

Concern for community

Scholarship recipient graduating early

Del Norte High School graduate Bailey Jones never wavered in her dream of going to school to be a teacher. The 2017 SLVREC four-year scholarship recipient will finish up her degree program at Adams State in December and graduate a semester earlier than anticipated.

Coming from a family of educators, Bailey's degree path was chosen immediately making it easier to jump right in and take the necessary courses to graduate early. Taking college classes during high school was a big help as well.

Bailey studied Teacher Education with an emphasis in literacy, where she loved all of her classes. Observing teachers from throughout the Valley was a huge advantage; she was able to shadow educators in Antonito, Alamosa, Monte Vista, Center and Del Norte. Bailey is grateful to the multiple professors that taught her the value of education. One that made a huge impact on her was Kelly Ozawa, "her love for kids and education was contagious, and she had every trick in the book for how to be an amazing teacher."

The Teacher Education Department at Adams State has a partnership with Center Consolidated School District; Bailey was fortunate enough to shadow a teacher in

Center last spring. There she fell in love with the kids, the administration and the teaching staff. She said, "It was clear that Center had all their priorities in line, and I appreciated that."

Following a short semester, due to COVID-19, Bailey had a sense of unfinished business in Center. The district had a full-time teaching job open for the fall of 2020. Working with Adams State, the state of Colorado and Center Consolidated School District, she was granted a temporary teaching license to carry out the duties of a full-time teacher during her student teaching semester.

Bailey commented, "It is our ninth week of classes in Center where we have a hybrid schedule (half online, half in-person learning), and I am putting to use the skills and teaching philosophy that I learned in my 3½ years at

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Bailey Jones

The time is now to apply

San Luis Valley REC makes secondary education a priority when giving back to the Valley. With just over \$205,000 given in the past six years, REC annually awards up to 12 scholarships to local students.

The awards are primarily reserved for REC members, although a few of the scholarships are available to other Valley students as well.

"My experience so far at Adams has been different than most years due to COVID-19. My major is GeoSciences, which is the study of the earth, so I am taking geology and chemistry. By being a GeoScience major I am able to work in the museum that the department has," said Adams State freshman Alyssa Mortensen.

Alyssa was awarded the 2020 SLV REC Adams State University Four-Year Scholarship, which is renewable for

up to a maximum of four years. The value of the scholarship equals the total of in-state tuition, some fees and a book allowance for the year.

Alyssa hopes to become a hydrologist after completing her degree. She wants to leave Colorado and discover the rest of the world.

"By receiving the REC

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SCHOLARSHIPS

THIS ISSUE

Concern for community

Statement of ownership

Loren Howard

Meet your co-op

Recipes/Historical happenings



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Jennifer F. Alonzo, Marketing/Sales Coordinator Date **10.01.2020**

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Statement of ownership

APPLY

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four-year scholarship, I am able to focus on my schooling and not have to stress about money. I am able to spend my free time studying for my classes," she commented.

In addition to the four-year scholarship, REC awards an **Electric Lineworker Scholarship**, which may be used at any accredited lineworker school. The value of the scholarship is \$4,000 and may be used to cover tuition costs, required textbooks or minimal basic tools for the program. Although first consideration will be given to graduating high school seniors, this scholarship is open to all individuals.

Isaias Minchaca, 2020 lineworker scholarship recipient, is currently pursuing his lineman career at Rocky Mountain Lineman School in Colorado Springs. He plans to graduate in November and already has a job offer to start working on his apprentice lineman certificate. Minchaca stated, "the REC scholarship will help pay for most of my tools and books needed, allowing me to focus on my academic pursuits. Without REC, I wouldn't be able to focus and achieve the grades necessary to fulfill my professional ambition of becoming a lineman. Thank you for your continued support and investment in my future."

Other scholarships include the following:

The \$1,000 **Robert Wolfe Scholarship** was established for students furthering their education in an agricultural or engineering field and may be used at any trade school, college or university.

