

Community involvement

Prospering together



Courtesy Photo

SLV REC linemen hosted a fun and educational evening for Cub Scout Pack #307 in early November.



Photo by Jennifer Alonzo

SLV REC lineman Alec Higel showed Sargent High School students the dangers of “hot wires” during a presentation at the annual career fair at Adams State University.

Youth tour/camp

Be a part of something powerful

Washington, D.C. and Steamboat Springs, Colo.—One’s a big city, the other sits on a big mountain. Who can think of two better places to spend an all-expense paid week? If you get your electric power from San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative and are a high school junior or senior, then you have the opportunity to apply for a trip you’ll remember forever.

During the Washington D.C. Youth Tour participants will learn about co-ops, electricity and see government up close when visiting Capitol Hill, as well as Colorado’s members of congress and senators. The students will also experience history by visiting the many memorials and honoring the patriots who fought for our freedoms.

In Steamboat Springs participants will set up a

cooperative and learn about power when visiting a mine, coal plant and solar facility. Students will learn leadership skills and the importance of protecting the environment. In addition, they’ll float the Colorado River, play volleyball and ride the gondola to the top of Mt. Werner.

On both trips participants will enjoy making new friends and memories that last a lifetime.

The application process includes submitting

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THIS ISSUE

Community/Youth

Statement of Ownership/Gift guide

Loren Howard

Meet Your Co-op!

Recipe/Conservation Corner

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Statement of Ownership



Electronic gift guide

This holiday season, give the gift of tech!

Gifts for those on the go: We all have that one friend who never stays in one place, so they'll appreciate gifts that keep them charged and entertained while on the go.

A portable charger (or power bank) can keep their smart phones and tablets juiced, and the good news is this gift won't drain your wallet. You can purchase portable chargers for as low as \$20. Typically, these compact devices can fully charge an iPhone three times before running out of steam.

A Bluetooth speaker is another great gift to keep those on the go entertained. Bluetooth speakers can clarify and amplify volume to satisfy any media enthusiast. Prices range depending on features, but you can purchase a quality Bluetooth speaker for as low as \$30.

Gifts for the chef: Every foodie knows that temperature matters when mastering the perfect cut of meat. A Bluetooth-connected thermometer can help your chef ensure a delicious meal. Just download the associated app and keep an eye on the grill right from your smart phone or tablet. Prices vary from \$30 to \$200.

Gifts for the pet owner: Let's face it—pet owners would be lost without their fur babies. Luckily, pet tracking products continue to advance, so pet owners can always keep a watchful eye on their furry friends. Most trackers simply attach to your pet's collar. Prices vary depending on the tracker's capabilities, but some features include water resistance, health monitoring and exceptional battery life. You can purchase pet trackers online or at your local pet store.

Speaking of keeping an eye on pets, you can also purchase surveillance cameras for real-time monitoring—some cameras even allow you to toss treats to your furry friend while you're

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Loren Howard

Working towards a fairer way to share the costs of powering the SLV

As a not-for-profit consumer-owned electric cooperative, San Luis Valley REC keeps its focus on providing affordable and reliable power to homes, farms, ranches and other small businesses across the Valley.

REC's interest is in supporting the best interests of the Valley. That's why the coop exists and that's the priority.

Earlier this year the REC implemented changes to the rate structure that have prompted some discussion and a few complaints.

The rate structure, based on a comprehensive study, was designed to spread costs more fairly across all 7,500 members, based on when and how they use power. It wasn't an overall rate increase; the REC expects to collect roughly the same amount of total revenue this year as in 2018.

The goal was to charge member

consumers more equitably to cover the costs they place on the electric system. For some consumers, that might mean an increase; for others, it would be a decrease.

Reliably available electricity relies on a complicated system of power generation, transmission and distribution – what's known as the electric grid.

The electric grid must have enough capacity to meet the highest spikes of demand when a lot of people use a lot of power at the same time. Spreading out electricity use and avoiding big spikes reduces the demands on – and overall costs of maintaining – the power grid.

