

Concern for Community

Employees help move gators

On May 5, SLVREC employees took the opportunity to help REC member Colorado Gator Farm move seven creatures as they continue to power through the obstacles brought forth by the April 18 fire at the park.

Following a conversation with REC CEO Eric Eriksen, 10 employees and family members spent about three hours helping out at the farm. The volunteers aided in the relocation of crocodiles and caimans from the old greenhouse to the fish building, as well as moving 10-foot alligator Smiley to his new habitat.

The employees had a blast and loved getting to see the amazing relationships owner Jay Young and his employees have with all the animals. They took time to mend wounds on each of the creatures and could even be seen giving them sweet kisses.

The April fire claimed numerous snakes, turtles, tortoises, caimans, parrots and a few rescue cats. With demolition and rebuilding on the horizon, keeping the remaining animals safe is the number one priority for the Youngs.

The incredible experience will stick with REC employees for many years to come.



Above: SLVREC employees Nelson Arambula, Terry Daley, Devin Ruiz, Jarrod Sisneros and Rudy Vialpando, along with Mykah, moved 350-pound alligator Smiley to his new home.



Terry Daley takes a small crocodile from owner Jay Young.

SLVREC takes part in Annual Safety Day, Sanford Career Fair



SLVREC Serviceman Ruben Heredia and Apprentice Lineman Dakota Barr spent April 27 teaching third graders about electrical safety at the Monte Vista Coop Annual Progressive Agricultural Safety Day.

Apprentice Lineman Stetson Edgar shows Sanford students an electricity display.

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JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 51 | ISSUE 5

Concern for Community



Adams State Scholarship winner announced

Sangre de Cristo senior Rachael Fritz was awarded the 2023 SLVREC Adams State Four-Year Scholarship. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years and pays for tuition, college service fees and a \$700 book allowance.

New Electric Vehicle DC Fast Charger installed at SLVREC office

As Colorado speeds the transition to electric vehicles, Tri-State is helping members prepare. One of the next big technological transitions the nation will see is the electrification of transportation.

Recently, Colorado became one of the states making the most ambitious moves toward a nearly all-electric transportation sector with a flurry of new legislation and an updated 2020 Electric Vehicle Plan. The state aims to have nearly one million light-duty EVs on the road by 2030, with the ultimate goal of a 100 percent electric fleet of passenger cars, trucks and light commercial vehicles.

"We see transportation electrification as something

See EVs continued on Page 4

SLVREC Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, 2023 • Ski Hi Complex, 2335 Sherman Ave. • Monte Vista

Registration Opens, 5:30 pm • Start of Business Meeting, 7 pm

Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30 pm

If you are planning to attend, please RSVP with the number in your party by June 5, 2023. Call 719-852-3538 or email 2023AnnMeet@slvrec.com (subject: Annual Meeting)

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for additional ways to save energy this summer? Your laundry room is a great place to start. Wash clothes with cold water, which can cut one load's energy use by more than half. Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up when you can. When drying clothes, separate the heavier cottons. Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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—Ian Hudson, Sanford
Google Review

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Eric Eriksen

Solar projects on horizon

Thank you for saying “hi!” I feel very welcomed by everyone as I continue to learn about the San Luis Valley. You truly live in a beautiful place. Recently, the Saguache County Commissioners, Mineral County Commissioners and the Baca Grande Property Owners Association invited me to their respective neighborhoods for “meet and greets.” These were very helpful opportunities to learn about concerns, bright ideas and meet members.

A frequent question was asked: “what about solar for the Valley?” I have exciting news for you! On April 25, the SLVREC Board of Directors approved the request to construct two new solar projects. It’s true! We’ve started the process to construct two solar facilities of about one-megawatt each for a combined total of two megawatts. These projects will be constructed on existing REC property. One will be located at the Creede substation and the other at the Moffat substation. As you can imagine there is a long path forward to completion including permitting, funding, design and construction. I would like to recognize the talented hard work of REC Engineering Manager Terry Daley, Engineer 1 Isaiah Abeyta and retired CEO Loren Howard. Our goal is to have them online in late 2024.

