

## ‘Cooperation among Cooperatives’

### May 10th outage brings in mutual aid

When a spring snowstorm hit in the early morning hours of May 10 and a call for mutual aid went out, Tri-State didn't hesitate to send crews to the San Luis Valley immediately. One of the seven cooperative principles, "Cooperation among Cooperatives" is key when disaster strikes and partners come in clutch as a valuable resource.

Engineer Manager Terry Daley stated, "Tri-State is a valued partner and has the knowledge, experience, equipment and materials to assist members with transmission repairs. Before the sun was up, San Luis Valley REC was in touch with Tri-State personnel to request assistance. Tri-State immediately began assembling personnel, materials and began the response."

An initial assessment of the area found four transmission structures down and the power out from Waverly to San Acacio for REC members. As the sun rose and a better evaluation was done, the damage was found to be more extreme with a total of 21 transmission poles down. While Tri-State's team was assembling to



Photo by Jenna Hirsch, CREA

More than 20 transmission structures were damaged in the May 10 spring snowstorm.

assist with transmission work, REC crews got right to work backfeeding distribution from the San Acacio sub through the Stockade sub.

Around 7:40 a.m. both the 115kV transmission line operated by Xcel

See **OUTAGE** continued on Page 2

### SIGNS OF AN ENERGY SCAM

- High-Pressure Tactics**  
Scammers will pressure you, creating a sense of urgency. Claims that your power will be disconnected without immediate payment are common with utility scams.
- Sketchy Payment Methods**  
Scammers may ask for unusual payment methods like gift cards or cryptocurrency. In these cases, it's likely a scam.
- Dodgy Communication**  
Whether an email, text message or letter, utility scams typically include poor grammar, spelling errors or unusual email addresses. These are common warning signs of a scam.

### THIS ISSUE

Cooperation among Cooperatives

Efficiency/Ciello

Eric Eriksen

Weatherizing

Recipe/Historical Happenings

## OUTAGE

continued from page 1

Energy and the 230kV transmission line operated by Tri-State and Western Area Power Administration tripped due to heavy, wet snow resulting in a Valley-wide outage. By 9:40 a.m. Tri-State's 230kV line was back in service and most San Luis Valley residents had restored power.

As temporary repairs and backfeeding were completed, most remaining REC members were back on by 1 p.m. "Mother Nature is unpredictable, but REC/Ciello is prepared to respond through strategic planning and response training. When the normal powerline serving San Acacio was taken out by the storm our back-up plan worked to restore power from an alternate route quickly. We apply this high level of redundancy throughout our electrical system to ensure reliability," commented CEO Eric Eriksen.

Tri-State crews began arriving with poles and equipment to help replace structures later that day and additional manpower continued to arrive in the days following. Nearly 20 Tri-State workers spent six days rebuilding the downed transmission lines. By Thursday afternoon, all damaged transmission structures had been replaced and were back in service.

"REC has great partners like Tri-State and CREA who magnify our response capabilities. Tri-State had line crews and equipment on-site within hours. CREA provided trained safety personnel to help maintain the highest safety measures resulting in zero lost time accident events," Eriksen said.

As the dust settles from the May 10 storm, it's



Photo by Jenna Hirsch, CREA

Tri-State crews set a transmission pole.

moments like this when the cooperative spirit shines that we realize how fortunate we are to be a part of a collaborative, supportive, heartfelt industry.

### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

#### TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov



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*-Kathy Anderson, Google*

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**Eric Eriksen**

## Valley spirit

Living in the San Luis Valley is full of riches. Majestic mountains outline the Valley we call home. It's home to the headwaters of the Rio Grande flowing across our sun-soaked landscape feeding abundant life. Thriving wildlife, forests, recreation, agriculture, tourism, and so much more helps sustain the livelihood we enjoy. I have come to learn these traits are often referred to as the rich treasures of rural life.

Amidst the incredibly vast space and beauty, one doesn't have to be present for very long to begin understanding the true magnificence of the San Luis Valley—troves of deep cultural roots, heritage and history. Together with our family, friends and neighbors we define our "Valley Spirit." Community, productive, ingenious, with a resilient can-do way of life are words that pop into my thoughts.

Therefore, it is not surprising that the Valley is an innovative leader and example for others across America to follow. Recently I was visiting with your neighbor, Avery Augur, and had the pleasure of learning about the cool, clever heat pump technologies he is building into local home designs. His purpose is to save homeowners money through better energy efficiency while adding comfortable value to their homes. I was surprised that he's been doing this for years with great success. I had to ask him to share this great experience with you. Here's what he had to say...

