

Meet the Co-op

Former Tri-State employee joins REC

Del Norte resident Jarrod Dalton recently joined the San Luis Valley REC/Ciello team as system operator. He comes to REC from Tri-State where he worked for 11 years as a substation tech, maintaining substation equipment and protective relays.

When the opportunity came to work locally in a cooperative family, Jarrod decided to apply at SLV REC. He is learning the major functions of his new position, which include radio communication with the crews and servicemen, operating the system management software programs and remote equipment operation through SCADA.

Jarrod is finding the most challenging part to be learning a new electrical system and new software, but he is enjoying the people that work here. He's also adjusting to dressing business-casual and working in the office, rather than out in the field.

Jarrod is originally from Pueblo, but his wife is a Valley native; they have one son, who is 19 and attending school in Denver. Jarrod's hobbies include fishing, rafting, snowmobiling and snowboarding; he likes to be outdoors as much as possible.

In closing, Jarrod commented, "I am very happy to be here; everyone has been super nice and super helpful."



Jarrod Dalton

Irrigator open house Nov. 7

San Luis Valley REC will host an **OPEN HOUSE** on Thursday, Nov. 7 at 8 a.m. at our office, 3625 Hwy. 160, Monte Vista, for our **MEMBER IRRIGATORS**. Join us for breakfast goodies, hear from members who are already saving and meet with irrigation engineer expert Lee Wheeler. Discover how you can increase yield while decreasing energy spend with a no-cost resource provided by

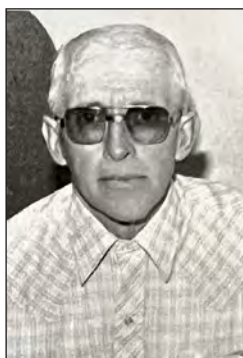
See **IRRIGATORS** continued on Page 4

Member Information

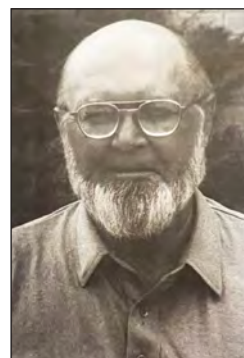
New scholarship offered in honor of Magness brothers

San Luis Valley REC will be offering a new scholarship in 2025. The James & Thomas Magness Scholarship, valued at \$4,000, will be awarded to a student furthering his/her education in an electrical field (electrician; electrical-contractor, engineering or lineman; communications tech, etc. at any trade school, college or university.

Both James and Thomas Magness were lifelong, career employees of SLVREC. James' son, Greg Magness, along with Thomas' stepson and REC Board Member Creede Hargraves, have committed to



James Magness



Thomas Magness

help fund this annual scholarship in their memory.

See **MAGNESS** continued on Page 5

THIS ISSUE

Meet the Coop/Member info

Statement of Ownership and more...