Our energy is purchased from Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, which is 34 percent renewable today. We do this because it is the lowest cost and most reliable energy source for REC.

And they have an aggressive plan to be 70 percent renewable by 2030— Yes, 70-percent renewable by 2030. I support this because their cooperative goal, like ours, is one that’s always member-first to continue providing the most affordable, reliable and responsible energy to us over the long run. This is better than other alternatives because costs and risks will be shared among a much larger member group. To ensure funding for this strategic plan, contractually we are limited to self-generating up to five percent of our energy. This means we must buy 95 percent or more of SLVREC’s energy from Tri-State. Today we are self-generating about three percent of our energy. My goal is to maximize every opportunity. In 2024, we will be self-generating a maximum of five percent of our energy from renewables. That’s exciting!

Feedback like yours helps us understand the values of our members and supports us all being closely aligned towards shared goals. Like you, we’ve analyzed the possibilities to implement renewable solar energy. Like you, we know that most of the time it’s more expensive to build a new project compared to using our existing ones. However, we constantly continue to analyze which resulted in these two new solar projects. Our plan is to build these solar projects with aid from federal grant funding. We haven’t secured these yet but are aggressively pursuing them

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Wade Lockhart, Secretary
719-588-9246

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

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EVs

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The first official customer at the DC Fast Charger stopped by in late April in her new Subaru. Karen Zink and her husband Jerry were super excited to find the new charger on their way to Colorado Springs from Durango. Karen is pictured with CTO Monroe Johnson (left) and CEO Eric Eriksen (right).

that is very much in the economic interest of the state and something that will bring significant cost savings to consumers across Colorado. But it's also essential to meeting our climate goals and achieving federal air quality standards throughout the Front Range," said Will Toor, executive director of the Colorado Energy Office.

Colorado is also working to quickly expand the network of EV charging stations, and America's electric cooperatives are making sure their communities are included in the EV transition.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association is taking a number of steps to support its members' efforts, which includes up to \$45,000 for member systems like SLVREC to use for the purchase and installation of public EV chargers in their communities.

SOLAR

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with confidence. Expect to hear more about this exciting news in months to come.

You can expect passion, integrity and excellence from me as I lead with the great people of SLVREC to best serve you— improving your future. Today

In Memory: Cole Wakasugi

SLV REC Board Member Cole Wakasugi passed away on April 14, 2023.

Cole joined the board in 2008 following the retirement of board member Jerry Lorenz and worked tirelessly for REC members. Cole spent many years as a



CREA (Colorado Rural Electric Association) and Western United representative for REC as well.

Cole Wakasugi's grandfather settled in the Valley where he owned and operated Blanca Equipment, a tractor and implement dealership. The Wakasugis lived near Blanca ever since. Cole, who had a B.S. in mechanical engineering, managed Three S Ranch with his father, Rodger, and partners Jerry and Monty Smith. The ranch produces grain, potatoes and alfalfa.

In addition, Cole was a former volunteer firefighter in Blanca and had previously served on the Blanca Town Board, Trinchera Irrigation Ditch Board and United Potato Growers of Colorado Board. He enjoyed golf, fly fishing, ice fishing, playing poker and was a lifelong learner that was always up for a new challenge.

Cole was a strong leader and passionate board member who will be missed by all at REC.

If you or anyone you know is interested in filling the remainder of Cole's term (through 2024), please contact Michelle at 719-852-3538. Members in the Costilla County District are eligible.

SLVREC is among the best cooperatives in Colorado, and we will constantly work at being better tomorrow.

Feel free to stop-in to say "hi," write EEriksen@slvrec.com, or call anytime at 719-852-6330. I look forward to your feedback, concerns and bright ideas.