Demand pricing, which the REC introduced to residential consumers this year, is designed to charge more to those whose electricity usage patterns cause spikes in demand. This more fairly

shares the costs that these spikes in demand place on the grid, and it can encourage people to adjust their electricity usage patterns to reduce overall costs – and that benefits everyone.

For example, instead of running your washing machine and

**See RATES
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Rate Comparison

Schedule A

	CURRENT RATE	NEW RATE, effective 12-1-19 (reflected on January bill)
CUSTOMER CHARGE	\$35.40	\$35.40
ENERGY CHARGE	\$0.066/kWh	\$0.117/kWh
DEMAND CHARGE	\$7.59/kW	\$1.03/kW

Schedule A-TOD

	CURRENT RATE	NEW RATE, effective 12-1-19 (reflected on January bill)
CUSTOMER CHARGE/1Ph	\$39.40	\$39.40
CUSTOMER CHARGE/3Ph	\$47.15	\$47.15
ENERGY CHARGE	\$0.046/kWh	\$0.09/kWh
PURCHASED POWER DEMAND	\$5.45/kW	\$0.80/kW
DISTRIBUTION DEMAND	\$2.85/kW	\$0.50/kW

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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!

Apprentices to Journeymen Linemen

Monthly tests, way too much bookwork and 8,000 hours of training later, SLV REC employees Jordan Barbosa and Jed Larsen are now officially journeymen linemen.

Following a three-week stint at Adams State and a ride-along with current SLVREC foreman Ryan Christensen, Barbosa made the transition to line school at Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction in 2011.

Larsen's plans were a little more clear cut; knowing he wanted to be a lineman to make good money, he attended the Line Technician Program at Trinidad State from 2009-10.

Following the completion of lineman school, Barbosa and Larsen joined the REC team as apprentices, studying on their own time for their monthly tests that would lead to their journeyman lineman certifications.

In August their hard work and dedication paid off as they both passed the final exam to journey out. Finishing the program and becoming actual journeymen has many benefits, including an increase in pay, the ability to go out on call by yourself, and probably the best part for these two— the end of bookwork.

The duties of a lineman are not easy. They construct and maintain electrical power systems. A journeyman lineman performs a variety of jobs: engineer, project manager, equipment operator, mechanic and more.

Barbosa's favorite part is pulling in the wire and troubleshooting. Larsen also favors troubleshooting; "you get to think a lot more; there's satisfaction in figuring it out."

Barbosa and Larsen both agree that anyone looking



Jordan Barbosa and Jed Larsen

to become a lineman should "come check it out first. Make sure that's what you want to do. Many people go to school then never work. It's a competitive field and can be hard to get an apprenticeship."

Linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative, and they're always ready to get the job done, day or night. Whether they're restoring power after a major storm or maintaining critical infrastructure to the electric system, these men are at the heart of everything REC does.

Congratulations to Jordan and Jed— the REC is proud of you!

GIFTS

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away. Additional features include a microphone (so you can talk to your pets), a built-in laser toy and the ability to snap a photo or take video from your smart phone. Prices vary depending on the bells and whistles, but you can purchase a pet camera for as low as \$40.

With so many electronics available today, you're sure to find the perfect gift for your tech-savvy loved ones.

YOUTH

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a 500-word essay or a four-minute video. The application deadline is Jan. 14, 2020.

More details can be found online at slvrec.com (Community tab). Call or email Jennifer Alonzo at 719-852-6660 or jalonzo@slvrec.com with questions.



