

Home Cookin'

Tortilla Pizza Wedges - Scott Cocey, Cedaredge

Ingredients:

1 cup frozen corn
1 cup thinly sliced fresh mushrooms
4 (6 inch) corn tortillas
1/4 cup spaghetti sauce
1 to 2 tsp chopped jalapenos
1/4 tsp oregano leaves, crushed
1/4 tsp dried marjoram leaves, crushed
1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions:

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Coat large skillet with nonstick cooking spray; heat over medium heat. Add corn and mushrooms. Cook and stir 4 to 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Place tortillas on baking sheet. Bake for 4 minutes until edges start to brown. Combine spaghetti sauce, jalapeno, oregano and marjoram in a small bowl. Spread over tortillas. Arrange corn and mushrooms on top of tortillas. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake 4 to 5 minutes or until cheese melts and pizzas are heated through. Cut into wedges and serve. Makes 4 servings.

Electrical Safety Tips for your Home ⚡

- Never use any electrical appliance or device when wet, with wet hands, or when standing in water or slush.
- Remove plugs from outlets by grasping the plug and not the cord. Tugging or pulling electrical cords can damage the cords and create a potential safety hazard.
- Never put anything other than an electric plug into an electric socket. Do not put fingers, pencils, or any objects into any outlet at any time. Safety caps, available at any discount, drug, or grocery store can be placed in unused outlets to protect children.
- Always keep electrical toys, electrical appliances, grills, and other items clear of any water, including swimming pools, fish ponds, rain, sprinklers, ditches, and hoses. Remember, water and electricity are a dangerous combination.

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM USDA Grant Training Opportunities

Wednesday, February 10
DMEA Montrose Office
11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
9:30am - 1:30pm

Friday, February 19
Hotchkiss Memorial Hall
(Connected to the Hotchkiss Library.)
175 N. 1st Street
Hotchkiss, CO 81419
9:30am - 1:30pm

Attention small businesses, irrigators, and ag producers!
Learn how the USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) can help you with energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Seminar is not applicable to residential, governmental or non-profit agency projects.

Limited space. Registration is required. RSVP to pattie.snidow@co.usda.gov.

Trainings presented by:



POWERLINES POP-QUIZ

1. If you participate in Operation Round Up, what is your average annual contribution?
2. What is the cost of DMEA energy audits to residential and commercial members?
3. On March 3, 2016, where will The Morning Buzz be hosted?

Congratulations to December's winner:
Deanne Hunt, Montrose

Recipes & Pop Quiz Info:

Submit pop quiz answers and recipes, including your name, address, and phone number to:
DMEA Newsletter
PO Box 910
Montrose, CO 81402
Or email your information to communications@dmea.com.

If your recipe is published or you are announced as a pop quiz winner, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1273 within 60 days.

Your Board of Directors:

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

DMEA board meetings are open to all members and are generally held on the 4th Tuesday monthly, beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call (970) 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times, and locations.

Locations:

Montrose Office
11925 6300 Road
Montrose, CO 81401
M - F; 8:00am-5:00pm

Read Office

21191 H 75 Road
Delta, CO 81416
M & W; 9:00am-4:00pm

Contact Us:

1-877-687-3632
www.dmea.com



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THE PowerLines REPORT

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February 2016

DMEA Lights the Path for Fiber-to-the-Home



Jasen Bronec, CEO

On December 29, 2015, the DMEA board made a decision that will change the future course of our cooperative, and perhaps even the future of our communities, when they voted unanimously "to proceed with a fiber to the home and business project, directly, in a phased approach." This momentous decision is the result of our board and management listening to our members, and it puts us in the role of bringing another vital service to you: high-speed internet.

What a great example of the cooperative business model. DMEA is your company, and you have the opportunity to direct it by using your voice through electing directors, participating in member surveys, attending board meetings, and more. And you did just that. Over the past two years, our board and staff received substantial feedback from the membership about internet service in the region. You voiced your communities' need for high-speed internet and your support for DMEA in providing the service: Your board of directors listened.

Since their decision, DMEA staff has moved forward with Phase I of our fiber-to-the-premises business and the questions have been flooding in: When can I sign up? What areas will Phase I cover? Are you hiring yet? How much will service cost? The honest answer to most of these questions is that we aren't sure yet. While we are working diligently, we are still in the very early stages of getting our new business off the ground. In fact, it doesn't even have a name yet!

Rest assured, we are working toward being able to answer all of your questions in the near future. For now, I can tell you that:

- Phase I is not just a planning phase. Our goal with Phase I is to have customers signed up and receiving service by the end of 2016.
- We will be offering high-speed internet service (up to 1 Gig), phone service, and television programming. Each service will be available as a stand-alone or in a bundle.
- We will provide all services at competitive prices, including an affordable high-speed internet option.
- As soon as we determine what geographic areas will be included in each phase, we will release that information to our members.
- We will offer pre-signups before each build out.
- Each build out will require a set take-rate of pre-signups prior to construction. So, the quicker you and your neighbors sign-up for service, the sooner it will be built in your area.
- We will likely launch our marketing campaign and the first round of pre-signups this summer.

It is very exciting to be taking on this great challenge. While I know it will be a lot of work, I am certain that our employee group will rise to the occasion and will be proud of the great service we will be providing you, our members.



