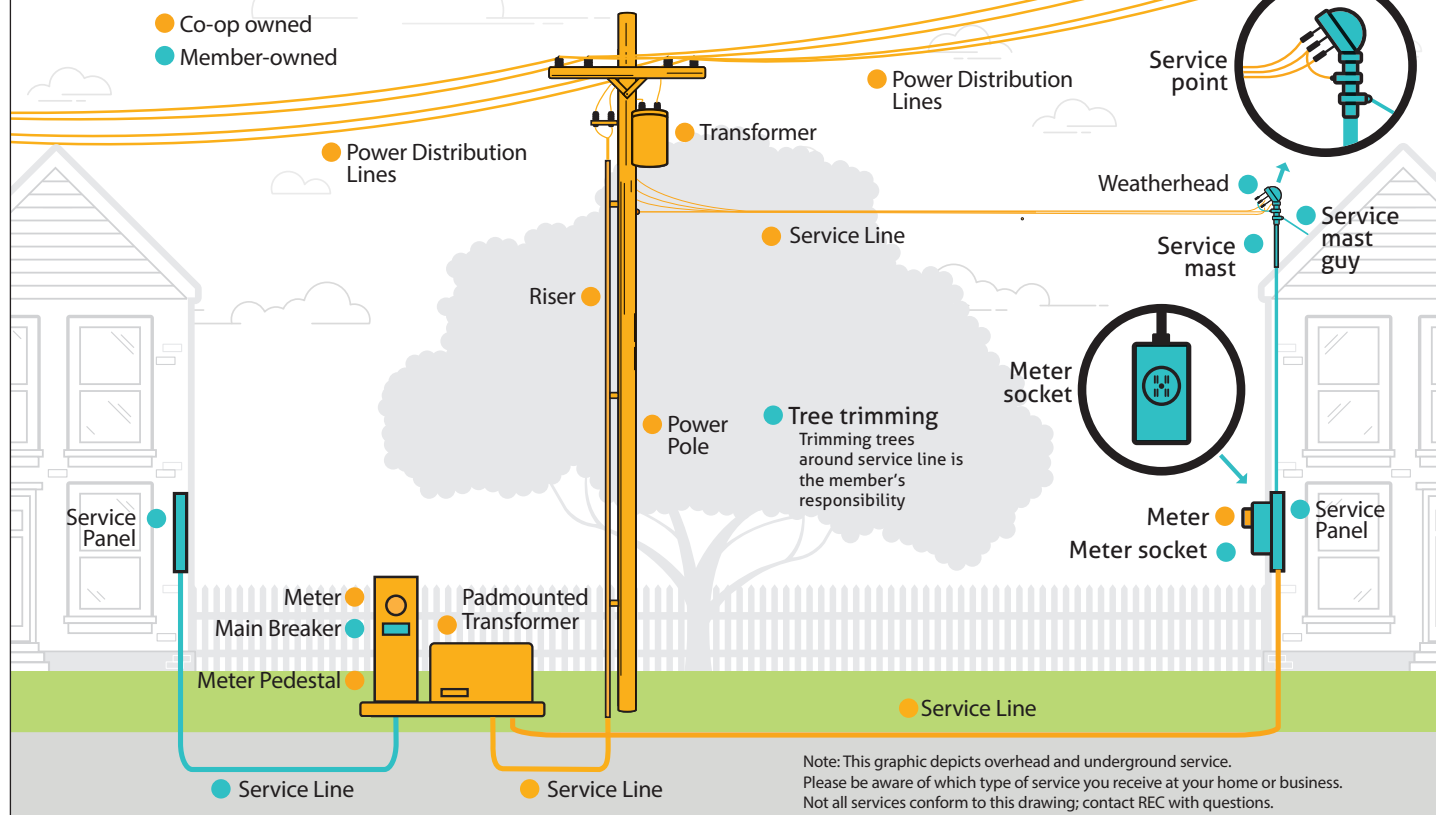


## Member Information

### Who Owns What?

#### Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the Co-op (in gold) and the Member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the Co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm or other failure damages any Member-owned equipment, the Member is responsible for repairs. Members should hire a licensed electrician when making any repairs to Member-owned equipment. Knowing this may save you—the member—money, as you may be charged if REC is called to respond to member-owned equipment.