Recipe of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 6 slices bacon
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 (1 ounce) package buttermilk ranch dressing mix
- 1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 4 green onions, chopped
- 3 tablespoons chopped black olives
- 1-1/2 cups chopped pecans (optional)

BACON RANCH CHEESE BALL

1. Place the bacon in a large, deep skillet, and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Drain the bacon slices on a paper towel-lined plate. Chop the cooled bacon into small pieces.
2. Stir together the cream cheese and ranch dressing mix in a bowl until smooth. Add the bacon, cheddar cheese, green onions and olives; stir until well combined. Shape the mixture into a ball and roll in the chopped pecans. Refrigerate overnight.

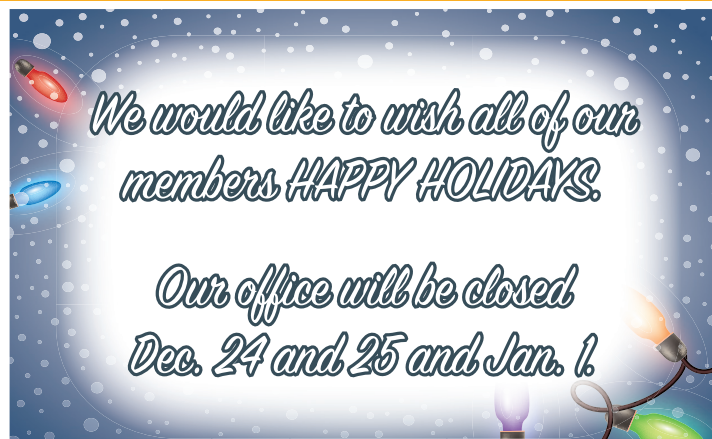
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Conservation Corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov



RATES

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electric range at the same time, you can stagger them, so your power usage is spread out more evenly over time.

Demand charges have been around a long time for REC irrigation and commercial members. The change was that the rates were introduced to residential consumers.

Although the new residential demand rates were designed to be more equitable, two complaints were filed with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission asserting this new rate was "unjust and unreasonable."

Subsequent mediation has resulted in a replacement demand rate for Schedules A and A-TOD, which are mainly residential rates, effective Dec. 1 through March 31, 2021.

The revised demand rate will substantially reduce the impact of the demand rate, meaning it will moderate the higher costs for residents who have significant spikes in their electricity use.

In the meantime, the REC will further study the issue and engage stakeholders in a discussion of how to most fairly apportion electric rates, which is the ultimate goal.

Staff remains available to speak with members regarding the rates, explain the different types of charges, and suggest ways to keep costs down.

For more information, please call 719-852-3538 or email power@slvrec.com.

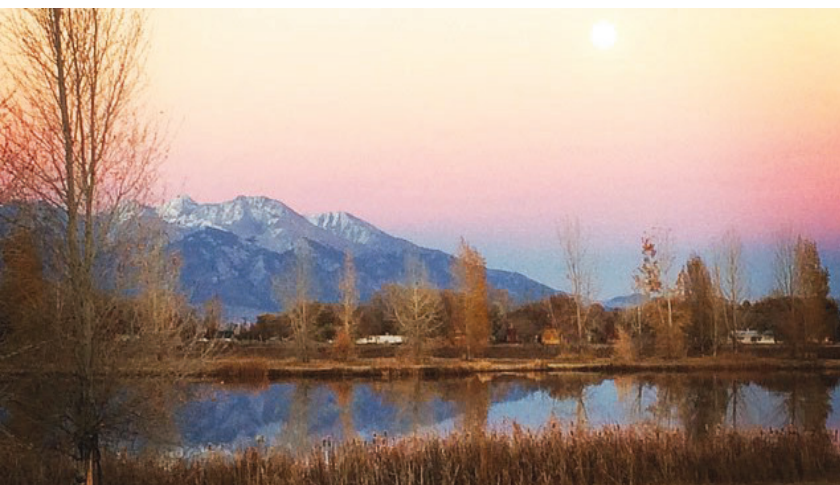


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POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Thursday.
The office is closed Friday through Sunday and
will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25 for Christmas, as well as Jan. 1

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

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

Your Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperative 

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Board Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 17, 1 p.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless
otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