### **Words from your neighbor: Heat pumps work in the Valley** *By Avery Augur, Architect Creede America*

In the Creede America subdivision we've had a long history of using heat pump systems in our homes. Early on we installed Geothermal, or ground source heat pump systems, in six of our homes. These systems have delivered extremely efficient heating and, depending on the configuration of the system, cooling, to these homes for many years. We moved away from the ground source systems due to the very high installation costs but have found that the same technology that made the ground source heat pump systems so efficient has dramatically improved in a new generation of low temperature air source heat pump systems. We completed a home in 2020 that uses an air source heat pump system to provide hydronic radiant heat. This heat pump is able to provide heat in temperatures down to -7 degrees Fahrenheit and has a backup system that ensures that the system continues to heat on the coldest of days. It has been operating for four years now, and we've been very impressed at the performance of the system. In this particular case, the homeowner added a solar array to their home and has seen significant cost savings on their utility bill. We continue to monitor new developments with cold climate heat pump technology and understand that there are some new units on the market that can operate in

**See PUMPS continued on Page 4**

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

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**SLVREC**  
**Annual Meeting**  
 Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m.  
 at Ski Hi Events Center

Registration Opens: 5:30 pm  
 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 3, 2024.  
 Call 719-852-3538 or email  
 2024AnnMeet@slvrec.com

## 3 WAYS TO SEAL IN COMFORT

In addition to increased comfort, weatherizing your home is an excellent way to save energy and lower your cooling and heating costs. Here are three ways you can seal in comfort *and* savings.

**Caulk**  
 Apply caulk around cracks and openings between stationary components like door frames and window frames.

**Weatherstripping**  
 Install weatherstripping around components that move, like doors and operable windows.

**Insulate**  
 Adding insulation is an effective weatherization strategy, especially for older homes. Consider additional insulation in areas like an unfinished attic, exterior walls and floors above uninsulated spaces.

## PUMPS

continued from page 3

temperatures as low as -14 degrees Fahrenheit. We're big believers in these systems and their ability to help keep the operating costs of our homes as low as possible.

### Heat Pumps

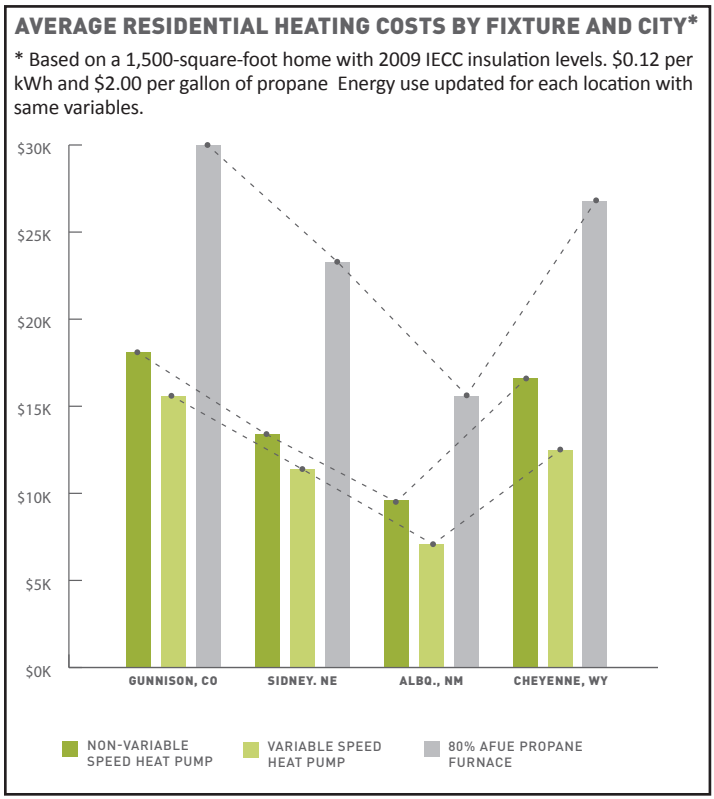
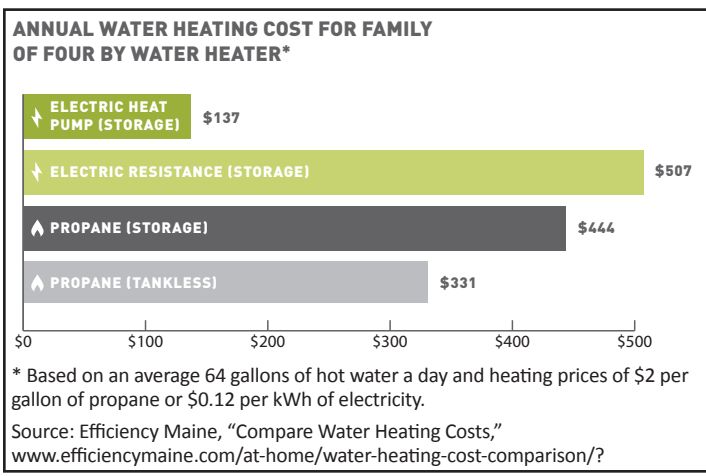
If you would like to learn more about heat pumps or other energy savings opportunities, then please contact us at [power@slvrec.com](mailto:power@slvrec.com) or 877-760-7468 and ask about our new Electrify and Save program, list of local qualified contractors and member heat pump product information.

