

Member Information

REC wins microgrid planning grant

San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) has received a grant through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The Microgrid for Community Resilience (MCR) planning grant for \$36,000 will help REC study where and how a microgrid could be implemented into its system.

DOLA'S MCR program is designed to build community resilience regarding electric grid disruptions through the development of microgrids. DOLA defines a microgrid as "a group of interconnected electric loads and distributed energy resources with clearly defined electrical boundaries that can function as a single, controllable entity with respect to the electric grid. Therefore, a microgrid can be connected to or disconnected from the electric grid to enable it to

operate either in 'grid-connected mode' or in 'island mode.' When it isn't receiving power from the grid, the microgrid can sustain power delivery while conditions, which may have caused the outage, improve or while repairs are made."

Microgrids can:

- Improve customer reliability
- Increase resilience to grid disturbances
- Help deploy zero-emissions energy sources
- Reduce energy lost through transmission lines
- Help manage power supply and demand
- Improve grid resilience during extreme weather

Many rural towns experience extreme weather, high cost of living or other **See GRANT continued on Page 4**

Concern for Community

SLVREC honored as Grizzly Club Corporate Member of the Year



The Adams State University Athletic Department has announced that San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (SLVREC) has been named the 2024 recipient of the Grizzly Club Corporate Partner of the Year.

In addition to being the second oldest electric cooperative in Colorado, SLVREC has been a proud and steadfast supporter of Adams State University and its

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CEO Eric Eriksen accepted the award at the Oct. 22nd banquet.

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Empowering youth

Leadership tour/camp offers opportunities for high school students

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

SLV REC invites high school students to represent the co-op at the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. from June 16-22, 2025.

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.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. every June since the late 1950s. Be part of nearly 1,500 high school students nationwide for a fun-filled, all-expenses-paid week in the nation's capital!

Colorado Youth Tour participants begin the tour in Denver, where they learn about Colorado's state government and rural electric cooperatives. From Denver, students fly to Washington, D.C., to attend educational seminars and visit with Colorado state representatives in the House and the Senate. Students will also visit historical sites, including the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, Arlington Cemetery, and the Smithsonian.

The Youth Tour is a great way to learn more about our

nation's history, develop leadership skills, understand electric cooperatives better and make lasting friendships.

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 12-17, 2025. The camp brings young people from Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma and Wyoming together to learn about how electric cooperatives

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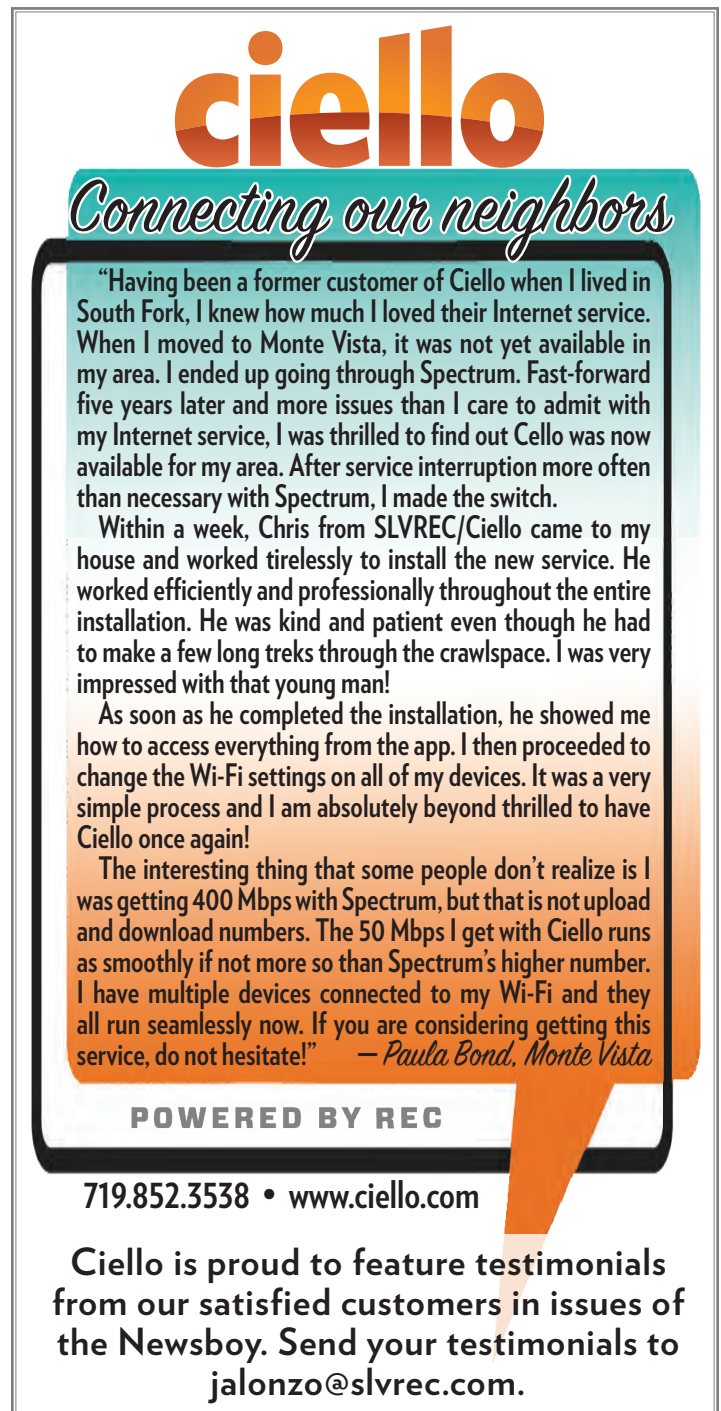


ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products.

This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

Source: energystar.gov



ciello
Connecting our neighbors

"Having been a former customer of Cielo when I lived in South Fork, I knew how much I loved their Internet service. When I moved to Monte Vista, it was not yet available in my area. I ended up going through Spectrum. Fast-forward five years later and more issues than I care to admit with my Internet service, I was thrilled to find out Cello was now available for my area. After service interruption more often than necessary with Spectrum, I made the switch.

Within a week, Chris from SLVREC/Ciello came to my house and worked tirelessly to install the new service. He worked efficiently and professionally throughout the entire installation. He was kind and patient even though he had to make a few long treks through the crawlspace. I was very impressed with that young man!

As soon as he completed the installation, he showed me how to access everything from the app. I then proceeded to change the Wi-Fi settings on all of my devices. It was a very simple process and I am absolutely beyond thrilled to have Cielo once again!

The interesting thing that some people don't realize is I was getting 400 Mbps with Spectrum, but that is not upload and download numbers. The 50 Mbps I get with Cielo runs as smoothly if not more so than Spectrum's higher number. I have multiple devices connected to my Wi-Fi and they all run seamlessly now. If you are considering getting this service, do not hesitate!" — Paula Bond, Monte Vista

POWERED BY REC

719.852.3538 • www.ciello.com

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



Eric Eriksen

May your holidays be merry and bright

As December kicks off, it's hard to believe we'll soon be gathering with family and friends to celebrate the holiday season. This festive time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

As your local electric cooperative, we care about your wellbeing. This month, I'd like to share a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.

Safety first

I enjoy seeing all the holiday decorations. Before decking the halls, please always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged. This gives us peace of mind, knowing our holiday lights are ready to safely brighten our home. Also double-check that lights used outside are rated for outdoor use.

Many households enjoy holiday-scented candles. While festive, candles can create fire hazards and should never be left unattended. One of the best and easiest ways to safeguard your home is to test smoke alarms often. I test mine on the first of each month, so it's easy to remember. Testing smoke alarms only takes a few seconds and could save lives, so make it a habit.

'Tis the season for savings

Spending more time indoors with a few more guests in the home can really impact home energy use. By taking a few small steps to save energy during the holiday season, you can lower your bills.

I like to remind my family members to mind the thermostat. Since heating and cooling makes up the majority of home energy consumption, the thermostat is

one of the best places for savings. Installing a programmable thermostat allows you to heat when you need it. Lowering the temperature just a few degrees can result in savings, especially when you have family or friends stopping by. Good company brings additional warmth to your home.

Your family can also save energy by decorating with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.

There's no denying one of the best parts of the holiday season is the food—not just the meals but the time we spend together in the kitchen. There are many ways to save in the heart of your home, but one of the best approaches is to cook with smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers, slow cookers and



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YOUTH

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operate and build their leadership skills— all while having tons of fun! The campers have the opportunity to serve on committees that plan the activities throughout the week such as a banquet, dance, games and the daily operations. They ride a gondola, tour a power plant, see a variety of awesome speakers and presentations, go rafting and make memories of a lifetime.

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. 7, 2025. More details can be found online at slvrec.com (Community tab). Call or email Jennifer Alonzo at 719-852-6660 or jalonzo@slvrec.com with questions.

Monte Vista High School student Claire Seger took part in the 2024 Youth Camp.



GRANT

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socioeconomic strains, or vulnerabilities to the grid that impact a community’s resilience. Microgrids are one tool in strengthening a community’s ability to keep the lights on in the event of planned or unplanned outages. Recognizing what a benefit microgrids can be for these rural communities, DOLA initiated the MCR grants to bolster community resilience.

