

THE NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative



Ryan Christensen — Tradition

The cooperative spirit has resonated in the Christensen family for generations. Four generations to be exact. Ryan Christensen has been with SLVREC for 23 years, from his apprenticeship through the past 14 years, during which he has guided other linemen as a foreman.

Ryan's roots run deep with the REC. His grandfather, Ed Christensen, was a serviceman with SLVREC until his passing in 1962. At that point, Martin Christensen, Ryan's father, stepped into those boots. Martin was the serviceman for the south area for 40 years. Even Ryan's son, Riley Christensen, has taken to the tradition and has been with La Plata Electric for the past two years.

From the time Ryan was big enough to ride along with his dad and Kelly Mortensen in the service truck, he knew this would be part of his life. He fondly recalls standing between the two on the way to service calls and waiting patiently in the truck listening to the radio for dispatch to call "San Luis 10."

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Tradition, continued.

Ryan is no stranger to hard work. When he isn't tackling the challenges of maintaining power to members, he is working on the family ranch. Cattle, hay and horses occupy the family's free time. Ryan believes one of the important keys to his success has been the support of his wife, Lori. He recalls that just like his mom rode many miles on service calls with his dad, Lori has always been right there for him and their family.

Of his fellow linemen, Ryan says, "You couldn't ask for a closer group to work with. The challenges of being outside, 30 degrees below, snow blowing, and those guys will still answer their phones to lend a hand." Ryan believes that it is of the utmost importance to get the jobs done quickly and safely. "We provide a really important service that is second to none. This whole group does whatever it takes to get service to the members."



Conservation Corner

Fall is on the way! Watch the weather. This may sound simple, but if you don't put someone in charge of monitoring the weather throughout the day, you will miss out on opportunities to make adjustments to your energy-consuming systems.

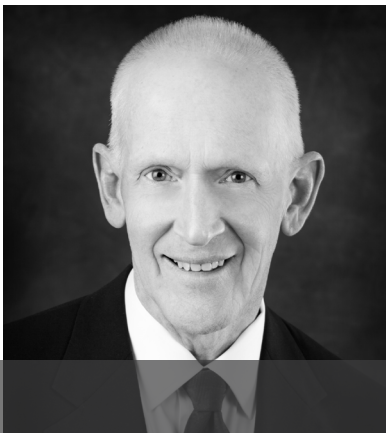
Reprogram your automated systems. After you've checked the weather, reprogram your systems accordingly. Be sure that off-hours setbacks are happening, that heating or cooling are running only when necessary, and that your systems are programmed for the new weather patterns.

Don't forget about changing daylight hours. When seasons change, so do the number of hours of daylight we experience. In the sum-

mer, the sun comes out earlier and stays out later. This means lights can stay off longer and buildings warm up earlier. Coming into these fall months, readjust your system timers so there is enough light in the mornings and afternoons – but also so that cooling units aren't coming on until later in the afternoon (if at all).

Use your windows. This time of year, you can sometimes go without heating and cooling by adjusting windows. If you have windows that open and close in your building, get some fresh air moving and cool a warm space naturally with the breeze. Even if you don't have windows that open, shades can make a big difference. Open them up to bring in warm sunshine and heat a space naturally; close them to keep a space cooler during the day and insulated from cold air overnight.

For more tips, visit www.class5energy.com.



LOREN HOWARD

Beyond the Burn

Power plants mean jobs. Behind those power plants are people and families who depend on those jobs. The implementation of EPA's Clean Power Plan will have a substantial impact on all electric generating facilities that use coal, oil or natural gas. And that means severe cuts in employment in many areas of the country.

Communities in Arizona and New Mexico with power plants that have been partial or wholly shut down have already seen negative effects. San Juan County in New Mexico (just a short distance from the Colorado border) has an average poverty level higher than the national average. Further, at least four counties in Arizona have seen a substantial increase in their poverty rates as a result of electric utilities' response to the EPA's greenhouse gas regulations.

The impact on the mostly rural communities that have relied on the employment and economic benefits of a large employer like these electric generation plants is tragic, but there are other concerns. The implementation of the Clean Power Plan will likely result in reliability issues for the delivery of electricity. The diversity, both the fuel diversity and the geographic diversity, of power generation facilities plays a significant role in the reliability of the electric grid. Substantially impacting this diversity which will be an outcome of the Clean Power Plan does not bode well for the reliable delivery of electricity to our homes and businesses.

