

LOCAL POTTERS COMMISSIONED FOR 85TH ANNIVERSARY MUGS

San Isabel Electric Association's annual meeting is right around the corner. This year, the co-op celebrates its 85th year of bringing electricity and other services to southern Colorado. As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we exist because of our members and to serve our members. To show our appreciation, we have decided to give out ceramic mugs as part of our annual meeting gift. Each member in attendance will be offered one free gift and mug per member account. However, instead of buying mass-produced mugs, we have decided to go for something special — locally made, handcrafted mugs from three area potters. Each mug will feature a stamp with the company's acronym, SIEA, and the year the co-op was established, 1938. Let's take a closer look at the selection process and the three potters chosen to create the mugs.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Selecting the right potters was not an easy task. The commissioning committee considered several factors, including the quality of the work, the potter's availability, and the budget. SIEA first published a call for qualifications and asked local potters to contact us if they were interested in the job. We made a list of the potters who responded and researched their work online. That list was narrowed down to six potters based on their experience, whether they are members

of the co-op, and the quality of their work.

Next, the committee interviewed each of the six potters to discuss the project. They asked about their experience with similar projects and their ability to deliver within the given timeline. Based on these interviews, the committee selected three potters who they felt would create unique, high-quality mugs.

THE THREE POTTERS

The three potters selected for this project are Lori Hannan, Patti Paiz-Jones, and Sumi von Dassow.

Lori Hannan is a potter from the Rye area who has worked with clay for more than 25 years. Her work is known for its reflection of the natural world — she uses the clay's natural finish to represent the mountains, and a variety of glaze colors to represent the earth and sky. For SIEA's annual meeting mugs, she plans to create pieces in her traditional style, where the top of the mug is glazed, and the bottom is raw clay.

Patti Paiz-Jones is a potter who specializes in sgraffito, a decorative technique that involves cutting away parts of a surface layer. Her work often features handwritten script, trees, and other things we see in nature. For SIEA's mugs, she plans to create a series that features hand drawings. She hopes the clay, design and glazes she uses will express the

co-op's presence in this area of Colorado and celebrate the service it provides to its members and community.

Sumi von Dassow of Beulah has more than 40 years of experience as a potter. She is known for brightly colored functional pottery, burnished and pit-fired vessels, and ceramic sculpture. The mugs she creates for this commission will feature overlapping glazes in a variety of colors that represent the earth and the landscape of southern Colorado.

LOCAL COMMITMENT

Choosing locally made, handcrafted mugs for the San Isabel Electric annual meeting is our way to show appreciation to the attendees. By selecting three local potters, we are supporting local artists and we are giving our members a unique, high-quality, and functional piece of art to enjoy for many years. The mugs created by Lori Hannan, Patti-Paiz Jones, and Sumi von Dassow are sure to be treasured by this year's annual meeting member attendees for years to come. Keeping with tradition, you must be present at the annual meeting to receive your annual meeting gift, which includes one of these mugs. We hope to see you at our annual meeting, Saturday, September 16 at John Mall High School.



▲ Beulah potter Sumi von Dassow will be creating mugs with overlapping glazes in a variety of colors that represent the earth and the landscape of southern Colorado.



▲ Lori Hannan from the Rye area is creating mugs in her traditional style, where the top of the mug is glazed, and the bottom is raw clay.



▲ Patti Paiz-Jones is a potter who works in the Navajo Ranch area. She is using clay, designs, and glazes to express San Isabel Electric's presence in southern Colorado.



RUN FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

There are two seats on the SIEA Board of Directors up for election this year.

3-Year Term:

- District 1 Beulah, Wetmore, and vicinity
- District 6 La Veta, Cuchara, and vicinity

Visit [SIEA.com/BoardElections](https://www.siea.com/BoardElections) for more information about running for the SIEA Board.



SAVE THE DATE

SIEA's Annual Meeting

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

John Mall High School, Walsenburg

One free gift and mug per account.

LET YOUR Light SHINE

Scholarships 2023

San Isabel Electric will award a record \$46,000 in scholarships to students for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The San Isabel Electric Board of Directors scored applicants on their resume, cover letter, letters of recommendation, a 300-word essay, as well as the format, grammar, and punctuation of their overall application. The top-scoring students were invited to an interview to compete for a chance to win a \$4,000 Powered-Up Scholarship.

Scholarship funding comes from unclaimed capital credits, which is money the electric co-op tried to return to member-owners but the funds went unclaimed. The current list of unclaimed capital credits is published at siea.com/capitalcredits and is available in the April edition of *Colorado Country Life* magazine.

San Isabel Electric has awarded scholarships since 1990.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FROM SIEA:

SAN ISABEL ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Aguilar School District

Micah Trujillo

Branson School District

McKenzie Riddle

Faith Vernier

GOAL Academy

Kylee Faris

Hoehne School District

Laura Montoya

Ronni San Roman

John Mall High School

Courtney Dotter

Shaylynn Romero

La Veta School District

Madison Nix

Tallie Noordik

Pueblo West High School

Shelana Fenn

Leila Johnson

Noah Wagner

Amelia Marmolejo

Dominic Haro

Cole Montee

Elizabeth Wakefield

Rye High School

Zebadiah Laca

Samantha Santini

Brianna Prichard

Gianna Baker

Amelia Burbidge

Markus Anglin

Swallows Charter Academy

Mattie Ramos

Hannah Storm

Kevin Shu

Trinidad High School

Makenzy Fernandez

FIRST-TO-ATTEND SCHOLARSHIPS

La Veta School District

Willow Clark

Mariah Rivera

Primero School District

Hailey Harris

Rye High School

Sydney Griffith

Harlee Aggson

Joseph Valdez

VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Branson School District

Makayla Baker

La Veta School District

Destiny Akin-Valdez



POWERED-UP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

Leila Johnson of Pueblo West High School and Amelia Burbidge of Rye High School were selected to each receive a \$4,000 Powered-Up scholarship. Their schools also received a \$500 donation from the San Isabel Electric Board of Directors.

