

THE NEWSBOY

News for Members of San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative



Committed to You

At San Luis Valley REC and Cielo, our goal is to provide you with outstanding, reliable, and affordable power and high-speed broadband internet. We want our system and your experience to rival anything you would find in a metropolitan area.

In light of the recent disasters and damage due to fires, we are more committed than ever to making sure our system is fortified. We have been diligently working on our SCADA system to ensure effective and timely restoration of power during outage periods. This is important for both our members and crews as they mitigate these outages.

At Cielo, we are committed to multiple redundant lines to ensure that communications are available during crisis times. Having multiple fiber optic paths out of the San Luis Valley allowed our network to remain active while the Spring fire impacted other providers in the area. Our team is very committed to the deployment of fiber optic throughout the Valley, whether through fiber to the premise or fiber-backed wireless. We want to ensure that communications remain reliable and consistent in times of emergency.

We are your local cooperative, and your safety matters to us.

Photo Credit: Ryan Christensen

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Scam Alert!



Scammers don't take summer vacations, as several electric cooperatives can attest. Reported efforts to rip off members have been picking up in recent weeks, including one making claims of incorrect meter readings and another citing invalid checks.

At San Luis Valley REC, we want to make sure our members and their accounts are protected. We will not take credit card information, banking information, or payments over the phone. You will be sent to our automated system to provide this information. You may also pay your bill online through SmartHub or visit us in person in the office. Our normal business hours are Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Nebraska's Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District wrote on its Facebook page that some residents "have been getting calls that the meter reading has been wrong for a few months and that they need your address to send you a check."

"IT IS A SCAM!! If we have your meter reading we also have your address," the St. Paul-based utility wrote. What the scammers really plan to do with the addresses isn't known.

Howard Greeley is among the members of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association urging consumers to be alert. On its own Facebook page, the statewide noted that it's seen "a large number of recent phone scam incidents reported around Nebraska."

"If you receive a call from someone claiming to be with your local electric utility, don't give them any personal or financial information. Instead, hang up and call your electric utility right away!" they wrote. "Your electric provider will never ask for a prepaid card to pay your bill—that is what many scammers ask for in the calls!"

In David City, Nebraska, Butler Public Power District

warned members of calls that threaten disconnection unless payment is made immediately. That attracted the notice of the Butler County Sheriff's Department, which posted on its Facebook feed that it's received numerous complaints about calls—supposedly from BPPD or other local utilities—"requesting cash payments or customers will face an immediate disconnect of their power."

"This is a scam!" the sheriff noted, before taking to all caps to warn, "DO NOT GIVE ANY INFORMATION TO ANYONE OVER THE PHONE."

That's sound advice in neighboring Colorado, where La Plata Electric Association says someone claiming to be from the co-op is calling members, saying the payment check they sent wasn't valid and they need to give a credit or debit card on the spot to keep the lights on.

"The scammers called members late in the afternoon, which is apparently part of the now traditional scam to panic them. Of course our consumer-members do not want to be without electricity overnight," said Ron Meier, LPEA manager of engineering and member services.

Meier noted that the Durango-based co-op never makes these types of calls, nor does it disconnect power outside of regular business hours or on weekends.

Across the border in New Mexico, Cloudcroft-based Otero Electric Cooperative warned of callers threatening disconnects unless members buy a gift card at Family Dollar to make a payment. While the co-op does call members with past-due accounts to give a final due date, it never demands immediate payment.

Please be aware of scammers and call us immediately if you feel you have received a scam phone call: (719) 852-3538.



LOREN HOWARD

Grid Resiliency

Resiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history. Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid. Here in Colorado, what does grid resiliency mean for you?

Resiliency is many things – it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our members

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation — such as wind, solar, coal and hydro — to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology — from demand response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles — all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-day-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong — or as resilient — as it can be.

Living in Colorado, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially as we enter spring and summer storm season. Whether we're at the mercy of wind or snow, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible.

In the dictionary, resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, recover quickly, and go back into shape or position after being stretched." When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward — day in and day out!

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

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Meet Your Co-op!

Meet Jacob Cadwell, the San Luis Valley REC's newest Monte Vista area serviceman! Jacob is no newcomer to the REC. In fact, he has been with the cooperative for the past eight years. For the past three years Jacob has been one of our dedicated journeyman linemen.