A student looking to further their education at any trade school, college or university should apply for the **SLVREC Past Director Scholarship** and the **SLVREC Past Retired GM Ray Villyard & CEO John Villyard Scholarship**, both of which are valued at \$1,000/each.

The \$1,000 **Basin Electric Power Cooperative Scholarship** is available to dependents of members. In addition, six **Tri-State G&T Scholarships** are offered at \$500 each. Dependents of employees and directors of SLVREC are eligible for one of these scholarships, as are members.

For full requirements and details, see the application online at slvrec.com/scholarships



Loren Howard

Managing winter

It is November and the cold San Luis Valley will soon be upon us all. So, what should we be doing to prepare for winter? From REC's point of view, the single most important plan we should all have is how to manage a power outage. A widespread outage, like the one that occurred in early September with the snowstorm, is frustrating and annoying but not really threatening to life and property. The same event in February with the same type of snow event where it is impossible to restore power to all REC members within a few hours is a very different story.

First, protect yourself. If you are in a situation where your health is in jeopardy, plan ahead and find a safe harbor—a family member, a friend, your local church, the Red Cross. There are many institutions prepared and willing to assist residents with shelter and food. Be prepared! Ensure you have sufficient easily cooked meals, water and warm clothing. Do you have an alternate source of heat that does not require electricity and can be used safely? Please STOP and understand that a kerosene heater in an enclosed space is likely very dangerous since it will emit carbon monoxide—a deadly, odorless gas.

This also goes for portable electric generators; these must NOT be run inside an enclosed space or house. If you have a portable generator, plan ahead, find an outdoor space like a garage or a shed to run it. REC strongly encourages all members who consider the option of a portable generator to contact a local

electrician to help ensure safe operation including electric safely. Another note, if you do use a generator of some sort including solar installations, batteries, whole house generators or portable generators, they must be isolated from REC's electric system. These devices will back feed in the electric grid and pose significant danger to REC line crew personnel working to restore power.

Second, be prepared to protect your property. In an extended power outage, one of the costliest damages to property is frozen pipes. Water pipes on outside walls are the most vulnerable and while it is often difficult to locate pipes in walls, a bit of sleuthing can often give a pretty good indication of where those pipes are located. One technique to help reduce frozen water pipes is to trickle water in sinks and bathtubs; though if the power is out and your water source is a well and there is no option for backup power, trickling water is also not an option. Insulating water pipes in accessible spaces (crawl space, mechanical rooms, etc.) can help slow the freezing of the water in the pipes. Finally, if all other options are not possible, drain your water system as best you can. Turn the water off at the meter (almost always possible), open faucets, sinks and tubs; flush all the toilets and if there is a drain valve on the house side of the water meter, open it. At least draining what water you can will minimize damage.

Winters can be a challenge. Be prepared.

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Meet your co-op



Valley native joins REC team

Monte Vista native Dalton Bond has joined the REC team as the new warehouseman. Dalton comes to the coop with experience in purchasing, receiving and shipping, as well as inventory—all functions he's tasked with in his new position. In addition, he's keeping up with work orders for the linemen and managing stock items.

Learning a new computer inventory and PO system has been the most challenging for Dalton, but with just a few weeks under his belt, he's catching on quickly.

Dalton said, "REC has provided a step up in all things, such as pay, benefits, shorter work weeks and time off." He's looking forward to the potential to grow and move up in the future.

Dalton was born and raised in the Valley; his parents and sister still live close by. He enjoys hunting and fishing and is a "self-professed gun nut." Dalton also raises a small number of livestock.



New REC warehouseman Dalton Bond

Ciello, Powered by REC, is proud to feature testimonials from our satisfied customers in upcoming issues of the Newsboy. Send your testimonials to jalonzo@slvrec.com to be featured in a future newsletter.

ciello
This is our why...