Harlee Aggson of Rye High School and Ronni San Roman of Hoehne School District were each awarded \$1,500 runner-up Powered-Up scholarships.

The four students interviewed with the board to compete for the Powered-Up Scholarship. Typically, the board only awards one \$5,000 Powered-Up Scholarship. However, the students who interviewed had exceptional achievements and high moral character, and the board decided to award extra scholarships.



Leila Johnson

POWERED-UP SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Leila graduated from Pueblo West High School and will continue her education at Colorado State University – Pueblo studying health sciences.

Amelia Burbidge

POWERED-UP SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Amelia graduated from Rye High School and will continue her education at the University of New England - Maine and plans to be a doctor of orthopedic medicine.

Ronni San Roman

POWERED-UP SCHOLARSHIP RUNNER-UP

Ronni graduated from Hoehne High School and will continue her education at Colorado State University – Pueblo studying business.

Harlee Aggson

POWERED-UP SCHOLARSHIP RUNNER-UP

Harlee graduated from Rye High School and will continue her education at either Regis or Baylor University studying Nursing. She is also the first person in her immediate family to pursue higher education.

“It was arduous to select a single winner. Each one demonstrated commendable achievements and goals, and the board takes pride in being able to support their bright futures.”

—Ray Garcia,
San Isabel Electric Board
of Directors President

Amelia Burbidge (left) and Leila Johnson both won an additional \$4,000 scholarship for their commendable achievements and goals.



TRAILS FOR ALL

The legacy of Arthur Carhart lives on in historic Pueblo Mountain Park

The early morning sunlight filtered through the trees, casting a golden hue over the forest floor. Birds chirped and squirrels scampered as a group of bikers made their way along the newly improved Carhart Trail.

The trail was named after Arthur Carhart, a man who had a passion for preserving the beauty of nature while also making it accessible for people to enjoy. His philosophy was simple: there were portions of natural scenic beauty that were God-made and should be the property of all people.

The person leading the ride was feeling like a first timer again as the bikers began connecting with the natural world around them. Everyone in her group lived within an hour's drive of the Pueblo Mountain Park but had never visited. Chit-chat waned as the riders began taking in whiffs of blooming wildflowers, and decaying leaves. Some slowed, captivated by the shadows of the towering ponderosa pines swaying gently in the breeze.

The park was buzzing with activity as families, hikers, bikers, and new trail users gathered in celebration of National Get Outdoors Day, and the contributions several local not-for-profits made to improve the trail.

The trail improvements had been extensive, and it was immediately noticeable. The trail was wider, smoother, and more accessible than ever before. As the group of riders made their way along the trail, they marveled at the stunning views that had once been hidden. Dead trees had been cleared away and in spots, opening views of the Wet Mountains and Beulah Valley. They all paused to take it in.

The improvements to the Carhart Trail were not just about making the trail more accessible. They were also about preserving the natural beauty of the area. The new trail had been designed to minimize its impact on the environment, with carefully placed drainage systems and erosion control measures. The trail is open to bikers, hikers, and equestrian users. Since 2018, when the trail was first constructed, it's grown in popularity.

Their 1.8-mile ride concluded at the end of the Squirrel Creek Trail, the place where public outdoor recreation as we know it began. It was here where Carhart developed the National Forest Service's first recreational area, the Davenport campground. His work had been groundbreaking and had set the standard for future wilderness recreation development. He believed that the wilderness should be protected, but it should also be available for people to enjoy.

Carhart's efforts were just the beginning of a larger effort to improve and protect national forests while making them more accessible.

As the bicyclists meandered their way back, they couldn't help but feel grateful for the opportunity to explore the newly improved Carhart Trail. They knew that their experience had been made possible by the dedication and hard work of countless individuals who shared Carhart's vision for protecting and preserving our natural world.

The preceding story is a work of fiction, but it is based on factual historical events and figures. Arthur Carhart was a real person who played a significant role in the development of the National Forest



Volunteers work on improving the Carhart Trail in Pueblo Mountain Park.

Service's first recreational area, the Davenport Campground, located about 12 miles from Pueblo, Colorado. His legacy of preserving the wilderness while making it accessible for people to enjoy lives on to this day. The story celebrates Carhart's contributions to protecting and preserving our natural world and encourages readers to get outdoors and explore the beauty of the Pueblo Mountain Park in the Beulah Valley.

San Isabel Electric, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Tri-State Generation and Transmission are proud to have contributed a combined \$10,000 donation to the Southern Colorado Trail Builders and the Nature and Wildlife Discovery Center's efforts to improve the Carhart Trail making it accessible to bicyclists.

Celebrate
GET OUTDOORS DAY

June 10, 2023
PUEBLO MOUNTAIN PARK in BEULAH

Join us at the Pueblo Mountain Park for clinics, yard games, raffle and activities for all ages.

9:00 – 12:30 Educational clinics
9:30 Trail activities depart
11:30 Raptor presentation
12:15 Raffle

Pets not recommended for those participating in trail activities or clinics.

FIND MORE DETAILS AT
WWW.SOCOTRAILS.ORG/NGO-CELEBRATION

NATURE & WILDLIFE DISCOVERY CENTER
TRAIL BUILDERS
Basin Electric POWER COOPERATIVE
San Isabel Electric
TRI-STATE