

Meet Your Co-op!

‘Whatever it takes’

“Whatever it takes” has long been a motto for the San Luis Valley REC, and that mentality still rings true today. Area Serviceman Marvin Martinez definitely goes the extra mile to do “whatever it takes” to serve a customer.

A nearly two-mile trek in -36° weather on a loaded snowmobile is what it took for Marvin to provide service to a new customer in the Hermit Lakes area in early February. A couple from Oklahoma have chosen to spend much of the winter in their cabin, even though it can only be accessed by snowmobile or snowshoes this time of year. They do, however, want to be able to communicate with their family and friends while enjoying their primitive lifestyle.

Installing fiber broadband service in such an area in mid-winter seems outlandish, but Marvin took to the task. Donning his snowshoes and gear, he made his way to the cabin to complete the job. Hanging fiber on the four poles was a little more difficult than most days, as



he had to snowshoe from one pole to the next to keep from sinking up to his waist. Marvin commented, “you can’t maneuver very quickly in snowshoes; you feel like a turtle, but it’s much better than sinking in.”

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Bottom of the Barrel hits the ice

Hockey players from across the United States gathered at Creed’s Silver Ice Park in January for the annual Golden Pick Pond Hockey Tournament, including the REC’s own team— Bottom of the Barrel.

REC employees Terry Daley, Justin Harrison and Alec Higel,



Pictured left to right are: Josh Keeling, Justin Harrison, Adam Lawrence, Terry Daley and Alec Higel

along with two others— Josh Keeling and Adam Lawrence— hit the ice as a fun “bucket-list” checkoff. Terry, who played hockey as a child, encouraged the other guys to join him.

The team won two of their four games, which isn’t all that bad considering both Justin and Alec haven’t played much as adults. Terry played off and on in his younger years but started playing more frequently about six years ago.

The guys are already looking forward to playing in the tournament next year, Justin said, “it was fun and challenging and the atmosphere was great too!” Commenting with a laugh, Terry said “the other guys will continue to get faster and better, while I’m just getting older and slower.”

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Community Happenings



Ski Hi hopes for new facility

Exciting things are seen better days and now happening at Ski Hi has safety issues that must Regional Complex in Monte Vista. Friends of Ski Hi Park, in collaboration with the City of Monte Vista, share the vision of building a new and improved multi-use event and conference center at the present site of the Ski Hi Park multi-use building and old swimming pool in Monte Vista.

The current facility is a regional use facility and has served the community well throughout the years: Ski-Hi Stampede, the Monte Vista Crane Festival, the San Luis Valley Fair and many other events have taken place there through the years.

However, the facility has

an extensive review and development process, a plan has been developed to demolish the current facility and build a new, modern center to meet the current and future needs of the San Luis Valley community and entire southcentral region.

The aim is to fund the construction of the new building primarily with support from foundations and other entities, such as the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA).

However, to obtain grants from DOLA and foundations, it is vital that the community

demonstrates belief in and



Ski Hi exterior rendering

is invested in the project. Thus, Friends of Ski Hi Park is seeking to raise five to 10 percent of the total construction costs to use as a match for grant applications — at least \$875,000. The plan also includes in-kind donations of services for a large portion of the demolition from contractors. Several contractors have committed to helping.

The Friends have already received funds from major local donors, sitting at a total of \$512,000 in cash and pledges. In addition, they have secured a \$2,000,000 pledge to the project from the Outcalt Foundation.

For more information on this project, check out www.friendsofskihi.com or find them on Facebook at “friendsofskihi.”

2020 Census: Everyone Counts

Every town is an important part of the American story. Make sure your town's story is told by responding to the 2020 Census—the count of everyone living in the United States. When you do, you'll also help your town get the most out of the American dream.

Census responses provide data that can attract new businesses and the jobs that come with them. The data also informs where over \$675 billion in federal funding is spent each year in states and communities. That includes money for things like:

- Medicare Part B

- Special education
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Cooperative Extension Service
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant
- Water and waste disposal systems for rural communities

Invitations to respond to the 2020 Census will be delivered between March 12-20. Once you receive that invitation, respond online, by phone, or by mail. Your personal information is kept confidential by law. Every person counts: Whether it's funding

census facts

The 2020 Census is required by the Constitution, and the United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.

in communities across your state or helping determine the number of seats your state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives — every count makes an equal impact.

You can inspire others. Tell everyone—
See CENSUS continued on Page 4



Loren Howard

Being prepared

Recently, several employees attended a plan-ning session conducted by the US Department of Homeland Security on the topic of “Long Term Power Outages.” The training was intended for the general public, and as the title of the meeting indicates discussed how to be prepared for power outages that last a long time. I am happy to report that REC’s reliability is quite good.