### How to check circuit breakers

Parts of your home – including outlets and entire walls – can lose power when circuits are overloaded.

If your power goes out unexpectedly, consider checking your home's circuit breakers before calling to report an outage. Here's how to do it:

Find your electrical panel or breaker box; you more than likely have two, one located in your house and one located on the meter pole or on the meter pedestal outside. You will need to check both.

Inside, you'll see black switches. These are the circuit breakers.

If a circuit breaker is tripped, it may appear to be in the same position as the others, but it won't be pushed fully to the ON position.

Find the affected breaker and flip it to the OFF position. If you don't think there is an electrical overload, try flipping the breaker back to the ON position. If you do suspect an electrical overload,

**See BREAKER**  
continued on Page 2

#### THIS ISSUE

##### Member Information

##### Concern/Efficiency/Ciello

##### Eric Eriksen

##### Road Map

##### Recipe

# Concern for Community

## MVHS junior awarded 'trip of a lifetime'

Monte Vista High School junior Claire Seger has been chosen as SLVREC's participant in the annual Washington D.C. Youth Tour. She receives an all-expense paid trip in June 2024 where she will join more than 1,800 other high school students to spend a week in the nation's Capitol as part of this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.



Claire Seger

Claire is involved in FBLA and Science Fair and enjoys playing golf, going to the gym and ballet.

In her application essay, Claire stated, "Attending the Washington D.C. Youth Tour has the potential of creating a unique opportunity to learn about our nation's capital and governmental system and also build lasting relationships with other high schoolers from rural parts of America who have the same aspirations as I do."

## BREAKER

continued from page 1

unplug any appliances or other items in the area not receiving power, then flip the breaker back to the ON position.

Check to see if power is restored. Wait a few seconds, then slowly begin plugging in and turning on the electrical equipment to determine which item is causing the overload. If the circuit trips again when an item is plugged in, that item is causing the overload. Try moving it to a different outlet in your home.

If the circuit continues to trip, or if it won't flip to the ON position, stop trying to reset the breaker. There may be a fault in the circuit, and you'll need to contact a qualified electrician.

When power goes out to an area of your home, it's often just a temporary power surge. You may be able



to restore power on your own by simply resetting the breaker.

See video on at [www.slvrec.com](http://www.slvrec.com), under News/Media & Resources tab) for illustrations.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Area rugs are an easy, cost-effective solution to cold floors. Adding area rugs to hard-surface flooring can add warmth to any room and keep your feet cozy on cold winter days.

Choose rugs made from wool or other natural fibers and plush or high-pile textures for the most insulation. Place rugs in areas where you need additional warmth, like the foot of a bed or under a coffee table. Area rugs can enhance the aesthetic of your home and keep you cozier.



# ciello

*This is our why...*

"Great local service! Price is below average. Real people answer the phone promptly. Friendly techs respond quickly. Speed is 50+mb at our very rural location. Across the years we have had few problems and tech support was responsive. Special thanks to the install tech Chris who just upgraded our equipment--friendly professional and turns out he is a neighbor across the Valley:)" *-Christopher Seck, Crestone Google Review*

POWERED BY REC

719.852.3538 • [www.ciello.com](http://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](mailto:jalonzo@slvrec.com).



**Eric Eriksen**

## 2024 Road Map shared

Have you ever lost focus on a 4-hour drive to Denver's airport, maybe even missed a turn or passed an exit while listening to your favorite podcast? According to Forbes Advisor research a person is distracted 1-2 minutes per hour while driving ([Forbes Distracted Driving Statistics](#)). Now imagine driving toward a destination 43,800 hours away.

That is exactly the number of hours it takes to drive towards our 5-Year Strategic Plan destination (2022-2027). You can imagine the size of the road map as we move toward our destination, where every year is a new page. This January we just turned a new page. Please find the 2024 Road Map in this edition of the Newsboy or online at [slvrec.com](#).

