

SIEA News



INSIDE ...

- * Rotary Golf Tournament
- * Repertory Theater
- * "Old West Saloon Nite"
- * SIEA Annual Meeting Agenda



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Touchstone Energy®

Your Summer Job: Keep Electric Bills Affordable

BY REG RUDOLPH, GENERAL MANAGER

School's out, vacations are under way and the heat of summer seems as if it will never end. This is also the time of year when some pretty important folks return home for a visit. Members of Congress, such as U.S. Rep. John Salazar and Sen. Mark Udall, will be traveling throughout our area and state asking for your thoughts on various pieces of legislation being considered in our nation's capital.



Reg Rudolph

One major concern for electric co-ops is the energy and climate change policy that has returned to the front burner. Legislation on this subject was introduced in the U.S. Senate in April, and co-ops across the country are studying it to see what it might mean for your electric bill.

At the same time, unelected bureaucrats at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are moving ahead with efforts to regulate emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from power plants by using the federal Clean Air Act, something the law was never designed to do. One of the main authors of the Clean Air Act, U.S. Rep. John Dingell (D-Mich.), has warned that applying the measure to establish federal oversight of carbon dioxide, which goes against the original intent of Congress, will result in a "glorious mess."

It's too early to know for certain if Congress will take up this issue — very few legislative days are still scheduled for this session. But know this: Those of us at San Isabel Electric Association, along with more than 900 electric co-ops across the country, are reminding lawmakers that whatever they do, we will judge their action or inaction on whether or not your

electric bills remain affordable.

The bottom line is that any decision made by Congress — even the decision of taking no action and allowing EPA to proceed on its regulatory path — will have some impact on your electric bills. And this impact comes on top of other pressures: increased fuel and material costs and higher demand for electricity, to name two. These decisions will make your electric bills higher. Rest assured that your local co-op leadership, directors and staff are doing what we can to keep these cost increases constrained.

**Let your voice be heard.
Go to www.ourenergy.coop
and start a dialogue with your legislators.**

But we need your help. During the congressional break this summer, I urge you to talk to your U.S. representative and senators about your electric bill. Make sure they understand what higher bills will do to your family's budget. I don't know about you, but for my family every penny counts, especially at a time when our economy has been hit so hard.

More than 526,000 folks across rural America have already let their members of Congress know where they stand on energy and climate change legislation through the "Our Energy, Our Future" grassroots campaign. These voices have formed a powerful chorus on the need for keeping electric bills affordable as debate on the issue unfolds. If you haven't done so, please consider adding your voice to this national dialogue at www.ourenergy.coop.

SIEA COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

One of the seven guiding principles of San Isabel Electric Association is “Concern for Community.” SIEA strongly believes in giving back to the communities it serves. In this issue is information about just a few donations that organizations in the SIEA service area have received over the past few months. For a complete listing of donations made throughout the SIEA service area for the second quarter of 2010 visit www.siea.com/MyCommunity. Lauren Archuletta, a University of Colorado student, wrote all of these articles. She is an intern at San Isabel for the summer.

Annual Pueblo West Rotary Golf Tournament

BY LAUREN ARCHULETTA

After another successful golf tournament and a considerable donation of \$1,000 made by San Isabel Electric Association, the Pueblo West Rotary Club will again be able to present scholarships to worthy Pueblo West High School seniors.

On June 5, the 22nd annual Rotary Golf Tournament was held in Pueblo West. Jerry Martin, president of the Pueblo West Rotary Club, said that even in this economy, the annual Rotary Golf Tournament is always one of the premiere golf tournaments in Pueblo West.

“While the turnout was down from previous years, the number of participants and supporters did not diminish,” said Martin.

