

THE NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative



REC
SAN
LUIS
VALLEY

POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

With the onset of a fresh new year, REC is proud to present a fresh, new face to the communities we serve. We are pleased to introduce the new mark of REC with a new color scheme and bold new look. While we will maintain our core values, we also recognize that it is our duty to help turn the wheels of progress in the San Luis Valley.

We have a 79-year tradition of reliable service and a proven competency in installing and maintaining quality networks. REC is

pursuing initiatives and programs that help revitalize the Valley and attract new residents and businesses.

Powering the Valley is in our blood, from a history of providing electricity to a future of exploring and delivering new technologies. With a competitive spirit and a sense of collaboration and purpose that drives us to lead the way, we stop at nothing to move our community forward.

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REC Scholarships



San Luis Valley REC offers 12 scholarships for interested high school senior students. When applying for a REC sponsored scholarship you will automatically be eligible for all of the available scholarships; however, you must refer specifically to the Lineworker and four-year Adams State University scholarships. These two scholarships are unique scholarships, and must be referred to in your essay to be eligible.

You will be notified by March 2nd, to let you know whether or not you received a scholarship or not. ***Applications must be received in the office no later than close of business on Thursday, February 4.*** Please mail the application to San Luis Valley REC Inc., P.O. Box 3625, Monte Vista, CO 81144. You may also drop them off at the headquarters office located at 3625 US Highway 160 W. We are approximately 3 miles west of the town of Monte Vista.

Scholarship-application packages are available online at www.slvrec.com, under the Community tab, or in our office.



Conservation Corner

Did you know heating and cooling accounts for roughly half of your home's energy use? Caulking cracks and gaps around windows, doors and spaces around wires (telephone, electrical, cable and gas lines), water spigots and dryer vents can pay off with big energy savings.

*Approximate cost: \$5-\$30 *Energy savings: Approx. 5-10 percent – Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy
Materials You Will Need:

Caulk, caulk gun, knife or tool to cut, rags, water

1. PREP: Clean the area where you will be applying the caulk. Remove any dirt, loose paint or old, cracked caulk. Be sure the area is dry before applying new caulk appropriate for your application.
2. LOAD: You will need to pull the plunger all the way back to load the tube of caulk into the barrel of the caulking gun. Next, squeeze the trigger a few times until the plunger

Only one copy of this form needs to be completed. Attach one copy of each of your:

- Certified high school transcript (or equivalent with respect to home study).
- SAT and/or ACT scores.
- Rank in and size of high school class.
- Summary of employment history.
- List of extracurricular activities.
- One letter of recommendation from a teacher, counselor or employer (with an original signature).
- Include a maximum two page essay giving a brief history and stating your future goals and desires are. Indicate at the top of your essay your name and the scholarships for which you would like this essay to be addressed.
- Complete the Eligibility Affidavit and attach it to your application.

For full eligibility requirements, packages and instructions, please visit the website, www.slvrec.com, or contact Andrea Oaks-Jaramillo at (719) 852-6660 for specific questions.

makes contact with the tube. Squeeze once or twice more to fill the tip with caulk.

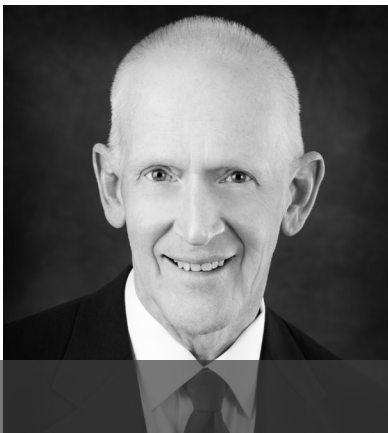
3. APPLY: To figure out the right amount of caulk needed, experiment with an out-of-the-way section. You may find that you need less caulk than you thought.

Hold the gun at a slight angle. Apply steady pressure on the trigger to create a solid stream from the tip, which should be placed 1/2 inch or less from the intended destination of the material.

Use just enough caulk to do the job. Use your finger to gently press the caulk into the corner, crack or space.

4. RELEASE: Once the trigger is fully depressed, allow it to spring back and depress it again. Keep the gun moving while caulk is still coming out of the tip.

5. CLEAN: Use a damp cloth or rag to clean off most of the excess caulk. Use a dry cloth to clean off the rest.



LOREN HOWARD

Cooperative Difference

Every day, San Luis Valley REC is hard at work making sure all of our members have the electric power they need at the best possible price. And behind the scenes, we are working with a network of cooperatives to make that happen.

REC is a part of Tri-State G&T, which creates the power, along with 44 other member cooperatives. We helped to create this second tier co-op so that we have more control over power supply and pricing.