Two measures that are tracked regularly are the average time of an outage (System Average Interruption Duration Index – SAIDI) and the average frequency of an outage (System Average Interruption Frequency Index – SAIFI). REC’s latest index of these two measures show the average outage lasts about 100 minutes and occurs about once a year. These measures do not include so called major events such as the snowstorm in March of 2019.

These interruptions in electricity, while can be frustrating, seldom result in real catastrophic results, but what if the power was out for a week in the middle of January? Would you be ready?

There are many threats in today’s

world that are of serious concern to the reliability of the power grid. Cyber terrorism is one threat that is at the top of the list. REC, along with state and federal agencies, is working diligently to protect the electric grid in the U.S. against cyber terrorism, physical terrorism and other threats.

So, what should you do to prepare for an extended power outage? Start with a plan.

Assuming the outage is widespread, could you manage for a week without going to the grocery store or the gas station? Do you have water available to last a week? If the outage occurred in the winter, could you heat your home sufficiently to live in it without damage? There are many resources available to help plan for emergencies such as www.ready.gov.

Locally, many churches have started efforts to manage emergencies. Counties in the Valley have emergency plan-ning committees and departments. Colorado’s Department of Homeland Security conducts regular meetings of emergency management organizations.

In spite of all those efforts, every person needs to be prepared to manage on their own for an extended period, so make a plan; discuss it with your family and have sufficient food and water for a week.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Carol Lee Dugan, President
719-852-3931

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719-852-0966

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719-937-9514

Kip Nagy
719-850-0749

Wade Lockhart
719-588-9246

Email: power@slvrec.com

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

CEO

Loren Howard
719-852-6630

SLVREC Office (toll free)
800-332-7634

SLVREC Office (local calls)
719-852-3538

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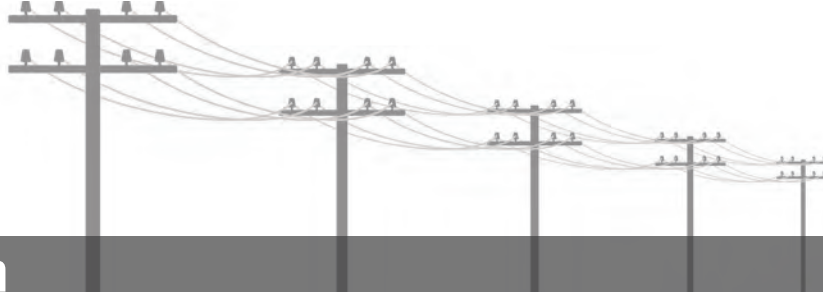
Are You READY!

Some disasters strike without any warning. Have you thought about those supplies you'll need the most? They will usually be the hardest to come by. Enlist your children to help gather supplies for your family's emergency kit. It'll bring you a sense of relief, and your kids a feeling of empowerment.

Make sure you have enough supplies to last for at least **three days**. Think about where you live and your needs. Consider having a large kit at home, and smaller portable kit in the car or your workplace.

If a big storm is coming...

- ✓ Fill your car with gas
- ✓ Fill plastic bags with water and place them in the freezer
- ✓ Get extra cash out of the bank
- ✓ Fill prescriptions



Rate Education

Electric rate FAQs

In the past few months, several REC members have asked more questions about how the new rates work and why they were designed with a customer charge, a demand charge and an energy charge. In the continuing effort to provide understanding to these questions, the following rate design explanations should offer more insight.

Demand charges

For the rates that have a purchase power demand charge (Time of Day), that demand is measured during the peak period, which is Monday through Saturday, 12 noon through 10 p.m.

There is also a distribution demand charge which is the highest 15-minute usage during the billing month (which is a calendar month). This charge covers the cost of the electric infrastructure in place to keep homes and businesses connected to REC.

Net meters

Previously, REC's fixed costs were included in the kilowatt-hour charge and since up until just a few years ago, that methodology worked to fairly recover the cost of providing electricity. As more and more net meter installations occurred, those REC members who did not have a net meter installation were increasingly subsidizing members with those net meter installations. Essentially, members without net meters were helping to pay net meter owners' investments. With the new demand rate in place, this is no longer the case.

ETS units

The original Cost of Service Study indicated the need for a six percent rate increase for the Time of Day customers. With the April 1 rate change those members could have seen an approximate six percent increase if their ETS units were appropriately sized for the space and used diligently and other electric appliances were controlled. The interim rate, which went into effect on Dec. 1, 2019 as a result of the Colorado Public Utilities Commission

CENSUS

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and family, your neighbors and co-workers—that you will complete the census, and tell them why it's important that they respond too.

