

Meet Your Co-op

Wagner joins REC from Wyoming coop

Boyd Wagner has joined the SLVREC/Ciello team as Staking Engineer. He comes to us from Lingle, Wyo. where he worked at Wyrulec Company as the System & Staking Technician for the past three and one-half years.



Boyd Wagner

Boyd's career in the industry began at a municipality in 1999.

Starting in 2001, he worked eight years for Wyrulec, where he received journeyman lineman status. After leaving the coop to pursue a business opportunity in automotive for 11 years, Boyd returned to the coop world and Wyrulec in late 2019.

Boyd stated, "I came to SLVREC because I see the same small coop family and values that Wyrulec has."

"My position as a staking engineer is rewarding because I feel I am helping the membership by designing new services and helping to keep the system reliable and safe with system improvements," he commented. "It can be challenging trying to come up with the best design at an affordable price, but safety is always the number one consideration."

Boyd likes to be outside enjoying nature while doing his job and is looking forward to learning the area, meeting new people and getting to know his co-workers.

He enjoys the outdoors, golf, fishing and anything motorsports. Boyd is the father to three boys—Matthew 24, Brady 21 and Micah 18 who all like the same hobbies and will enjoy it here when they come to the San Luis Valley to visit.

Welcome to the Valley, Boyd! We're glad you're here!

Concern for Community

SLVREC employees give back



SLVREC/Ciello employees spent time in June cleaning up trash along Highway 160 outside of Monte Vista.

THIS ISSUE

Meet Your Co-op/Concern

Member Info/Conservation/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Member Info

Recipe/Historical Happenings

ciello
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Member information

Tri-State advances transformative electric resource plan with settlement filing

- *Electric Resource Plan seeks 1,250 megawatts of new renewable and energy storage resources.*

- *Settlement includes assistance for northwest Colorado coal communities.*

- *16 parties join settlement; 14 do not oppose the settlement.*

- *With Colorado Public Utilities Commission approval, Tri-State will initiate the second phase of the electric resource planning process, including procurement of a balance of dispatchable, renewable and storage projects.*

In an important milestone in its energy transition, not-for-profit wholesale power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association filed an unopposed comprehensive settlement of Phase I of its 2023 Electric Resource Plan (“ERP”) with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (“CPUC”). If approved by the CPUC, Tri-State will begin the procurement process for new resources, leading to an 89 percent reduction in its greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado and 70 percent clean energy used by its members systemwide in 2030.

“With the engagement of our members and stakeholders, Tri-State is advancing our transformative resource plan, preserving reliable, affordable and responsible power for our members, and helping meet the needs of transitioning communities in northwest Colorado,” said Duane Highley, chief executive officer of Tri-State. “We thank all who were involved in the settlement, and we look forward to working together to implement the plan.”

The settlement resolves all issues raised by intervening parties in Phase I of the ERP and provides for updates related to the scope of Phase II procurement, bid evaluation and portfolio modeling, and adds a demand

response target for Colorado load in 2030.

Read more online at www.slvrec.com/tri-state-files-erp-settlement

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov



Aug. 11 is National Safe Digging Day
Call 811 to get underground utilities marked!

CAN YOU DIG IT?

Remember to **call 8-1-1** before you dig.

Safe Electricity.org

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This is our why...

“We are selling our house... and moving to a lower elevation. One of the things I will miss most is the great service from Ciello! I wish I could take you with us!”

—Julie Moss, Crestone, Google Review

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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

It's a growing business

Agriculture, farming and ranching is vital to the San Luis Valley, providing the main source of income and way of life in the Valley. And potatoes are king. The Valley is recognized as the second largest fresh potato producing region in the U.S., with the first potatoes planted around 1882.