When the area serviceman position arose Jacob was eager to expand his opportunities with REC and take his career to the next level. Jacob appreciates the family environment of the REC and the relationships with the members that we serve. "We are here to stay and people know that," says Jacob. He feels that we are a reliable and trustworthy name in the community.

Jacob is ready to embark on the area serviceman journey and expand his knowledge for fiber optic deployment. He sees the importance of Cielo in our communities in adding economic stability. We wish Jacob the very best in his new role!



Community Involvement



DATE AND TIME

Monday, August 6, 2018
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM MDT

LOCATION

Adams State University

2nd Annual Economic Summit

Adams State University and Trinidad State Junior College request that you join us for the second annual SLV Economic Summit.

This year we will be featuring SLV Heritage, Rural Workforce Development, and the rollout of the SLV Economic Impact Study. Our speakers will include Dr. Richard Wobbekind from Leeds School of Business; Elizabeth Garner of Colorado State Demographics Office; and Luis Benitez, director of our State Outdoor Recreation Industry Office.

Lunch and snacks are included.



RECIPES OF THE MONTH

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1-pound pork tenderloins, trimmed
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- Vegetable oil, for the grill
- 3 firm-ripe peaches, halved, pitted and cut into wedges
- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/3 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1 lemon
- 2 teaspoons whole-grain mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary, plus 1 or 2 small sprigs

Rosemary-Mustard Pork With Peaches

Preheat a grill to high. Pat the pork dry and season with salt and pepper. Lightly oil the grill, then grill the pork, turning, until marked, about 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine the peaches, wine, brown sugar, and 1/2 cup water in a saucepan. Remove strips of zest from the lemon with a vegetable peeler and add to the pan; squeeze in the lemon juice. Cover and cook over medium-high heat until the peaches are just tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer to a bowl with a slotted spoon.

Add the mustard, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper to the juices in the pan. Transfer 1/3 cup of the liquid to a small bowl and stir in the chopped rosemary; brush onto the pork and continue grilling until a thermometer inserted into the thickest part registers 145 degrees F, 10 to 15 more minutes. Transfer to a cutting board.

Meanwhile, simmer the remaining liquid in the saucepan until syrupy, about 3 minutes. Remove from the heat and season with salt. Return the peaches to the pan along with the rosemary sprigs. Slice the pork and serve with the peaches.

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 bag frozen mangos
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- 1 bag frozen strawberries
- Juice of 1/2 lemon

Fruit Pops

Start by combining 1 cup water with the sugar in a small saucepan. Turn the heat to medium and let it warm while the sugar dissolves.

Pour half the sugar syrup into a blender with the frozen mangos and lime juice. Puree until totally smooth. Pour half of the mango mixture into the bottom quarter of some ice pop molds and freeze for 20 minutes.

Add the other half of the syrup to the blender with the frozen strawberries and lemon juice. Puree until smooth and pour half of the strawberry mixture into the molds to the halfway mark. Freeze for 20 minutes.

Repeat with another layer of mango and strawberry. Freeze.



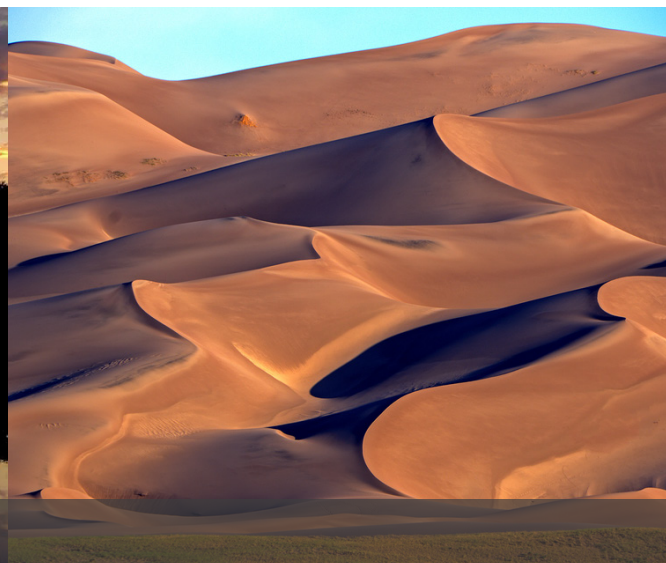
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POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

P.O. Box 3625
Monte Vista, CO 81144

August 2018

Photo Credit: Patrick Jaramillo



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.
The office is closed Friday through Sunday.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

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

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting — August 28, 2018 @ 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each
month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