Census results have an impact on planning and funding

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA JUNE 9, 2020

ADAMS STATE UNIVERSITY,
STUDENT UNION BUILDING BANQUET ROOMS

5:30 P.M. REGISTRATION OPENS

6:45 P.M. PRESENTING OF COLORS

6:50 P.M. INVOCATION

6:55 P.M. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

7 P.M. START OF BUSINESS MEETING

THE 2020 BOARD PETITION PACKET IS AVAILABLE
ONLINE AT WWW.SLVREC.COM,
UNDER THE ANNUAL MEETING TAB

ALL MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE
FOR ALL CANDIDATES
EACH MEMBERSHIP = ONE VOTE

complaint settlement, substantially reversed the benefit of using the ETS unit diligently on off-peak hours.

Managing demand

The REC has been piloting demand controllers, which in many instances have great potential to help members manage demand. As REC continues to gain experience on how these devices can benefit members, the information will be shared.

Understanding demand

As more appliances in your home run simultaneously, the rate at which you are consuming electricity increases. For example: Mary and Joe both use 3.3 kwh when cooking dinner and running their dishwashers— 1.5 kwh for the range and 1.8 kwh for the dishwasher. However, Mary cooks her food for one hour, then she runs her dishwasher the next hour. Joe cooks his food and runs the dishwasher while he's cooking. Mary's total demand is 1.8 kw, whereas Joe's is 3.3 kw. Both members are using the same amount of energy but putting a different demand on the electric grid.

for health clinics and highways, fire departments and disaster response, education programs such as Head Start and college tuition assistance and so much more.

For more information, visit: 2020CENSUS.GOV



Recipe of the Month

INGREDIENTS

- 14 lasagna noodles (2 extra for filling in holes)
- 2 T. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 c. (140 grams) chopped onion
- 1 t. minced garlic, (3 cloves)
- 1/8 t. crushed red pepper flakes, or more to taste
- 2 medium zucchini, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 2 medium yellow squash, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 12-oz. jar roasted red peppers, drained and cut into 1/2-inch pieces, 1 heaping cup
- 28-oz. can crushed tomatoes
- Generous handful fresh basil leaves, chopped
- 15-oz. container ricotta cheese or cottage cheese
- 2 large eggs
- 2 oz. parmesan cheese, grated, about 1 cup
- 8 oz. low-moisture mozzarella cheese, shredded
- Salt and fresh ground black pepper, to taste

EASY VEGETABLE LASAGNA

1. Cook noodles according to package directions. Drain, then lay flat on a sheet of aluminum foil.

2. Make vegetable sauce:

Heat the oven to 350°. Lightly oil 13"x9" baking dish.

Heat the olive oil in a wide skillet with sides over medium heat. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally until translucent, about five minutes. Add garlic, red pepper flakes, zucchini, squash and a pinch of salt. Cook, stirring occasionally until softened but still with some crunch, (5-9 minutes).

Stir in the roasted red peppers and crushed tomatoes. Bring to a low simmer and cook until the liquid has thickened and reduced by half (5 minutes). Add basil and season to taste with additional salt and pepper.

3. Make cheese filling:

While the sauce cooks, stir the ricotta cheese, eggs, and a 1/2 t. of salt in a medium bowl until blended.

4. Assemble lasagna:

Spoon just enough vegetable mixture into the baking dish to lightly cover the bottom (1 cup). Arrange four noodles lengthwise and side by side to cover the bottom. (If the noodles are short on one end, cut an extra noodle and place into dish to cover where the other noodles have not).

Spread about half of the ricotta cheese mixture over the noodles. Sprinkle with a third of the parmesan cheese and a third of the mozzarella cheese. Top with a third of the vegetable mixture.

Add another layer of four noodles then repeat with remaining cheese and vegetables. Finish with a final layer of noodles, vegetables, parmesan cheese and mozzarella cheese.

Cover loosely with aluminum foil and bake 20 minutes, uncover, then bake 15 minutes until cheese is crusty around the edges. To make the cheese golden brown on top, slide under the broiler for 1 to 2 minutes. Let rest 10 to 15 minutes before serving.

Conservation Corner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Placing hot food in the refrigerator makes the appliance work harder than necessary, using more energy. Allow food to cool down before you place it in the fridge.



WHATEVER

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Marvin explained the effort it takes to work in frigid conditions like he experienced during the installation; “you really have to plan ahead, making sure you have all the tools and supplies you need. I take extras of everything, because you never know. And you have to have all the right gear, so you’re not exposing yourself to the elements.” Marvin was super appreciative of the

cabin’s caretaker, who was more than willing to help out running errands for him as he completed his work.

Marvin spends many days in the backcountry servicing REC’s rural customers, so his snowmobile and snowshoes are a standard part of his daily equipment, but it’s no big deal to him— “It’s all an adventure—that’s how I see my job.”



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POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

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www.energyoutreach.org

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 31, 9:30 a.m.
The REC Board of Directors meets the last Tuesday of each month unless otherwise stated. Members are welcome; advance notice is required.

This institution is an equal opportunity employer.