In addition to emergency resiliency, microgrids provide another benefit that helps achieve what many community members have deemed a high priority— climate action. On a typical day, a microgrid that uses a photovoltaic (PV) array to collect abundant solar energy, storing it in a battery system, can deploy that electricity during the “peak,” when the energy is most valuable. This time period is called the “peak” because it’s when most residential loads are at their highest, and overall dependence upon centralized fossil-fuel generated power is at its daily maximum; these rates are also typically higher. When a microgrid is used in this manner, it brings down the peak, not only decreasing costs, but also reducing the need for fossil-fuel-generated energy, resulting in fewer emissions. This unique feature of a microgrid allows greater levels of locally-produced renewable energy to be delivered when it is most economically advantageous to the hosting community as well as the entire REC membership, potentially deferring future pressure on rates.

With the planning grant, REC can better assess the Valley’s energy future. This is just one step forward as the coop will continue to work to leverage state and federal incentives and to explore options to advance community sustainability goals and enhance power reliability.

GRIZZLY

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athletic programs. For over two decades, SLVREC has played a key role as a member of the Grizzly Club, actively contributing to the success and growth of Adams State Athletics. The partnership with the university reflects not only a commitment to supporting local sports but also a broader investment in the community’s future.

Through contributions to the Grizzly Club, SLVREC has helped fuel the growth of student-athletes, fostering both academic and athletic excellence at Adams State. The investment has supported scholarships, enhanced athletic facilities and provided resources that help athletes perform at their best, both on the field and in the classroom.

“Every dollar invested in Adams State and Grizzly Athletics is like a drop of water in the fertile soil of the San Luis Valley, nurturing talent and promise for future generations,” said CEO Eric Eriksen. His statement reflects SLVREC’s belief that their contributions to Adams State go far beyond financial support. REC views this involvement as an essential part of cultivating the region’s potential, helping to develop the next generation of leaders, scholars, and athletes who will contribute to the continued growth and success of the San Luis Valley.

“SLVREC’s long-standing partnership with Adams State is a testament to the cooperative’s dedication to the region. As one of Colorado’s oldest electric co-ops, they understand the value of building strong, lasting relationships with local institutions. Support of Adams State Athletics is just one of the many ways they contribute to the vitality of the San Luis Valley, ensuring that the community continues to grow, thrive, and prosper for generations to come.”



Recipe of the Month

INGREDIENTS

- 1 c. butter, softened
- 1 c. sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1 t. peppermint extract
- 2-1/3 c. all-purpose flour
- 1/3 c. baking cocoa
- 1 t. salt
- 1 t. baking soda
- 1 package (11-1/2 oz.) milk chocolate chips
- 1 c. marshmallow creme
- 1 c. finely crushed peppermint candies

PEPPERMINT HOT CHOCOLATE COOKIES

1. Preheat oven to 375°. Cream butter and sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in egg and extract. Combine flour, cocoa powder, salt and baking soda; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.

2. Drop by tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart onto greased baking sheets. Bake until tops are cracked, 10-12 minutes. Remove to wire racks to cool completely.

3. In a microwave, melt chocolate chips; stir until smooth. Drop a teaspoonful of marshmallow creme into the center of each cookie. Dip half of each cookie into melted chocolate; allow excess to drip off. Immediately sprinkle with candies. Place on waxed paper and let stand until set. Store in an air tight container.

www.tasteofhome.com

Historical Happenings

REC employees serving the community



SLVREC is well represented on the Monte Vista Volunteer Fire Department with the fire chief, assistant fire chief and a 15-year member all REC employees. The Monte Vista Fire Department's territory covers about 200 square miles ranging from brush to three-story senior citizen centers to the Monte Vista Airport; the department has 13 vehicles and a relatively new warehouse. Volunteers average 20-30 hours per month, fighting fires, extricating traffic victims, searching, training, educating the public and keeping their equipment ready.

Pictured at right, Fire Chief and REC General Manager Chuck Archer, Meter Technician Scott Deacon, and Assistant Fire Chief and REC Operations Manager Jim Clare pause during a meeting.

From the October 1996 Newsboy

MERRY

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toaster ovens. These handy appliances consume a fraction of the energy used to heat the oven, creating the perfect recipe for mealtimes and energy savings.

I hope you will implement some of these energy-saving and safety tips into your holiday plans.

For additional advice please call anytime. We're here to help you with safety and savings year-round. From your friends at San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright.

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December 2024



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

REC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We will be closed on Dec 24, 25 and Jan. 1.

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 17, 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.