The Clean Power Plan is going to press the cost of generating electricity higher. The estimated cost of the plan is about \$8.4 billion. SLVREC is a member of Tri-State Generation and Transmission and through our contract with Tri-State, SLVREC receives more than 95% of its electricity from Tri-State. Tri-State is a majority owner of the Craig Generating Station near Meeker, Colorado.

There are no current commercially available emission control technologies that could be installed on the units at Craig to meet the requirements of the Clean Power Plan. That means the future of the Craig Station is in jeopardy and if shut down, means Tri-State will be buying power from other higher cost resources.

The Clean Power Plan calls for a 32 percent reduction in carbon dioxide from the electric generating industry by 2030. The EPA has set a CO2 emissions target for each state. In response to feedback from utilities, the initial round of required reductions has been pushed back to 2022, instead of 2020. States have been allowed additional time to formulate strategies to meet the regulations.



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COMPANY NEWS

Welcome Kevin McCarroll and Matt Simpson

Kevin McCarroll joined the REC family in July of this year. We are pleased have Kevin come to us from the Roswell, New Mexico Xcel office, where he worked for four years.

Kevin decided to relocate back to the San Luis Valley to bring his wife and four little girls closer to family. McCarroll sees a long-term career and views the area as a great place to raise his family.

McCarroll has been pleased with his transition to the cooperative world. He was impressed with SLVREC during the interview process and says there is nothing but good guys on the crew.



Matt Simpson came to SLVREC from the City of Gunnison, where he was an apprentice for three and a half years. Simpson graduated from Trinidad State. He is looking to journey out with the REC and remain a permanent fixture here.

Matt and his wife are expecting their first baby in November, and we wish him all the best with that new adventure. The couple came to the Valley to be closer to family and to pursue Matt's opportunity with SLVREC. Simpson says this is the best group of guys he has had an opportunity to work with.

San Luis Valley Rural Electric would like to extend a warm welcome to both Kevin and Matt and their families.



RECIPES OF THE MONTH

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup sugar, divided
- 1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 6 cups fresh berries (raspberries, blueberries, blackberries)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon rind
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 cup self-rising yellow cornmeal mix
- 1/3 cup butter, melted and slightly cooled
- 1 cup milk

Fresh Berry Cobbler

Combine 1/3 cup sugar and 1 1/2 Tbsp. cornstarch in a small bowl. Combine berries, cornstarch mixture, and lemon rind in a large bowl until well blended; spoon berry mixture into a lightly greased 2-qt. baking dish.

Combine flour, cornmeal mix, and remaining 2/3 cup sugar in a medium bowl. Stir in butter and milk until blended. Gently spread batter evenly over berry mixture.

Bake at 350° for 40 to 45 minutes or until a wooden pick inserted in center of topping comes out clean. Serve warm.

INGREDIENTS

- 5 slices bacon, diced
- 2 large onions, diced
- 1/4 cup Hungarian paprika
- 1 1/2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 5 pounds boneless pork chops, trimmed
- 1 large yellow bell pepper, seeded and diced
- 2 (14 ounce) cans diced tomatoes, with liquid
- 2 (6 ounce) packages wide egg noodles

Hungarian Stew Made With Pork

Place the bacon in a large, deep skillet, and cook over medium-high heat until evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Drain, and reserve the drippings. Add the onions to the bacon and cook together until the onion is translucent. Remove skillet from heat and stir the paprika, garlic powder, and pepper into the bacon mixture. Transfer the mixture into a large stockpot.

Heat a small amount of the reserved bacon drippings in the skillet again over medium-high heat. Cook the pork chops in batches in the hot drippings until evenly browned on both sides. Use additional bacon drippings for each batch as needed. Remove the pork chops to a cutting board and blot excess fat off the surface of the chops with a paper towel; cut into bite-sized cubes and stir into the bacon mixture.

Heat a small amount of the bacon drippings in the skillet; cook and stir the bell pepper in the hot drippings until softened and fragrant; drain on a plate lined with paper towels. Stir the cooked pepper into the bacon mixture. Pour the tomatoes with liquid and beef broth into a stockpot and place the pot over medium-high heat. Bring to a simmer and reduce heat to medium-low. Cook until the stew begins to thicken, stirring occasionally, about 90 minutes. Stir the sour cream into the stew just before serving.

Bring a pot with lightly-salted water and bring to a rolling boil; add the egg noodles to the water and return to a boil. Cook uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the pasta has cooked through, but is still firm to the bite, about 5 minutes. Drain well in a colander set in the sink. Ladle the stew over the drained noodles to serve.





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POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's offices are open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.
Offices are closed Friday through Sunday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

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

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting September 29 @ 6:00 p.m.
The Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each
month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.



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