The Pueblo West Rotary Club record of achievement is lengthy and memorable. Some of the Rotary’s community accomplishments include granting a \$2,500 scholarship to a child amputee through the Therapeutic Riding and Education Center, constructing Lovell Park’s \$25,000 entertainment stage and sponsoring the Tom Sawyer Fishing Derby, just to name a few. However, while the Rotary does a lot for the Pueblo West



Pueblo West Rotarians Jerry Martin (left) and Chad Heberly accept a donation from fellow Rotarian and SIEA Board Director Debbie Rose.

community, it does even more for the Pueblo West students.

In the last 20 years, the Pueblo West Rotary Club has provided scholarships to 100 Pueblo West High School students, equivalent to over \$185,000. Martin wants to ensure that all of San Isabel’s contribution goes toward scholarships to Pueblo West graduating seniors.

“Every nickel, every penny of San Isabel’s donation is helping Pueblo West High School students,” said Martin. “The

Pueblo West High School community, the students and parents, know where that money is coming from.”

This is San Isabel Electric’s second time donating to the annual Rotary Golf Tournament.

“Sometimes we get a one-time large donation,” said Martin. “But this is San Isabel’s second year running with a \$1,000 donation to the tournament. San Isabel Electric is a cornerstone to us.”



Students participate in the Branson School shared reading program. They were rewarded with \$20 gift cards to Barnes and Noble, courtesy of San Isabel Electric.



Students at Cedar Ridge Elementary take time out from track and field activities to smile for the camera. T-shirts for the event were provided by SIEA.



OLD WEST SALOON NITE

On June 5, the La Veta air was filled with gun smoke and cheering as the annual Old West Saloon Nite fundraiser for the Francisco Fort Museum, sponsored partially by San Isabel Electric Association, took place. The local cooperative made a \$750 contribution to support the oldest museum in Huerfano County, the company's third time doing so.

The Old West Saloon Nite is one of La Veta's biggest events, attracting the most visitors each year. Locals and tourists come to enjoy a weekend full of chicken drops, bed races and drinks from the museum's saloon over Bob Ford's bar.

This year, "Old West Saloon Nite" featured a murder mystery, "Double Trouble at Twin Peaks." The interactive event, which took place on the Rio Grande Scenic Railroad, was based on the experience of Bob Ford, infamous murderer of Jesse James, in the Huerfano County area.

As it's been the last few years, San Isabel's donation has been used for advertisement of the Old West Saloon Nite in the newspaper and on the radio.

The 2010 Old West Saloon Nite proved to be another success for the Francisco Fort Museum, and the museum looking forward to having San Isabel Electric as one of its continuing supporters for next year's event.



San Isabel helps promote Old West Saloon night in La Veta.

Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre

The Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre will continue to enhance the culture of Trinidad this summer, supported in part by a recent donation made by San Isabel Electric Association.

The local cooperative donated \$500 to the Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre, which Arthur Espinoza, SCRT executive director, says will help cover production expenses.

"San Isabel's contribution will allow us to continue to create great theater for Trinidad and the southern Colorado region," said Espinoza. "We rely on donations to produce all that is expected of us."

San Isabel Electric's contribution will also help fund the SCRT youth outreach programs, such as the Junior Theatre Company and the Children's Theatre Workshop.

"We like to get the youth in the area engaged in performance," said Espinoza.

The Southern Colorado Repertory theatre is one of Trinidad's most thriving and flourishing attractions, and Espinoza says it's all due to its sponsors.

"It takes a village to put things like the theatre together," said Espinoza. "We really appreciate and depend on the support from our patrons like San Isabel Electric."

The eighth season of the Southern Colorado Repertory Theatre began July 2 and runs through Aug. 14, showcasing three different performances: "Nunsense," "Squabble" and "Baby." For more information, visit www.scrtheatre.com.

"We encourage everyone to visit the theatre and welcome donations," said Espinoza.

SIEA Helps Rye Triangle Beautification Project

After three years of hard work and renovation, the Rye Triangle beautification project will finally come to a successful close, thanks partially to donations made by San Isabel Electric Association. A donation of \$1,000 made by the local electric cooperative will give the project a final boost.