### One Cooperative

I would like to first draw your attention to the SLVREC/Ciello logo, which has been updated from prior years. This update makes an important association by incorporating both REC and Ciello into the same logo as one cooperative. Ciello is a division of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and not a separate entity. Our employees stand together working for one cooperative with the same mission and values, which is represented by the mantra "A Powerful Connection" within the logo. I hope you'll notice this change on our vehicles as we start to make updates.

As you scan down the 2024 Road Map,

you'll notice updates to our mission and value statements too. This was initiated by listening to employees asking for clarification. During the second half of 2023, we engaged in employee-driven work sessions to collect ideas and comments. The result is not a change of mission and values. The result is clear, concise statements owned by employees—the beating heart of SLVREC. We really do care about you.

### 2024 Goals

Moving further down the 2024 Road Map you'll notice the middle section summarizing our 5-Year Plan. Here you'll notice four strategic areas of focus with measurable results. Toward the bottom of the map, you'll find the 2024 goals. These are grouped according to the strategic focus area each one supports. We pick the best goals.

Now it's not uncommon for an organization to use the first quarter of the year to plan and the remaining three quarters to implement. However, we do it a little differently. SLVREC hits the ground running starting in January. Delivering better results over a full year's work. Items we've already started working on in 2024 include:

- Two megawatts of new solar generation— We are strategically leveraging resources through a partnership with Aerinet Solutions Corporation to maximize our chances

**See MAP 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

Creede Hargraves  
719-588-0741

Scott Wolfe  
719-852-0966

Kim Wakasugi  
719-588-3440

Email: [power@slvrec.com](mailto:power@slvrec.com)

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

## CEO

Eric Eriksen  
719-852-6630

SLVREC Office (toll free)  
800-332-7634

SLVREC Office (local calls)  
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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[www.facebook.com/SLVREC](https://www.facebook.com/SLVREC)



[www.twitter.com/SLVREC](https://www.twitter.com/SLVREC)





## MAP

continued from page 3

# 2024 ROAD MAP

### MEMBER NEEDS

*We always ask : What's best for members?  
We hire and retain the best employees.  
We deliver the best value Electric and Internet services.*

### MISSION

*Serving a Powerful Connection to the San Luis Valley*

### VALUES

*We CARE: Connected • Accountable • Reliable • Excellent*



## 2022-2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

### WORKFORCE

SATISFACTION: 90%  
PERFORMANCE: 90%

### FINANCIAL

EQUITY TO ASSET RATIO 40%

### RELIABILITY

REC: 99.4%  
CIELLO: 99.999%

### COMMUNICATIONS

ACSI SCORE: 80

## 2024 GOALS

### COMMUNICATIONS

- C1. Complete Satisfaction Surveys
- C2. Develop Communication Plan
- C3. Launch Member Electrify & Save Program

### FINANCIAL

- F1. Complete Rate Case Study
- F2. Develop Grant Funding Resource Strategic Plan
- F3. Purchase 3MW Penitente Solar Plant
- F4. Implement Calix Cloud Marketing/Analytics for Improved Service
- F5. Increase Number of Hosted Line Customers by 10%

### WORKFORCE

- W1: Deliver Process Improvement Training
- W2: Renew IBEW Labor Agreement
- W3: Conversion to iVUE Connect (CIS & Fiber)
- W4: Complete Employee Satisfaction Survey

### RELIABILITY

- R1: Outage Hours Lower Than 3-Year Average
- R2: Break Ground Moffat 1MW Solar Plant
- R3: Break Ground Creede 1MW Solar Plant
- R4: Install Batteries at All Wireless Sites

of winning grant funds. Aerinet specializes in electric cooperative grant services in Colorado and across the nation. To date we have submitted over \$8 million in requests for funds specifically for solar facilities. The timing associated with receiving grant funds will affect when we complete construction. Minimally, we intend to break ground this year. The project(s) consist of one megawatt built at Creede Substation and one megawatt to be built at Moffat Substation on SLVREC properties. A construction agreement has been awarded to a company called AgriPower Solar.