Eric Eriksen

New Pay-by-Phone/Scholarships

Mini-Splits

NOVEMBER 2024 | VOLUME 51 | ISSUE 10

Statement of Ownership

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)			
1. Publication Title The Newsboy		2. Publication Number 551 - 450	
4. Issue Frequency monthly		5. Number of Issues Published Annually 11	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4®) P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144		3. Filing Date 10/1/2024	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer) San Luis Valley REC, P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144		6. Annual Subscription Price \$0.00	
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank) Publisher (Name and complete mailing address) San Luis Valley REC, P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144		Contact Person Jennifer Alonzo Telephone (include area code) 719-852-6660	
Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Jennifer Alonzo, P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144		Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address) Eric Eriksen, P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144	
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)			
Full Name San Luis Valley REC		Complete Mailing Address P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144	
11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None			
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address	
12. Tax Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months <input type="checkbox"/> Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)			
PS Form 3526, July 2014 (Page 1 of 4 (see instructions page 4)) PSN: 7530-01-000-9931 PRIVACY NOTICE: See our privacy policy on www.usps.com.			
13. Publication Title The Newsboy		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below October 2024	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
Members			
a. Total Number of Copies (Net press run)		1150	1150
b. Paid Circulation (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Mailed Outside-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	747	735
	(2) Mailed In-County Paid Subscriptions Stated on PS Form 3541 (include paid distribution above nominal rate, advertiser's proof copies, and exchange copies)	266	265
	(3) Paid Distribution Outside the Mails Including Sales Through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Paid Distribution Outside USPS®	0	0
	(4) Paid Distribution by Other Classes of Mail Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail®)	0	0
c. Total Paid Distribution (Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), and (4))		1013	1000
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (By Mail and Outside the Mail)	(1) Free or Nominal Rate Outside-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(2) Free or Nominal Rate In-County Copies included on PS Form 3541	0	0
	(3) Free or Nominal Rate Copies Mailed at Other Classes Through the USPS (e.g., First-Class Mail)	0	0
	(4) Free or Nominal Rate Distribution Outside the Mail (Carriers or other means)	0	0
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution (Sum of 15d (1), (2), (3) and (4))		0	0
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e)		1013	1000
g. Copies not Distributed (See Instructions to Publishers #4 (page #3))		137	150
h. Total (Sum of 15f and g)		1150	1150
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100)		100%	100%
16. Electronic Copy Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Paid Electronic Copies		5914	5928
b. Total Paid Print Copies (Line 15c) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		6927	6928
c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)		6927	6928
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c x 100)		100%	100%
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that 50% of all my distributed copies (electronic and print) are paid above a nominal price.			
17. Publication of Statement of Ownership <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If the publication is a general publication, publication of this statement is required. Will be printed in the November 2024 issue of this publication. <input type="checkbox"/> Publication not required.			
18. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner Jennifer F. Alonzo, Marketing/Communications Manager		Date 10.01.2024	
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).			

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're heading out of town during the holiday season, remember to set your home to vacation mode. You can save energy while you're away by lowering your thermostat a few degrees or creating an "away" schedule with a smart or programmable thermostat. Newer water heaters include a vacation mode setting to help you save on water heating costs, or you can simply lower the temperature manually.

Small actions can also stack up to energy savings. Unplug devices that consume energy when they're not in use, including phone chargers, toothbrush chargers, TVs and gaming consoles.



ciello

Connecting our neighbors

"It is so satisfying to know people still have pride in their jobs. A few months ago, I had Internet hooked up to my house in South Fork...Right on time your installer showed up. Wow what a professional! He had to run cable from two different poles to my house. Although I thought he should have had help, he managed. He had us hooked up in no time. While working, he told us about the history of his family in the Valley, so proud and rightly so. Ciello is very lucky to have an employee such as Marvin. Thanks again!"

— Frank Lisac, South Fork

POWERED BY REC

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



Eric Eriksen

Winter is coming

Crisp mornings, bright leaves falling and harvesting of fields across the San Luis Valley are the signals of what lies ahead... winter is coming. If you have watched the popular TV series “Game of Thrones,” then you know this phrase signifies that difficult and troubled times lie ahead. Are you prepared for winter?

Winter is a joyous time of Christmas celebrations, fireside family moments, hot chocolate and warm blankets. However, the upcoming season does inspire some worrying due to associated expenses: big family meals, travel, Christmas gifts and winter energy bills. Winter is often the time we see some of our highest energy expenses. This is due to colder temperatures requiring more heat in our homes, shorter days leading to more time indoors and larger family gatherings. Now is the time to prepare and take steps to reduce your energy costs this winter:

Fix insulation defects in your attic.

Check air seals around windows, doors and other entrances into the home.

Check ducts from ventilation fans, dryer vents or HVAC systems for leaks.

Install and program a smart thermostat to heat only when and where you need it.

Install an efficient heat pump and heat pump water heater to replace existing units over 15-20 years old.

