

Annual Meeting 2024

Wakasugi, Wolfe to serve another term

The 2024 annual meeting was held on Tuesday, June 11 at the Ski Hi Complex in Monte Vista.

Several special guests attended, including speakers Tri-State G&T VP of Energy Management Lisa Tiffin and CREA Executive Director Kent Singer. Michelle Pastor (relationship manager) and Mike Mason (senior manager energy application services) of Tri-State were also on hand to visit with members. The 2024 scholarship recipients and their families were special guests of honor as were Saguache County Commissioners Lynne Thompson and Liza Marron.



Pictured, left to right: Scholarship Recipients: Ashley Dominguez, Kaia Skadberg, Diego Chavez, Riley Valdez, Antonio Valdez-Reyes and Sienna Gallegos. Not pictured are recipients Joshua Holman and Mario Villalba.

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Charles Valdez

Congrats to our Door Prize Winners!

1/2 beef: Harriet Mason

1/2 pork: Daniel & Mayra Morales

Bill credits: Wayne Patton, Agnes Davis, Darcy Dueck, Kenneth Anderson, Wilma Phillips

Smoker—Tri-State: Charles Valdez

Gift cards: Phil Gooch, Kenneth Anderson, Wilma Phillips, David Carr, Charles Versaw,

Darcy Dueck, Tricia Toney, Seger South

Flower Baskets: Sanchez Ditch, Barbara Gonzales, Greg & Carla Loftis

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Claire Seger, Monte Vista, Youth Tour/Camp participant



SLV REC's annual meeting was held at Ski Hi Complex on June 11.

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Member information

SLVREC seeking grant funds

San Luis Valley REC has been strategically leveraging resources through a partnership with Aerinet Solutions Corporation to maximize the probability of winning grant funds. Aerinet specializes in electric cooperative grant services in Colorado and across the nation.

The grant projects REC is seeking have been prioritized into four focus areas: affordability, reliability, resiliency and electrification.

To-date REC has submitted \$8.5 million in requests for funds specifically for solar facilities, targeting the number one focus area— affordability. These have included Department of Energy (DOE) Energy for Rural and Remote Areas (ERRA), USDA PACE (Powering Affordable Clean Energy), USDA New ERA (Empowering Rural America) and Congressional Direct Spending (CDS) grants; all of which were unsuccessful.

Even though no grant funds have been received at this time, REC still plans to break ground on the one-megawatt solar project at the Moffat substation by the end of the year. The construction agreement has been awarded to AgriPower Solar.

Under the number two priority area— reliability — REC is leading efforts to pursue over \$250 million in funding for a consortium of 19 transmission and generation cooperatives across eight states. The GRIP (Grid Resiliency and Innovative Partnerships) grant funds would focus on projects associated with electrical system hardening, resiliency, efficiency, technologies,

data communication for utility and much more.

For REC this would include \$23 million toward substation hardening, transmission hardening, Baca underground cable, bird diverters, Zapata tree wire and meter data management. REC is eagerly awaiting results on this grant.

Resiliency (microgrids) is the third priority focus area. Colorado DOLA Microgrids for Community Resiliency (MCR) and DOE ERRA grants were pursued but REC was not invited/encouraged to apply. REC recently applied for a Colorado DOLA MCR Planning Grant for a microgrid feasibility study; results of this grant are still pending.

Fourth priority, electrification focuses on the better, more efficient use of electricity and has been primarily covered by Tri-State's Electrify and Save program. Tri-State and its members have secured \$75 million in loans for rural energy efficiency efforts, through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP).

SLVREC will continue to actively explore opportunities as they arise and fit the areas of focus, working to reduce the cost of improving lives in the San Luis Valley.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: homesandgardens.com



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"I echo the thoughts about Ciello.

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—Scott Smith, Facebook

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Eric Eriksen

10 things you might not know about power restoration

Have you ever watched a video or TV show where a person is cooking a meal, then suddenly, they snap their fingers, and the meal is plated and ready to eat? That's called a jump cut.

While we wish we could "jump cut" from a power outage to power restoration, it can often take a lot more effort and people to make it happen.

Fortunately, we have better than state and national average reliability here in the San Luis Valley, but outages do occur. And sometimes I get asked by members why it can take time to get the lights back on. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it.

This month, I'd like to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes. Here are 10 things you might not know about restoration:

1. We need you. When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or small section of a neighborhood. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out by calling us at 719-852-3538.

2. Our employees might be affected too. Because SLVREC is a local electric cooperative owned by the members we serve, our employees are local too. They are your neighbors, friends and familiar community volunteers. When you're without power, our people might be too.

3. It's a team effort. Every one of SLVREC employees are working to

get your power restored as soon as possible. Our engineers and field staff are surveying damage; dispatchers are organizing crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.

4. We assess the situation first. Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.

5. Restoration is prioritized safety first, then normally by the largest number of members we can get back on in the shortest amount of time. Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services like hospitals. Then we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.

6. Our employees face many hazards. Besides working around high voltage electricity, our crews are on alert for wild animals, weather elements, falling trees and fast-moving cars.