- In addition to solar facilities, we are leading efforts to pursue over \$250 million in grants with a consortium of 19 cooperatives/G&Ts across eight states for projects associated with electrical system hardening, resiliency, efficiency, tech-) nologies, broadband and so much more. We have a team of engineers, grant consulting companies and strong partners working to bring real dollars into

**See GOALS  
continued on Page 5**



## Recipe of the Month

### INGREDIENTS

6 bell peppers  
 1 T. extra-virgin olive oil  
 1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
 1 t. dried oregano  
 Kosher salt  
 Freshly ground black pepper  
 1-1/2 c. low-sodium chicken stock or water, divided  
 1 c. couscous  
 1 small red onion, chopped  
 1 zucchini, chopped  
 1 clove garlic, finely chopped  
 1 c. quartered cherry tomatoes  
 1/2 c. Kalamata olives, pitted, chopped  
 2 T. chopped fresh dill  
 1 c. crumbled feta, divided  
 Lemon wedges, for serving

### GREEK STUFFED PEPPERS

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Slice off top of bell peppers. Discard stems and remove ribs and seeds. Arrange peppers upright in a large casserole dish.

2. In a large skillet over medium heat, heat oil. Add chicken and oregano; season with salt and pepper. Cook, turning occasionally, until chicken is golden brown and no longer pink, about 8 minutes per side. Transfer to a cutting board and let rest 5 minutes, then finely chop.

3. In a medium saucepan over medium-high heat, bring 1 cup stock to a boil. Remove pot from heat. Stir in couscous. Cover pot with a tight-fitting lid. Let sit until couscous is tender and liquid is absorbed, about 5 minutes.

4. Transfer couscous and chicken to a large bowl. Add onion, zucchini, garlic, tomatoes, olives, dill, and 1/2 cup feta; season with salt and pepper and toss to combine.

5. Stuff couscous mixture into peppers. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 cup feta. Pour remaining 1/2 cup stock into baking dish (to help peppers steam) and cover with foil.

6. Bake peppers until tender and cheese is melty, 42 to 45 minutes. Serve with lemon wedges alongside.

[www.delish.com](http://www.delish.com)

*'Historical Happenings' will return next month*

## GOALS

continued from page 4

the San Luis Valley. March 1 will be the launch of our new Electrify and Save on-bill repayment program. This program will change lives by directly saving members money through home, business and irrigation efficiency improvements. Currently we are “piloting” the program internally with employee homes to ensure we can deliver the best experience to you. You will be able to find more information on our website at ([slvrec.com](http://slvrec.com)) in the future.

- Lean Six Sigma process improvement certification will be delivered to SLVREC employees over three months starting Jan. 29. Think of this as the SLVREC “shark tank.” Employees will be learning and applying process improvement methodology on real projects. They will be empowered to do more with less, therefore saving members money. Check out the

Lean Six Sigma Institute link for more information ([leansixsigma.institute.org](http://leansixsigma.institute.org))

SLVREC is leading the way forward and stands by our commitment to serve you. As the second oldest electric cooperative in Colorado, SLVREC has a long tradition of serving its more than 7,500-member community and improving quality of life in the San Luis Valley. Innovating new energy resources and programs are another way that SLVREC is demonstrating its commitment to our members and the wellbeing of the San Luis Valley.

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.



POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625  
Monte Vista, CO 81144

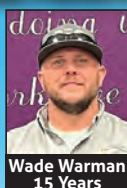
February 2024

Periodical Postage  
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## CONGRATS ON YOUR MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES! 2023



Rusty Witherspoon  
5 Years



Wade Warman  
15 Years



Marvin Martinez  
25 Years



Michelle Trujillo  
25 Years



Shan Hunter  
25 Years



Stacy Valdez  
25 Years



Photo by Tyler Cerny

## POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

REC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday; closed on Presidents' Day, Feb. 19

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE

866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)  
[www.energyoutreach.org](http://www.energyoutreach.org)

Your Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative 

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, 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.

### Annual Meeting update

SLVREC's annual business meeting  
will be held on

**Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 7 p.m.**  
at Ski Hi Events Center.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m.  
Petition packets will be available online  
by Feb. 15, 2024  
at [slvrec.com/annual-meeting](http://slvrec.com/annual-meeting)