Schedule a FREE home energy assessment at www.slvrec.com/

[electrify-and-save](#).

Additional resources

Below is a list of websites on federal energy efficiency incentives. Use these links to learn more about federal energy incentives.

DOE’s Energy Savings Hub has resources on federal tax credits and rebates, and FAQs about federal rebates. (www.energy.gov/save)



DOE’s Home Energy Rebates Portal lists qualifying federal rebates in each state. (www.energy.gov/save/rebates)

The IRS’s resources page provides broad info about the energy-related aspects of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 including the home energy tax credits and the form needed to claim the tax credit. (www.irs.gov/credits-deductions/energy-efficient-home-improvement-credit)

Rewiring America is a website with many resources on the federal tax credits including worksheets and planning guides. (www.rewiringamerica.org)

EnergyStar is a source of info on federal incentives and can help consumers learn (www.energystar.gov):

“How the Tax Credits Work for Homeowners”

“How to Claim the Federal Tax Credits”

“Strategies to Maximize Your Federal Tax Savings”

If you have upgraded appliances or

See INCENTIVE 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
708-638-0039

Scott Wolfe
719-852-0966

Kim Wakasugi
719-588-3440

Email: 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.

© 2024 San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. All rights reserved.

 www.facebook.com/SLVREC

 www.twitter.com/SLVREC



NEW PAY-BY-PHONE NUMBER

OUR INTERACTIVE VOICE PAYMENT SYSTEM NUMBER HAS CHANGED TO 855-957-3959 OFFERING A BETTER CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE




INCENTIVE

continued from page 3

made home weatherization improvements to your primary residence since 2023, then you may be eligible for federal tax credits up to \$3,200 per year. The credit can be claimed using IRS form 5695 when filing the federal tax form for the year in which the improvements were made.

These federal tax incentives or rebates administered through the State of Colorado can be overwhelming to understand making it hard for people to take advantage of. If you would like assistance, then start by **scheduling a free home energy assessment** at www.slvrec.com/electrify-and-save. We will help you evaluate energy savings opportunities for your home and take advantage of any potential federal tax incentives or state rebates. Plus, with our Electrify and Save program you'll have options to help pay for any upgrades through our On Bill Repayment service. Start saving today!

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.



The Call of the Aspen

Autumn's symphony, a crescendo of colors,
Golden hues of aspen leaves,
Fluttering in the crisp mountain air,
Painting the hillsides with fire.
The quaking aspen, a living mosaic,
Roots entwined, a shared existence,
A community of trees, bound together,
In the harmonious tapestry of life.



The call of the aspen echoes through the valley,
A song of resilience and transformation,
A reminder of the ever-changing beauty,
Found within the heart of Colorado.



~By Dan

REC scholarships available, apply online

San Luis Valley REC makes secondary education a priority when giving back to the Valley. With over \$200,000 given in the past five years, REC annually awards up to eight scholarships to local students.

The awards are primarily reserved for REC members, although a few of the scholarships are available to other Valley students as well.

The *SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship* is renewable for up to a maximum of four years. The value of the scholarship equals the total of in-state tuition, some fees and a book allowance for the award year.

In addition to the four-year scholarship, REC awards the *Martin Christensen Electric Lineworker Scholarship*, which may be used at any accredited lineworker school. The value of the scholarship is currently \$5,500 and may be used to cover tuition costs, required textbooks or minimal basic tools for the program. Although first consideration will be given to graduating high school seniors, this scholarship is open to all individuals.

Other scholarships include the following:

The \$4,000 *Robert Wolfe Scholarship* was established

See SCHOLARSHIPS continued on Page 5

IRRIGATORS

continued from page 1

SLVREC. There will also be a drawing for a bill credit.

Electrify and Save program

Through our wholesale power supplier Tri-State, REC members have access to low or no cost irrigation assessments. The report you receive provides low and no cost measures to improve irrigation coverage along with more detailed recommendations. The report meets standards of USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) that provide financial incentives that can cover over 60 percent of improvement costs.