Heat pumps have been working in cold climates for several years now, including Alaska and Colorado. They can heat your home, cool your home, heat your hot water and save you money. Some cold climate models have dual fuel options (electric & gas) for additional reliability and options, operating 100 percent performance as low as

-25 degrees Fahrenheit. Below are a couple data graphs showing cost saving opportunities for your home or business.

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.

I would love to hear from you and the words you've chosen to describe our **Valley Spirit**.





## Recipe of the Month

### INGREDIENTS

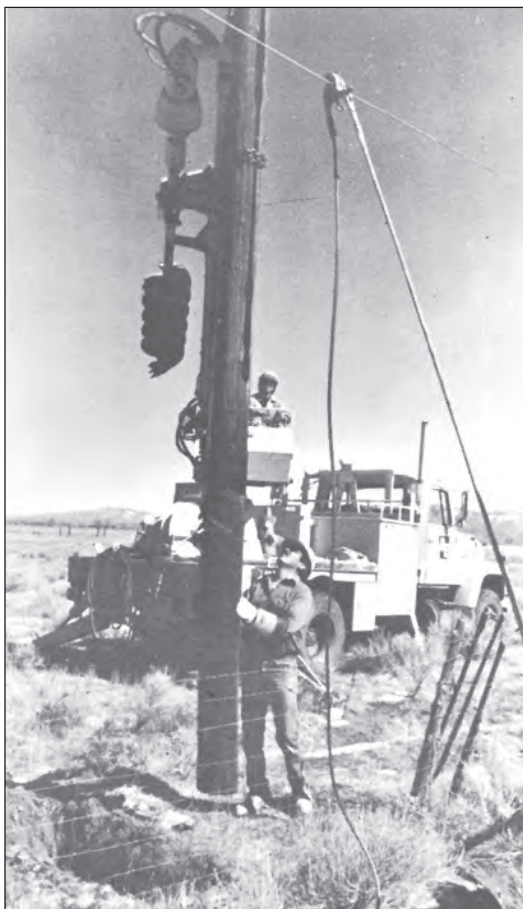
- 1-¼ c. panko bread crumbs
- ½ t. garlic powder
- ½ t. onion powder
- ½ heaping t. sea salt
- 2 large eggs
- ½ c. all-purpose flour
- 1 yellow onion, sliced into ½-inch rings
- Extra-virgin olive oil, for drizzling
- Tartar sauce, optional, for dipping

### AIR FRYER ONION RINGS

1. On a rimmed tray, mix the panko, garlic powder, onion powder, and salt. In a small shallow bowl, lightly beat the eggs. Place the flour in another small bowl.
2. Preheat the air fryer to 370°F.
3. Dip each onion ring into the flour, then tap to remove any excess flour. Dip it in the egg, coat with the panko mixture, and then place on a large plate.
4. Drizzle the onion rings with olive oil and transfer them right into the air fryer basket in a single layer with a little space between each ring. Don't overcrowd the basket. Work in batches if necessary. Air fry for 8 to 11 minutes or until golden brown and crisp. Repeat with remaining onion rings. Serve with tartar sauce, if desired.

*www.loveandlemons.com*

## Historical Happenings



### March 1990

Old San Acacio saw some REC maintenance activity as Dale Clark's line crew replaced almost 40 poles that had been in service since 1941.

In the picture at left, Ronnie Spencer hoists the retired pole with the line truck while Glen Marquez guides it clear of the hole. The single phase hot line was simply pulled to one side (neutral line is shown in picture) while the pole was replaced, so no loss of service to the surrounding area was experienced. Dale said the local farmers were quick to speak for the old poles which were recycled into fence posts.

### Electrify & Save program recognized at State Capitol



Photo courtesy of Tri-State SLVREC Marketing and Communications Manager Jennifer Alonzo spoke at the State Capitol on May 3 in regards to the new Electrify & Save On-Bill Repayment Program, while Tri-State CEO Duane Highley looks on. See related story online at: <https://www.slvrec.com/about-us#electrify-and-save>

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June 2024



## POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

REC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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**SCHEDULED MEETINGS**

Annual Meeting: Tuesday, June 11, 7 p.m.  
Board Meeting: Tuesday, June 25, 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.



Ortega Middle School eighth grader Mykah spent Job Days working with REC/Ciello employees.