Operation Round Up: Your Small Change Can Change Lives

You may think your spare change can't buy much. But, when combined with the spare change of more than 10,000 other DMEA members through Operation Round Up, it can truly change lives. Each month, Operation Round Up participants choose to round their electric bill up to the nearest dollar. Those extra cents are put into a charitable account. The pennies, nickels, and dimes deposited in that account are pooled together to help our local communities. Health and rescue organizations, food banks, educational projects, youth programs, and individuals and families in need are just a few of the people and places that receive support through Operation Round Up.

How does Operation Round Up Work?

If you choose to participate, your bill is automatically round up to the next nearest dollar amount. For example, if your bill is \$75.21, it will be rounded up to \$76. The rounded up portion is deposited in the charitable account. Each month, your Operation Round Up amount is noted on your bill. On average, you'll contribute less than \$7 per year.

Where does the money go?

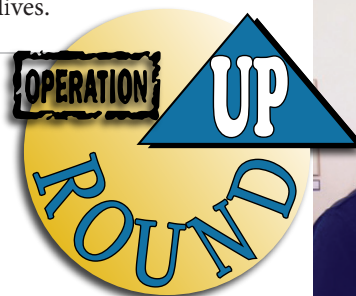
DMEA has established an independent Operation Round Up Charitable Trust that oversees the funds and grants donations. This nine-member board is made up of local volunteers from across the service territory. They meet monthly to review applications and grant donations. Every penny contributed to Operation Round Up is distributed within the service territory. Your donations stay local!

How can I participate?

Consider giving today! Operation Round Up provides an easy and affordable way to help the worthwhile organizations and families in need in your community. Sign up online at www.dmea.com/content/operation-roundup or call DMEA at 1-877-687-3632. Remember, your spare change can change lives.

Top Right: Casey Alcaraz received assistance from Operation Round Up to help offset the cost of her dialysis treatments and other medical expenses.

Bottom Right: Operation Round Up Charitable Trust board member Penny Sutton (L) presents Annette Pretorius of the Blue Sage Center for the Arts in Paonia with a donation to help continue providing art and culture events in the North Fork Valley.



Above: Operation Round Charitable Trust board members Penny Sutton (L) and Marilyn Moll (R) present Grace MacGregor of Lovin' Spoonful in Paonia with an Operation Round Up donation. Lovin' Spoonful provides a weekly community meal on Wednesday evenings to hungry families at the Paonia Teen center.



Energy Audits: Your Road Map to Savings

You're looking to cut back on the amount of energy you consume and save money on your bill, but you just don't know where to start. Is it time to upgrade your appliances? Maybe you need more insulation? What about the lighting or the windows? Do your ducts need to be sealed?

These questions, and more, can quickly leave you feeling overwhelmed and prevent you from making changes that could save energy and money. That's why energy audits are so important. They help both home and business owners determine exactly where improvements can be made to start saving money.

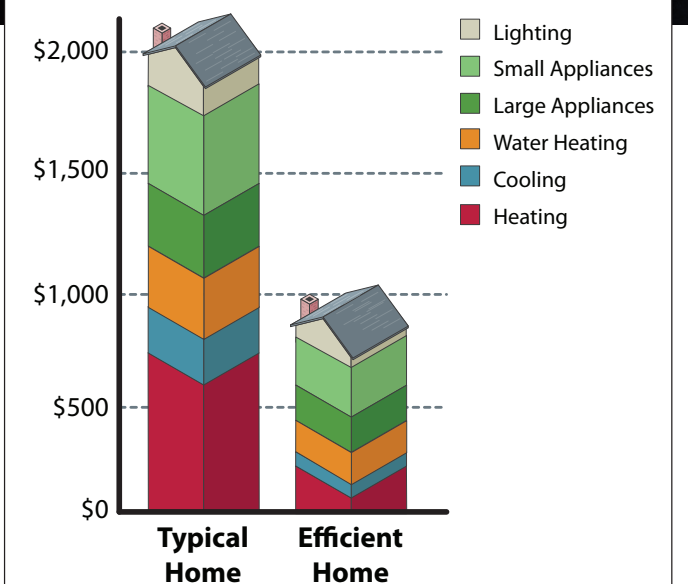
An energy audit will help you determine where to start your energy-savings journey and all the "stops" to make along the way. They are your road map to energy savings! DMEA offers free energy audits to residential and commercial members. Our energy services team is available to conduct simple walk-through evaluations, as well as full-service audits, which may include the following:

- Infrared camera
- Blower door testing
- Duct leakage testing
- Appliance consumption monitors
- Walk-through evaluation
- Efficiency and conservation rebate opportunities

For more information or to schedule an audit, contact our energy services staff today: Rod (970) 240-1258 or Phil (970) 240-1217.



Annual Energy Bill for a Typical versus an Efficient Home



Source: U.S. Department of Energy, 2009 Buildings Energy Data Book. Savings are DOE Home Energy Saver estimates.

Energy audits arm you with the proper information to make your home more energy efficient, and ultimately, save money. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, on average, the annual utility bill for an efficient home is approximately \$1,000 less per year than a typical home's.

WITH DELTA-MONTROSE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

2016

The Boardwalk Restaurant	The Diner
Thursday, March 3, 2016	Friday, March 4, 2016
6:45am – 8:00am	6:45am – 8:00am
64 CO-92, Crawford	203 Grand Ave., Paonia

All DMEA members are invited. Spend a few minutes to ask us questions and tell us how we can better serve you. Or, just say hi before work. Coffee and pastries are on us! Event is free to attend. Come and go as you please. No RSVP needed. Questions? Becky, (970) 240-1263