

the monthly  
newsletter of



# Powerlines

February, 2015 | Delta-Montrose Electric Association | [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com)



**2** - Coming Soon  
to the Read Service  
Center: Humans



**2** - Member Makes  
Investment in  
Energy Efficiency



**3** - How Much  
Energy Do Your  
Appliances Use?

## Good News: No 2015 Rate Increase

Anyone who has been paying attention to wholesale power costs will note that they've been trending upwards for a number of recent years. This year, however, DMEA's wholesale power provider, Tri-State Generation & Transmission (Tri-State) has opted not to raise its rates.

Certainly, the current pressures on the coal market and other costs of generation have not gone away but "...you'd have to say that Tri-state has been able to hold its costs steady while other companies have been increasing rates." said DMEA's Finance & Accounting Manager, Corey Thurlow. While he cannot speak



**Balancing Act:** DMEA Linemen replace a power pole in a remote and dangerous location. In this case, the pole had to be dragged down the side of a mountain with a track hoe. Then it had to be set next to the original and the wires and equipment had to be switched over by hand. This had... (Cont'd on pg 3)

for Tri-State, Thurlow does note: "Tri-State feels they will meet their 2015 revenue and equity targets while holding rates at the current level."

Still, Thurlow cautions against long-term optimism. "At DMEA, we are anticipating a Tri-State increase in

2016, but for the current year, this is good news. We can keep our members' bills as cheap as possible.

Also, for budgeting purposes, members can predict their cost of power for this year based on what they paid last year."

## Coming Soon to DMEA's Read Service Center →

Throughout Montrose and Delta Counties, Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) has several service locations where members can pay their bills, and receive help. For the last five years, however, the only location where members could talk face-to-face with a representative, was the DMEA headquarters in Montrose. That's about to change.

Under the strategic direction of the DMEA board to offer more personal service to our members, DMEA will staff the Read Service Center outside of Delta for two days a week.

"In 2010, the Read Service Center was converted to a fully-automated facility," said Member Services Supervisor, Greg Hobbs. At that time, a pay kiosk and a self-serve station were placed in the lobby. "It worked," said Hobbs, "but there was no way it could substitute for a live human in terms of personal service."

While the automated services will remain available, the Member Service Department is rotating its current representatives to the Read location on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9 am to 4 pm. "I think this is going to be a positive change for us," says Member Service Representative, Karen A. "The CSRs down there will still be answering phones, but they'll also be getting back to that community in person."



## Lightening the Load

Montrose Merchant Saves \$\$\$ by Saving Energy

When Tim Frates of Tim Frates Laser Engraving & Custom Framing moved his business to a new location in downtown Montrose, he knew his presentation-related business would benefit from higher quality lighting. But when he found out that he could save hundreds on the installation by taking advantage of DMEA LED rebates, he decided to go for it.



In his showroom, he replaced nine pairs of 4' fluorescent lights with just six dimmable 2' x 2' LED light panels and two sets of dimmable LED track lights. "The difference is amazing," said Frates. "I'm saving money every month, and the new lighting just makes the artwork pop off the walls." For information on DMEA's LED rebates, call 970-249-1258



## Home Cookin'

Win a small appliance! Submit recipes (submit name & city) to: DMEA Newsletter P.O. Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or communications@dmea.com DMEA does not test nor endorse any recipe.

# How Much Energy Do Your Appliances Use?

DMEA measures your electricity use in kilowatt-hours (kWh). One kWh is equal to operating a 100 watt light bulb for 10 hours. Check out this chart to see what your appliances are costing you.

Appliance	kWh/mo.	\$
Central Air Conditioning	840	\$86.69
Portable Electric Heater	540	\$55.73
Hot Water Heater	300	\$30.96
Clothes Dryer	83	\$8.57
Personal Computer (CPU)	33	\$3.40
Dishwasher	30	\$3.09
Stereo	10	\$1.03
Washing Machine	9	\$0.93
Hair Dryer	4	\$0.41
Toaster	3	\$0.31

Figures derived from average monthly usage of a typical residence applied to the current DMEA Residential 10 rate. To determine your individual usage, call DMEA Energy Services 970-240-1258.



### Avocado, Tomato & Feta Salsa:

- 2 avocados, chopped
- 4-5 Roma tomatoes, chopped
- 1 bunch of cilantro, chopped
- 4 oz. Feta cheese, crumbled
- Mix - ¼ c. olive oil, 1 T red wine vinegar, 1 T ground cumin, 1 tsp. kosher salt

Pour dressing over ingredients. Refrigerate. Best if made a couple of hours in advance of using. Serve with warm pita wedges, chips, or use as salsa. Serves 20.

