09	Customer Charge	\$ 40.00	\$ 40.00
	Purchased Power Demand	\$ -	\$ -
	Distribution Demand	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.50
	On-Peak kWh 4PM to 9PM	\$ 0.256	\$ 0.256
	Off-Peak kWh 9PM to 4PM next day	\$ 0.064	\$ 0.067
B -Three Phase Rates 03,06	Customer Charge	\$ 57.00	\$ 62.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 5.93	\$ 5.43
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.092	\$ 0.095
A-TOD Three Phase Time of Day Rates 10,11	Customer Charge	\$ 57.00	\$ 62.00
	Purchased Power Demand	\$ -	\$ -
	Distribution Demand	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.50
	On-Peak kWh 4PM to 9PM	\$ 0.256	\$ 0.256
	Off-Peak kWh 9PM to 4PM next day	\$ 0.064	\$ 0.067
I - Irrigation Rates 60,62,63,65 Rates 80,82,83,85	Customer Charge	\$ 45.00	\$ 50.00
	Fallowing Customer Charge	\$ 35.00	\$ 40.00
	Purchased Power Demand (Highest demand from 1PM TO 9PM)	\$ 10.40	\$ 10.40
	Distribution Demand (Highest demand in last 12 months)	\$ 5.02	\$ 5.18
	Fallowing Demand Charge (minimum of 5 kW)	\$ 1.75	\$ 1.75
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.051	\$ 0.054
LP-A Large Power Less than 500 kW Rates 50, 55	Customer Charge	\$ 90.00	\$ 95.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 13.67	\$ 15.17
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.069	\$ 0.067
LP-A Time of Day Less than 500 kW Rates 54,56	Customer Charge	\$ 90.00	\$ 95.00
	Purchased Power Demand (Highest demand from 1PM TO 9PM Mon-Sat)	\$ 12.75	\$ 12.75
	Distribution Demand (Highest demand in month)	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.051	\$ 0.054
LP-B Large Power Greater than 500 kW Rates 51, 52, 53	Customer Charge	\$ 325.00	\$ 325.00
	Demand Charge	\$ 20.12	\$ 20.12
	Energy Charge	\$ 0.0510	\$ 0.0540
YL Yard Light	Non-Metered	\$ 12.77	\$ 12.77
	Metered	\$ 6.10	\$ 6.10
Renewable Resource Surcharge	Per 100 kWh block, per month	\$ 0.40	\$ 0.40
EV TOD Rates EVP, EVO	Customer Charge		\$ 2.50
	Distribution Demand (Highest demand in month)		\$ 2.50
	On-Peak kWh 1PM to 9PM		\$ 0.315
	Off-Peak kWh 9PM to 1PM next day		\$ 0.054

KIM

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worked as a substitute teacher, while also helping on the family farm, Three S Ranch. In 2019, she began working part-time as a district manager for the Trinchera Subdistrict.

“San Luis Valley REC was important to Cole; when no one was stepping up to take over his seat, I decided that I needed to. It’s important for people in our area to have a voice and know about REC and Ciello. As a new board member, I’m looking forward to learning the electrical world and benefitting Costilla County and my community,” Kim stated.

In her spare time, Kim enjoys cross-stitching, exploring new things and hanging out with family and friends.

Please help us welcome Kim to the board!

RATES

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revisions at a Dec. 12 meeting. If approved, further consideration will be given to implementing electronic notifications and voting for the 2024 annual meeting. Please see proposed bylaw revisions online at Electronic Notification and Voting Revisions.approved, further consideration will be given to implementing electronic notifications and voting for the 2024 annual meeting. Please see proposed bylaw revisions online at: www.slvrec.com/notice-bylaw-revision-consideration



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. cream cheese, at room temperature
- 2 c. shredded firm cheese, such as cheddar, pepper Jack or Colby
- 2 t. Worcestershire sauce
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 c. pickled piquante peppers, such as Peppadews, finely chopped
- 1/2 c. fresh parsley leaves, finely chopped
- 1/4 c. finely chopped fresh chives
- Crackers, sliced bread or crudites, for serving

HOLIDAY CHEESE BALL WREATH

1. Line the inside of a 6-cup Bundt pan with plastic wrap. Process the cream cheese, shredded cheese, Worcestershire sauce, 1/2 teaspoon salt and few grinds of pepper in a food processor until smooth. Empty the mixture into a medium bowl, and fold in all but 2 tablespoons of the chopped peppers.
2. Spoon the cheese mixture into the prepared Bundt pan; pack it in, spread into an even layer and cover (or simply form the cheese mixture into a ball and wrap tightly with plastic wrap). Refrigerate until chilled, at least 1 hour up to 2 days.
3. Uncover and invert the cheese mold (or unwrap and transfer the ball) onto a serving platter. Sprinkle with the chives and parsley to completely coat the wreath, and garnish with the reserved 2 tablespoons peppers. Serve with crackers, sliced bread or crudites.

www.foodnetwork.com

Member Information

Historical Happenings will return next month

The benefits of heat pumps in cold climates

Many people are still learning about the benefits of heat pumps and what they can do. Heat pumps are especially beneficial in cold weather climates. A heat pump is part of a home heating and cooling system and is installed outside the home. There are various types of heat pumps:

1. Air Source Heat Pump - Air source, also known as an air-to-air heat pump (or air-to-water for homes with in-floor radiant heating), extracts heat from outdoor air and transfers it into your home. This is one of the easiest and cheapest heat pumps to install and takes up little space. There are generally two types of air-source heat pumps:

- A ducted air-source heat pump that looks like a big outdoor air conditioner compressor and connects to traditional air handlers and ductwork in a home
- Mini-split (sometimes called ductless) has a "skinny" compressor for the outdoor unit and a wall cassette to distribute heat and cooling to individual units

2. Ground Source Heat Pump - A ground source heat pump, or a geothermal heat pump, extracts the heat

energy from the ground around your home's foundation and transfers it into your home.

3. Water Source Heat Pump - A water source heat pump extracts heat energy from water by pumping the water from the source directly through the heat pump. This works great for those who have homes near ponds or lakes.

Advantages of heat pumps

There are many advantages to heat pumps. Unlike conventional boilers and furnaces that burn fuel to generate heat, heat pumps collect existing heat from their respective element (air, water or ground) and concentrate it for use inside the home. While the name "heat" pump can be a little misleading, heat pumps are capable of much more. They can heat, cool, filter and dehumidify your air, all while reducing your energy use by up to 50 percent when using a variable-speed heat pump.

Read more online at: <https://tristate.coop/benefits-heat-pumps-cold-climates>



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December 2023

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POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 12, 9:30 a.m.

The REC Board of Directors typically meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