7. Flickering lights are a good thing. Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important because they indicate our equipment worked and prevented a possible outage

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Keenan Anderson, President
719-849-8304

Stephen Valdez, Vice President
719-588-0430

Wade Lockhart, Secretary
719-588-9246

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719-588-4711

Creede Hargraves
719-588-0741

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Email: power@slvrec.com

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

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ANNUAL

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<u>County</u>	<u>Members Registered at Annual Meeting</u>
Alamosa County	5
Costilla County	4
Conejos County	11
Mineral/Hinsdale Counties	3
Rio Grande County	17
Saguache County	14
	54
	Total Memberships Represented

Incumbents Kim on the REC board. As this year's District 2 and District 4 election was uncontested, the candidates were elected by acclamation.

Wakasugi, Costilla County (District 2) and Scott Wolfe, Alamosa County (District 4) will both serve another four-year term

FIND OUT IF *ciello* IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA AT CIELLO.COM OR CALL 719.852.3538

OUTAGE

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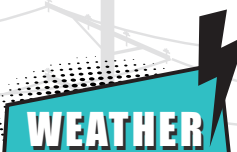
likely caused by wayward animals or stray tree limbs on the lines.

8. You may need a backup plan. Our backup plan when lights go out is to implement our emergency response procedures including spare materials and trained personnel. We do our best to help those who need it, but if you depend on electricity for life support purposes, you must have a back-up plan too—remember, we don't always know how long restoration efforts will take.

9. Our employees must plan and eat. If you ever see our trucks in a restaurant parking lot while your power is out, know that sometimes our employees huddle in a safe, common area to map out their plan for getting your power back on. Also, our crews work long hard


COMMON CAUSES OF POWER OUTAGES

There is never a good time for the power to go out, but if it happens on a sunny day, you might be left wondering why. Here are the most common causes of a power outage.




WEATHER

High winds, snow and ice can cause tree limbs to fall on power lines. Other weather effects, like wildfires and lightning strikes, can cause major damage to equipment.




CRITTERS

Squirrels, birds, snakes and other animals can inadvertently contact power lines, causing short circuits and disruptions to electrical supply.



ACCIDENTS

Vehicles can crash into utility poles, bringing down power lines. Construction and excavation work can also result in disruptions to underground lines.



Scheduled MAINTENANCE

Occasionally, we plan outages to perform upgrades or repairs to parts of the local grid.

hours during outages and need to take time for meals just like everyone else.

10. Sometimes it's a waiting game. Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers

interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but

they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, know that your REC team is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. If you experience an outage, please let us know by reporting it through 719-852-3538.



Recipe of the Month

INGREDIENTS

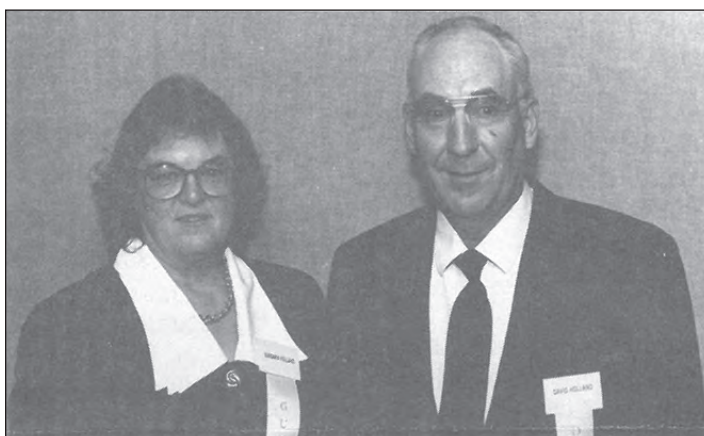
- 1 (15.25-oz.) package yellow cake mix
- 1 (8-oz.) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 pint blueberries, rinsed and drained
- 2 pints fresh strawberries, rinsed and sliced

Red, White and Blue Strawberry Shortcake

1. Prepare cake according to package directions and bake in a 9x13-inch pan. Cool completely.
2. Frost cake with whipped topping. Place blueberries in a square in the corner, and arrange sliced strawberries as stripes to make an American flag. Chill until serving.

Historical Happenings

Annual Meeting 1992

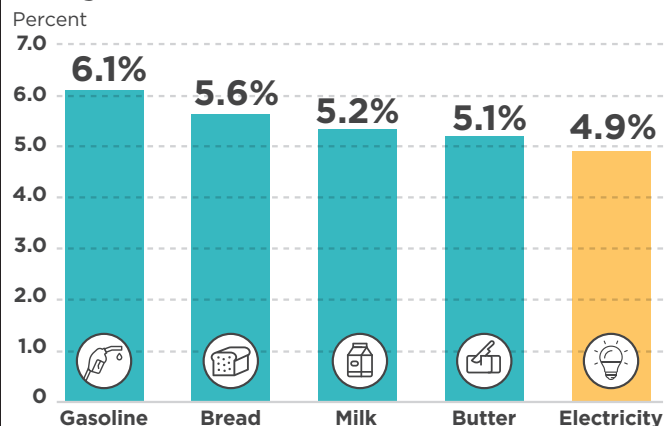


Incumbents prevailed in this year's SLVREC Board of Directors' election with Jerry Lorenz again chosen to represent District #2, Costilla County and David Holland, District #4, Alamosa County. Pictured above: Jerry and his wife, Joan (top); David and his wife, Barbara (below)

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2018-2023



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index



Tri-State explains ERP

Tri-State Senior Vice President of Energy Management Lisa Tiffin reviewed Tri-State's Energy Resource Plan at the annual meeting on June 11. It's one of, if not the most aggressive renewable energy transition plans in the country.

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July 2024



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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, July 30, 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.

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