- Joann Seymour, Olathe

### Pineapple Fried Rice:

- 1 ½ c. uncooked jasmine rice
- 3 cups water
- 2 tsp. oil
- 1 12 oz. can fully cooked luncheon meat, such as Spam®, cubed
- ½ c. sliced Chinese sweet pork sausage (optional)
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 2 T oil
- 1 8 oz. can pineapple chunks, drained
- 3 T oyster sauce
- ½ c. green onion
- powdered garlic

Cook rice according to directions and cool completely. Heat 2 tsps of oil in skillet over medium heat & brown meats. Set aside & pour eggs into skillet and scramble. Set aside. Heat 2 T of oil in large, non-stick skillet over medium heat and stir in rice. Toss rice with oil and cook until heated and beginning to brown, about 2 min. Add garlic powder to taste and cook 1 more min. Stir in rest of ingredients & cook & stir until oyster sauce coats the ingredients, 2-3 min. Stir in green onions and serve.

- Jeanne Greenlee, Cedaredge

(cont'd from pg#1)

...to be accomplished on the edge of a dangerous cliff and under the threat of an incoming snowstorm that did hit the area only hours after the project was completed.

DMEA line crews tackle challenges like this throughout the year. These kinds of operations require not only rigorous training, but also problem-solving skills, teamwork and more than a little courage. The result

is a power grid that operates safely, efficiently and reliably.

DMEA thanks the line crews that work behind the scenes to keep our service up and running.



# Bright Ideas

Win a small appliance! Submit ideas (with name & city) to: DMEA Newsletter P.O. Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or communications@dmea.com DMEA does not test nor endorse any bright idea.

## Think your dryer lint filter is clean?

Try this. After removing lint, run hot water over the filter. If water pools, waxy material from dryer sheets has coated the filter. To keep your dryer working for a very long time (and help lower your electric bill), scrub filter with an old toothbrush and hot, soapy water every six months. How about that?!

- Kathy Squires, Cedaredge

# Did You Know?

You can track your home's energy usage with DMEA's "Smarthub."

## On your computer:

<https://dmea.smarthub.coop>



Log in with your existing online bill pay username & password or use your DMEA account# to create new login.

## On your mobile device:



Within the app, log in with your existing online bill pay username & password or use your DMEA account# to create new login. Turn off paper bills at *Contact us → Go Paperless → Submit*

# Crisscross

## Across

- The Read Service Center has been fully automated for how many years?
- Cleans waxy film from dryer lint filter.
- Merchant, Tim Frates specializes in custom framing and laser \_\_\_\_\_.
- It uses an average of 30 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month.
- What is being replaced by linemen in the front page photo?

## Down

- Being able to predict this year's cost of power based on last year's helps with \_\_\_\_\_.
- DMEA strives to keep the power grid safe, efficient and \_\_\_\_\_.
- Operation Round Up Plus! allows donors to contribute a fixed amount beyond the next \_\_\_\_\_.
- What is coming soon to the Read Service Center?
- DMEA purchases its wholesale power from this co-op.

Hint: All the answers are in this newsletter.



## JANUARY CRISSCROSS SOLUTION:

SMARTHUB 5. CONDITIONED 7. QUARTERS 8. C-TRUSSING  
10. PHONECALLS  
**DOWN:** 1. PARTNERSHIP 3. ENERGY 4. THIRDS  
**ACROSS:** 1. POTATO 2. RESPONSE 6. MONTH 9. THIRD

## DMEA Board Of Directors:

Bill Patterson, *District #1*; Brent Hines, *District #2*; Olen Lund, *District #3*  
Jim Elder, *District #4*; Marshall Collins, *District #5*; Terry Brown, *District #6*  
Mark Eckhart, *District #7*; Tony Prendergast, *South Region*  
John Gavan, *North Region*

DMEA board meetings are open to all members. They are generally held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times and locations.

## Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Contact:

1-877-OUR-DMEA  
(1-877-687-3632)

P.O. Box 910  
Montrose, CO 81402

[www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com)

## Locations:

11925 6300 Road, Montrose  
&  
21191 H75 Road, Delta

©2014 Dmea, All Rights Reserved.

Design by Alex Shelley

Printed by Scott's Printing, Inc.

(970) 249-2611

**DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

## STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

DELTA-MONTROSE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal and, where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or if all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file an employment complaint, you must contact your agency's EEO Counselor (PDF) within 45 days of the date of the alleged discriminatory act, event, or in the case of a personnel action. Additional information can be found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_file.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_file.html).

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech disabilities and wish to file either an EEO or program complaint please contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339 or (800) 845-6136 (in Spanish).

Persons with disabilities who wish to file a program complaint, please see information above on how to contact us by mail directly or by email. If you require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) please contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (2/18/14)