The Rye Triangle beautification project began in 2007, when a group of Rye citizens became concerned about the appearance of the entrance into the city. Ed Sutcliffe, chairman of the Rye Triangle beautification committee, said one day he and a group of Rye locals decided action needed to be taken in the area.

"There was nothing but weeds, rocks, and sticks at the time," said Sutcliffe. "Since then, we've planted grass and a flower garden, installed a new fence and



San Isabel Electric Association contributes to the beautification of Rye.

set up a new flagpole."

San Isabel Electric's assistance was introduced in 2008, when the company made a \$1,000 donation to aid in the project's water setback. The contribution helped repair a water leak in a nearby church parking lot and restore water dis-

tribution to the Rye Triangle.

Now two years later, the cooperative has made another generous donation to help fund the final step of the project, an underground automatic sprinkling system.

"San Isabel's contribution will help pay for the sprinkling system," said Sutcliffe. "Not only that, but the donation will also cover cost of fertilizer, weed killer and maybe even the water bill."

After the sprinkling system is installed, the last item on the Rye Triangle beautification committee's checklist is to maintain the area after all of the contributed efforts of San Isabel Electric and the city of Rye.

"We sure do appreciate the donations San Isabel Electric has made to the Rye Triangle beautification project," said Sutcliffe.



**San Isabel Electric Association, Inc.
Annual Membership Meeting**

Saturday, September 18, 2010

**John Mall High School
355 W. Pine St. • Walsenburg, Colorado**

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR BOARD POSITION

The nominating committee met Friday, July 9, 2010, at the San Isabel Electric headquarters, 893 E. Enterprise Drive, Pueblo West, CO. Nominations by petition must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. Friday, August 6, 2010.

**Director district up for election is:
District 2, town of Colorado City, Rye and vicinity**

The following is an excerpt from the bylaws regarding nominations for the board of directors (Article III, DIRECTORS, Section 4, Nominations):

Section 4. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the board of directors to appoint not less than 70 days, nor more than 90 days, before the date of the meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five, nor more than 11, members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the geographical areas served by the cooperative. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the cooperative at least 60 days before the meeting a list of nom-

inations for directors, but any 15 or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures, duly acknowledged, not less than 45 days prior to the meeting. The secretary shall post the same at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted and print said names on the ballot. Nothing contained herein shall, however, prevent additional nominations to be made from the floor at the meeting of the members. At least one member of the nominating committee shall be appointed from each district from which a board member is to be elected.

*"The great thing in this world is not so much where we are,
but in what direction we are moving."*

— Oliver Wendell Holmes

THE ART OF SURVIVAL

With all the four-wheel-drive vehicles, snowmobiles and trail bikes, survival is a problem that any outdoorsman may have to face. Transportation may break down in a remote area.

There is no pat answer to survival because no two situations are alike. However, there are some basic points that help to explain why some people pass a survival test but others fail.

Survival comes down to two words: staying alive. Therefore, you must follow some basic rules for survival.

Rules for survival

1. Always tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. If you change your general area, tell someone of that change.
2. Never go into a wilderness area by yourself. Unavoidable accidents do happen.
3. Wear proper clothing and take proper equipment. The weather can and will change.
4. If you do get lost or stranded, stay put. You will be found if you have followed rule No. 1.
5. Learn how to use a compass, take a map of the area and orient yourself before leaving camp.
6. Always carry a survival kit and know how to use it. A survival kit in the hands of someone who does not know how to use it can kill.

To keep yourself alive in the wilderness, you must give some thought to the possibility before the situation comes up. Survival is 80 percent attitude, 10 percent equipment and 10 percent skill and knowledge to use that equipment.

HOME SAFETY TIP

- **Make sure a smoke alarm is inside or near every bedroom.**
- **Test each smoke alarm every month. Push the test button until you hear a loud noise.**
- **Put new batteries in your smoke alarms at least one time each year.**