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 2 t. grated lemon zest
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 4 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 t. coarsely ground pepper
- 1/4 t. salt
- 4 boneless skinless chicken breast halves (6 oz. each)

ZUCCHINI MIXTURE:

- 4 large zucchini (about 2-1/2 pounds)
- 1/4 c. chopped oil-packed sun-dried tomatoes
- 1 t. olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 t. salt
- 1/4 t. crushed red pepper flakes
- 1/4 t. coarsely ground pepper
- 1/4 c. prepared pesto
- 4 oz. fresh mozzarella cheese, cut into 1/2-inch cubes

GARLIC-GRILLED CHICKEN WITH PESTO ZUCCHINI RIBBONS

1. In a large bowl, mix the first five ingredients. Add chicken; turn to coat. Let stand 15 minutes.

2. For noodles, trim ends of zucchini. Using a cheese slicer or vegetable peeler, cut zucchini lengthwise into long thin slices. Cut zucchini on all sides, as if peeling a carrot, until the seeds become visible. Discard seeded portion.

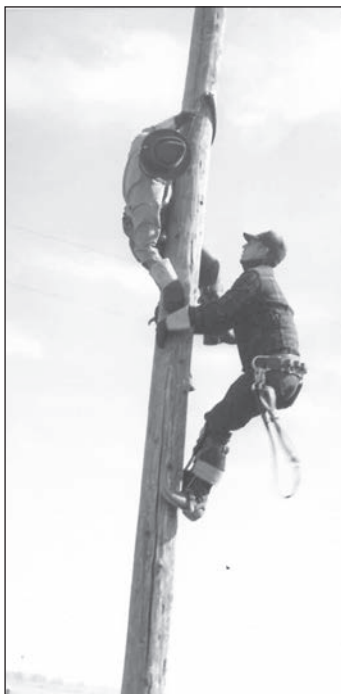
3. Grill chicken, covered, over medium heat or broil 4 in. from heat 4-5 minutes on each side or until a thermometer inserted in chicken reads 165°. Remove from grill; keep warm.

4. In a large nonstick skillet, heat tomatoes and olive oil over medium-high heat. Add garlic, salt, pepper flakes and pepper; cook and stir 30 seconds. Add zucchini; cook and stir 2-3 minutes or until crisp-tender. Remove from heat. Stir in pesto.

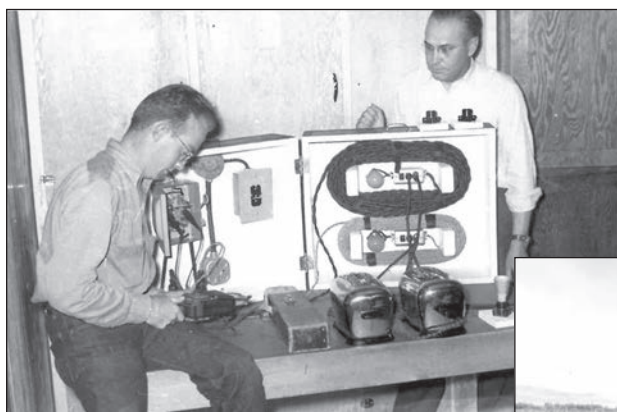
5. Cut chicken into slices. Serve with zucchini noodles. Top with mozzarella.

TasteofHome.com

Historical Happenings

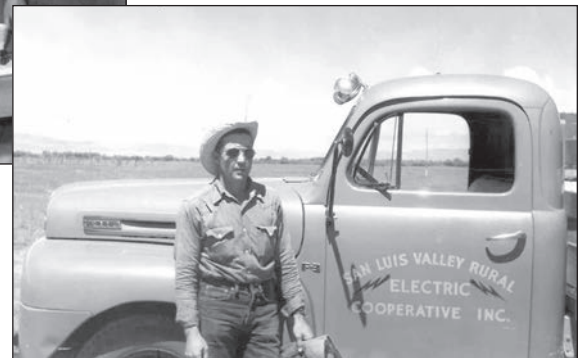


1970s... photos courtesy of the Frank Rowe family



Gordon Robertson and Ray Villyard

Frank Rowe



Carl Schultz and Charles Stewart



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SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Annual Meeting: Tuesday, June 13, 7 p.m.

Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 27, 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.



Board Member Wade Lockhart & CEO Eric Eriksen met with Crestone residents.