It also takes a lot of money to run an electric co-op, so when we need to borrow capital, we turn to either the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) or CoBank. Both of these organizations are also cooperatives. CFC is owned by electric co-ops throughout the country, and CoBank is owned by electric and agricultural co-ops nationwide.

As you know, every month we generate an electric bill that we send to you either electronically or through regular mail. We use NISC to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help lower your energy costs and send timely, accurate bills to you.

No business can operate without several different types of insurance, such as general liability, auto and workmen's compensation. So once again, along with other electric cooperatives across the country, we are members of Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. This allows us to maintain reliable coverage at an affordable price.

It also takes a whole lot of "stuff" to operate an electric co-op, such as poles, wires,

transformers and many other items that you may not see.

REC is a member of Touchstone Energy, a nationwide alliance of 750 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives. Our participation allows us access to a wealth of informational materials. It also allows us to benchmark our performance in comparison with other co-ops so that we can learn from others as we constantly strive to serve you better.

REC is also part of the Cooperative Response Center, which allows us to answer your calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

So, while you are a member of one electric co-op, you are actually connected to many other co-ops. And being connected to this cooperative network ensures your needs are met in the most efficient and cooperative way possible.



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COMPANY NEWS

Fond Farewell



After 19 years of commitment, dedication and professionalism, Cheryl Jones-Seneff bids San Luis Valley REC a fond farewell. Cheryl has held many titles at REC, including executive assistant, member services representative and, most recently, CKAE (certified key accounts executive).

Cheryl has a full schedule planned for this new chapter of her life, including skiing, hiking, traveling and, of course, enjoying time with her grandchildren.

Cheryl has been a great asset to REC. Her bright smile and all she brings will be greatly missed.

Scott Deacon joined the REC team in April of 1981. His journey started as temporary help and moved into the warehouseman position. In January of 1982, Scott became an apprentice meter technician, after which he became a meter technician and held that post until 2010. He then moved on to become a substation technician.

Scott has been hardworking, dedicated and a true embodiment of REC values. During this time he also spent 24 years on the Monte Vista department, where he still holds a board position.

In this new chapter, Scott has six old tractors and two fire trucks he is looking to return to their original glory. Scott plans to do some traveling, including the California Hot Rod Reunion, and he will continue to be an active member of the San Luis Early Iron Car Club.





RECIPES OF THE MONTH

INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 teaspoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 3/4 pound sweet bulk Italian sausage
- 4 cloves garlic, chopped
- 20 mushrooms, with stems finely chopped
- 1 rib of celery plus green, leafy top from the heart of the stalk, chopped
- 1/2 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 small red bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1 (10-ounce) box chopped frozen spinach, defrosted and squeezed dry
- 3 slices white bread, toasted and buttered, chopped into small dice
- 1/3 cup grated Parmigiano or Romano (2 handfuls)

SAUSAGE STUFFED MUSHROOMS

Preheat oven to 500 degrees.

Heat a large skillet over medium high heat. Add oil and mushroom caps and season caps with salt and pepper. Saute' caps 5 to 7 minutes, until they are lightly browned and tender on edges. Turn caps up and let juices drain away from caps.

Transfer caps to a small nonstick baking sheet. Wipe out skillet and return to heat. Add a touch of oil and sausage to the hot skillet. Brown and crumble sausage for 3 minutes.

In a food processor pulse and chop the garlic, add mushroom stems and pulse to chop the mushroom stems. Add celery, onion and red bell pepper to the mushrooms and pulse to chop.

Remove mixture from the processor and saute' veggies and mushrooms over medium-high heat another 3 to 5 minutes. Add dry, defrosted spinach and stir into stuffing. Add chopped bread and cheese to the pan and toss stuffing until bread is moist and stuffing is combined, 2 or 3 minutes. Fill caps with stuffing using a small scoop or large spoon. Place caps in hot oven and reduce heat to 450 degrees. Bake 6 to 8 minutes to crisp edges of stuffing and set stuffing in mushrooms. Transfer stuffed mushrooms to a serving plate.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 teaspoon sorbet (raspberry or passion fruit)
- Chilled Champagne or Prosecco

SORBET AND CHAMPAGNE COCKTAIL

Scoop sorbet into a champagne flute.

Fill with chilled Champagne or Prosecco; stir.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 9-oz bottle of sriracha chili sauce
- 1 to 2 18-oz jars of grape jelly (Use 1 jar for spicy meatballs, or add more grape jelly to cut down on the spiciness)
- 2 to 3 dozen meatballs

SWEET AND SPICY MEATBALLS

Combine all ingredients in a slow cooker. Turn the heat on low. Cook for 4 hours.

Serve warm.

Set out extra sriracha/grape jelly sauce for dipping, if desired



Periodical Postage
Paid at Monte Vista, CO

POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144

January 2016



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 January 26 @ 9:30 a.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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