The process:

1. Visit slvrec.com/programs to apply
2. An irrigation assessor makes a 4–6-hour site visit
3. You receive a report in 2-3 weeks
4. We help you apply for federal funding
5. You receive your equipment (Installation included in total project cost)

Learn more on Nov. 7th!

SCHOLARSHIPS

continued from page 4

for students furthering their education in an agricultural or engineering field and may be used at any trade school, college or university.

The \$4,000 **Michael Rierson Scholarship** can be used toward further education at any trade school, college or university.

The \$4,000 **James & Thomas Magness Scholarship** was created for students furthering their education in an electrical field (electrician; electrical-contractor, engineering or lineman; communications tech, etc. at any trade school, college or university.

REC also offers the **SLVREC Past Director Scholarship** and the **SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard Scholarship**, both of which are valued at \$2,500/each.

MAGNESS

continued from page 1

James gave 44 years to REC, beginning in 1948 and retiring in 1992. During his time, he worked for three different managers and watched the utility grow from one substation to 14, from 637 miles of power line to 2,273 miles, and from 12 employees to 30. He started out cutting and trimming trees for new lines. The next year he moved to the meter department, and in 1950 he broadened his experience with a change to the service department. He spent part of 1951 on active duty with the National Guard; then returned to REC on the construction crew until 1974, when he became the staking engineer for the next 18 years.

In a February 1989 *Newsboy* interview, James spoke of everything from facing a stiff spring wind on a pole 20 feet above the ground to digging 6-foot-deep holes through rock and soil without the benefit of a backhoe. And of course, he told of a time up in shady Willow Creek canyon above Creede with a wind chill factor of -30°. He and the other linemen had to take turns dipping their bare hands and arms elbow deep in freezing transformer

MINI-SPLITS AT A GLANCE

Mini-split systems, also known as ductless air-source heat pumps, heat/cool a home through an outdoor unit that connects to one or more individual indoor air handlers, which are typically mounted on a wall. Depending on the size of your home and personal preferences, a mini-split system is worth considering when you need to replace or upgrade your heating/cooling system.

Mini-Split System Benefits:

- Zone-controlled heating/cooling
- Higher energy efficiency ratings
- Easy to install
- Good for heating/cooling home additions

Mini-Split System Considerations:

- Potentially higher upfront cost
- Appearance
- May require electrical upgrades
- Not as effective in large spaces



In addition, the **Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship** is available to dependents of members and dependent children of SLVREC employees.

For full requirements and details, see the scholarship application online at <https://slvrec.com/scholarships>

oil to make the necessary repairs.

Thomas began at REC fresh out of the Air Force in 1952, joining his brother Jim. He became manager of operations in October 1979, with his duties including supervising all work done by the linemen, area servicemen, meter and substation technicians, the mechanic and the dispatcher. He retired in 1993 following 41 years of service.

A native of Monte Vista, Tom and his wife Barbara enjoyed traveling. He also liked to fish and was a member of the Elks and the American Legion. In January 1991, Tom was named the “employee of the quarter.” His reply was, “What did they do, run out of people?” Thomas is said to have had a stern demeanor, along with a quick and dry wit, in addition to his long and professional service to the coop.

Throughout both men’s careers, they personified REC’s commitment to members throughout their combined 85 years of service. With the addition of the new Magness scholarship, students will be touched by the brothers’ commitment for years to come.

Periodical Postage
Paid at Monte Vista, CO

SAN
LUIS
VALLEY

REC

A Powerful Connection

ciello

P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144

November 2024



Photo by Member Tyler Cerny

POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

REC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. We will be closed on Monday, Nov. 11 for Veterans Day.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE
866-HEAT HELP (866-432-8435)
www.energyoutreach.org

Your Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

SCHEDULED MEETINGS
November Board Meeting: TBA
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.