"The service I get from Ciello allows me to collaborate in real time with my architecture team in Denver and my structural and mechanical engineering teams in Crested Butte on designs in the cloud using bandwidth intensive Building Information Modeling software. It has been an invaluable tool for my business and has enabled me to keep strong connections with other professionals in my field all from the heart of Creede."

—Avery Auger

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BAILEY

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Adams State University."

Her future plans include staying with the Center School District and growing professionally and personally with the amazing people and kids there.

Preparing to finish up her college education, Bailey said, "I have said this many times over the past couple years, had I not received the REC four-year scholarship, I do not think I would have been able to pursue my dreams of becoming a teacher. REC made it possible for me to attend college with my tuition paid. The struggle of paying for college is something every high school graduate faces, and I am extremely grateful I did not have to worry about it. This motivated me to cut straight to business and graduate early."

"There are many generous community-centered organizations in the Valley like REC who have amazing scholarship opportunities. My advice to anyone looking at attending college is to apply for every single one you can get your hands on. All the hard work and late hours are well worth it."

Congratulations, Bailey! REC is proud to have been part of your college success story.



Recipes of the month

INGREDIENTS

- 6 medium Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled & cubed
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 1/2 c. 2% milk
- 1 c. shredded Gouda cheese
- 1 t. paprika
- 1/2 t. salt
- 1/2 t. pepper

GOUDA MIXED POTATO MASH

1. Place Yukon Gold and sweet potatoes in a Dutch oven; add water to cover. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook uncovered for 10-15 minutes or until tender. Drain and return to the pan.
2. Mash potatoes, gradually adding milk. Stir in cheese, paprika, salt and pepper.

Recipe by www.TasteofHome.com

POTLUCK CANDIED SWEET POTATOES

1. In a small bowl, combine sugars. In a greased 5-qt. slow cooker, layer a third of the sweet potatoes; sprinkle with a third of the sugar mixture. Repeat layers twice. In a small bowl, combine the butter, vanilla and salt; drizzle over potatoes. Cover and cook on low for 5-6 hours or until sweet potatoes are tender.
2. Using a slotted spoon, transfer potatoes to a serving dish; keep warm. Pour cooking juices into a small saucepan; bring to a boil. In a small bowl, combine cornstarch and water until smooth; stir into pan. Return to a boil, stirring constantly; cook and stir until thickened, 1-2 minutes. Spoon over sweet potatoes.
3. Sprinkle with parsley if desired.

Recipe by www.TasteofHome.com

INGREDIENTS

- 1 c. packed brown sugar
- 1 c. sugar
- 8 medium sweet potatoes, peeled & cut into 1/2-inch slices
- 1/4 c. butter, melted
- 2 t. vanilla extract
- 1/4 t. salt
- 2 T. cornstarch
- 2 T. cold water
- Minced fresh parsley, optional

Historical happenings

Mid-July 1937:

The SLV rural electric project began as two separate projects— Alamosa Rural Electric Company, which included the southern part of Alamosa County, part of Conejos County and the Bowen Community in Rio Grande County and the REA, which included most of Rio Grande County (those not with Public Service), the southern part of Saguache County and the northwest part of Alamosa County.

In mid-July 1937 it was approved as one joint San Luis Valley project to be named San Luis Valley Rural Electric Cooperative. \$150,000 was approved for the project to include construction of approximately 225 miles of power lines in Rio Grande and Saguache counties with 586 customers plus 100 miles of line and 200 customers in Alamosa and Conejos counties.



Planning power line locations



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POWERING A VITAL VALLEY

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Photo by Blain Decker



POWERING OUR COMMUNITY

SLVREC's office is open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. (The office is currently closed to the public due to COVID-19; watch slvrec.com for updates). REC will be closed on Veterans Day, Nov. 11 and Thanksgiving, Nov. 26.

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SCHEDULED MEETINGS
Board Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 24, 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.



SAN LUIS VALLEY

Photo by Jennifer Alonzo