Not many potatoes are grown in Juneau, Alaska, where I grew up. I had little knowledge about the three types of potatoes to choose from at local grocery stores. Are russets, reds or yellows best to use for Thanksgiving mashed potatoes and gravy? You might chuckle knowing there are over 70 varieties of potatoes in the SLV. When my family from Alaska flies into the San Luis Valley Regional Airport to visit me and asks, what are those big green circles all over the area? I proudly respond with, "local farmers growing mostly potatoes," as if everyone should know.

In July, the owners of Three S Ranch and Blanca Potato invited me on a tour to learn more about growing potatoes. I first learned it's family. The Smith brothers drove me around the various fields describing diversity in crops, water resources, equipment and technology. As a first-time observer I was challenged to recognize the health of a field or growth stage. However, the flowing potato blossoms were unmistakably beautiful across the prairie. Center-pivot irrigation systems ever so slowly inched along, sprinkling water over the sun-soaked fields.

Stepping into the packing and shipping facility, potato shed, was like stepping into the future. I was surprised to see all the robotic arms and automation. Skilled people operated these high-tech machines to clean, sort, pack and prepare the potatoes for shipping. I had never seen so many potatoes in my life and gained a



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Electricity provides powerful value

If you're like most, there are aspects of life that become sort of a daily routine... get ready for work, get in your car and drive to the coffee shop on the way to work. At lunchtime, drive to the nearest fast-food location and get lunch. At home, spend the end of the day streaming an episode or two of your favorite show before bed.

As we all look for ways to save money in this age of increasing inflation, think about your daily routine and how much value it provides compared to the money spent. A morning latte costs about \$6, a fast-food combo with a burger, fries and a drink is nearly \$10, and that Netflix subscription is about \$16 each month. All these daily expenses total around \$85 a week or about \$340 monthly. And what is the real value—short-term satisfaction and a larger waistline? Is this the best value for your money?

The average daily cost of electricity is about \$4.57, and the average monthly electric bill for residential members of San Luis Valley REC is \$122 (\$4.01/day). You can power your entire home every day for less than the price of a medium latte. You can brew your own coffee, cook your own meals, binge a series and run on a treadmill for less than the cost of that drink. That's real value.

BUSINESS

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new appreciation for what it takes to feed America.

Thank you, Three S Ranch and every farm and ranch operation in the Valley.

Every drop counts

Did you know SLVREC's Electrify and Save program also supports irrigation energy efficiency savings? Energy education is just one of the ways we can give back and support our local businesses. If you are an SLVREC member and have a farm or ranch with irrigation, then go online to: www.slvrec.com/irrigation-assessments and sign up for a **FREE irrigation energy assessment**.

An industrial trained energy assessor will come out to your operation and provide a holistic view of your irrigation efficiency. Understanding how your farm or ranch uses energy can help determine the best ways to adjust energy consumption, improve problem areas and ultimately keep more money in your pocket.

The following are examples of irrigation assessment considerations:

WAYS YOU CAN USE ELECTRICITY that cost less than a to-go coffee

- RUN FRIDGE 24 HOURS
- FULLY CHARGE CELL PHONE
- WATCH 2 HOURS OF TV
- USE OVEN 4 HOURS
- POWER LAPTOP 8 HOURS
- DRY A LOAD OF LAUNDRY

Electricity provides benefits that we often take for granted. It goes well beyond short-term satisfaction by allowing us to charge devices and have cold food and hot water, all in a comfortable indoor climate. Besides the privilege it affords, electricity has also remained relatively cost-stable even

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- Well draw and screens
- Evaluation of crop, soil, and equipment after harvest
- Performance of motors
- Pumping pressure for pivots
- Application efficiency (orifices and nozzles)
- Irrigation scheduling

One of the greatest values of an energy assessment is help identifying ways to be more efficient. If you choose to make energy efficiency improvements, then we also hope you consider letting us help you through our new Electrify & Save program with authorized contractors and federally funded financial assistance.

Go online to www.slvrec.com/electrify-and-save and find out more. These programs and services are designed with SLVREC members in mind, putting the power to save in your hands.

We're here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person or through our social media channels. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.



Recipe of the Month

INGREDIENTS

- 6 medium zucchini
- 1/4 c. olive oil
- 2 t. kosher salt, divided, plus more as needed
- 1 t. ground black pepper
- 3 lemons, zested

Historical Happenings

Shooting the rapids, Summer 1995



July 1995 Newsboy

Lineman Ronnie Spencer uses his bow and arrow to shoot a colored filament mounted on a reel to other REC linemen across the Rio Grande. Filament is attached to heavier line which in turn is hooked to a rope and then the power cable. Electrical service was lost when lightning parted a power line over the river a few miles above South Fork. Linemen devised a novel way of spanning the water. Ronnie says they have used it in other instances.

Grilled Zucchini

1. Lop off the tops/bottoms of the zucchini; slice them into quarters, lengthwise. Place them in a large zip-top bag. Drizzle in: oil, 1 t. of salt/pepper, 1 T. of lemon zest and the juice of 2 lemons. Seal the bag and toss to coat the zucchini. Set aside for 15 to 20 minutes to marinate.
2. Heat the grill to medium-low heat. Grill the zucchini on all sides until nice and tender, about 10 minutes total, being careful not to burn.
3. Pile up the rest of the lemon zest and sprinkle the remaining 1 t. of kosher salt on top. Use a knife to chop the salt and zest together until it becomes lemon salt! Add more salt, if needed. Sprinkle the lemon salt over the zucchini and serve. www.thepioneerwoman.com

VALUE

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amidst rising inflation.

As a member-owned cooperative, SLVREC does everything in our power to ensure your costs stay reasonable and that electricity remains a great value for our members. It's not always easy, as there are several factors beyond inflation that impact the price of electricity—some within our control but most beyond it.

The cost of electricity can fluctuate due to supply and demand, infrastructure investment, maintenance and operational expenses. Weather patterns also contribute, affecting both demand and generation capabilities, with extreme conditions leading to heightened energy use or disruptions. Government policies, such as subsidies for renewable energy or taxes and regulations on emissions, shape electricity costs as well. Your electric co-op considers all these aspects when adjusting rates, and because we're a cooperative, we consider the impact of those costs on our members as well.

As our community continues to rely on electricity for nearly everything in our homes, schools, hospitals and businesses, we need it to be reliable and affordable. You can be assured, San Luis Valley REC always puts you top of mind and works each day to ensure electricity remains the best value for your money.

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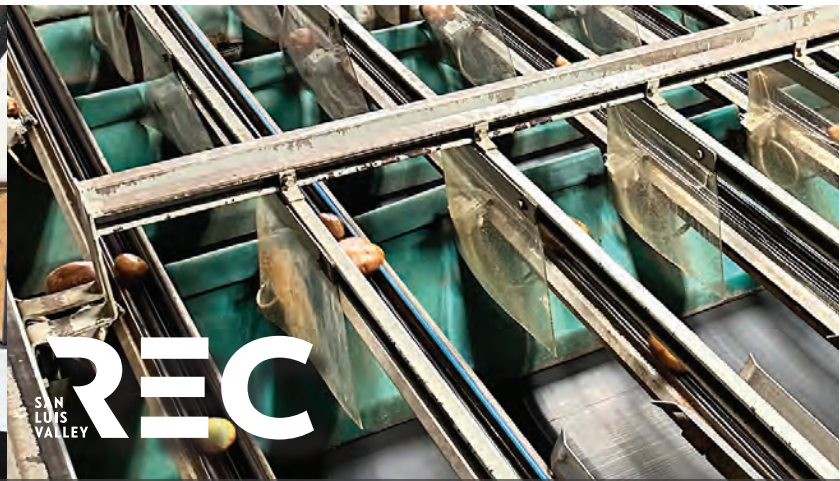
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August 2024



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 27, 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.

