

APPLY NOW!

\$40,000

## Available in College Scholarships

DMEA is now accepting applications for its 2017 scholarship program. Current scholarship opportunities include the following.

### High School Graduate Scholarships:

\$2,000 scholarship to one graduating senior from Cedaredge, Hotchkiss, Olathe, and Paonia high schools; two graduates from Delta High School; four graduates from Montrose High School; and one graduate from a non-traditional high school from Montrose and Delta counties.

### Continuing Education Scholarship:

\$1,500 scholarship to four students currently enrolled in college.

### Colorado Mesa University

**Scholarship:** \$2,000 scholarship to three students who are either currently enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in Colorado Mesa University-Montrose Campus.

### Delta-Montrose Technical College

**Scholarship:** \$2,000 scholarship to three students who are either currently enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in Delta-Montrose Technical College.

### Basin Electric Scholarship:

\$1,000 scholarship to one graduating high school student.

All applicants must be a DMEA member or a dependent of a DMEA member. Visit [www.dmea.com/content/scholarships](http://www.dmea.com/content/scholarships) to review applicant eligibility guidelines and begin the application process.

**Application deadline**  
**Fri., January 27, 2017.**

## The BEST Sweet Potato Casserole

### Home Cookin'

Donna J. Hebein, Montrose

#### Topping Ingredients:

1 cup brown sugar  
1/3 cup flour  
1 cup chopped nuts (pecans preferred)  
1/3 stick butter, melted

#### Sweet Potato Mixture:

3 cups mashed sweet potatoes  
1 cup sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 teaspoon vanilla  
2 eggs, well beaten  
4 tablespoons butter, melted

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Combine brown sugar, flour, nuts and butter in mixing bowl. Set aside. Combine sweet potatoes, sugar, salt, vanilla, eggs, and butter in a mixing bowl in the order listed. Mix thoroughly. Pour mixture into buttered baking dish. Sprinkle the surface of the sweet potato mixture evenly with the topping mixture. Bake for 30 minutes. Allow to set at least 30 minutes before serving.

*Happy Holidays*

DMEA's offices will be closed in celebration of the following Holidays.

**Christmas** December 26 – 27, 2016

**New Year's** January 2, 2016

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

#### Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, *District 1*  
Brad Harding, *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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday monthly, beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call (970) 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times, and locations.

#### Recipes Info:

Submit 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](mailto:communications@dmea.com).

If your recipe is published, claim your prize by calling (970) 240-1273 within 60 days.

**DMEA**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

#### 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](http://www.dmea.com) | 

DMEA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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).

**DMEA**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# THE PowerLines REPORT

1 | 2016 Major Milestones | 2 | Elevate Fiber | 3 | LED Savings | 4 | Scholarships | December 2016

## 2016: Reflecting on a Big Year for DMEA



Jasen Bronec, CEO

When I look back at all DMEA has accomplished in 2016, all I can say is "What a wild ride it's been." I would be remiss if I didn't take the time to acknowledge the work that your cooperative employees have done this past year.

**Member Outreach:** We kicked off the year by revamping the way we reach out to our members, changing the format, times, and locations

of our events. By launching the Morning Buzz coffee chats and shaking things up by relocating our member forums to breweries, we were able to connect with a larger variety of members and gather valuable feedback. Your response to these changes was loud and clear—turnout was amazing and we appreciate being able to have important conversations with you face to face.

**Affordable Community Solar Array:** In partnership with the Colorado Energy Office and GRID Alternatives, we broke ground on a 150-kilowatt community solar array designed to help lower electric bills for qualified low-income members. That array is now pumping locally generated solar energy to approximately 42 households in our communities.

**FERC Victory:** In June, we scored a major victory for local renewable energy when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ruled in our favor when they struck down an appeal by Tri-State to impose a fee on its members, like DMEA, who purchase energy from renewable resources. This ruling came on the heels of a 2015 FERC ruling that declared DMEA must buy from qualified facilities at a negotiated rate under the federal law called PURPA.

**Elevate Fiber:** And of course, last but certainly not least, in June, we launched Elevate Fiber, a fiber-to-the-home company that provides the fastest and most reliable internet connection

available. In just six months we have preregistered more than 4,000 customers and are up and running in the Paonia area. This progress is staggering and a testament to the power of grassroots efforts.

Thank you for being a part of the wild ride we called 2016. Here's to an even better 2017.



Steve Metheny chatting with members at the Morning Buzz.



Constructing the Affordable Community Solar Array.



Elevate Fiber contractor crews line the streets of Paonia.





# EXPERIENCE ELEVATE

More than just internet.



The new Elevate Experience Center had its grand opening on October 28 at the Montrose Headquarters during the DMEA Member Appreciation Days. So, what is an experience center? It's a space in our Montrose lobby with the latest WiFi gadgets and 1 Gig internet. We invite all of our members to come experience Elevate Fiber and ask questions—stop by and say hi today!



Elevate Experience Center is open Monday–Friday during normal business hours at the Montrose Headquarters.

## Preregister For Elevate Fiber

- » Enter your address at [join.elevatefiber.com](http://join.elevatefiber.com)
- » Or give us a call at 877-687-3632
- » Or stop by one of our DMEA offices to visit with our local, knowledgeable customer service representatives.

## Project Update

Make ready efforts, such as preparing power poles for fiber and installing underground conduit, continued through November in Orchard City and Cobble Creek. Weather permitting; technicians will begin bringing fiber to the outside of homes in Cobble Creek in December.

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[join.elevatefiber.com](http://join.elevatefiber.com) /



## NEW INTERNET. NEW HEIGHTS.

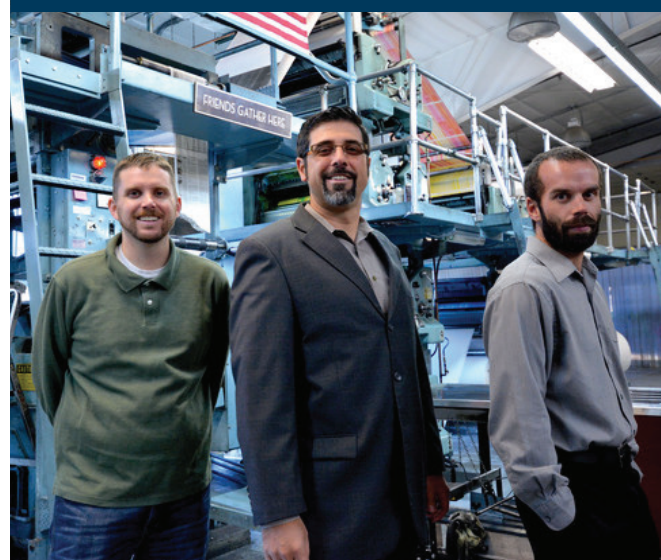
Vincent Laboy, Publisher, from The Montrose Daily Press tells us a little bit about how Elevate Fiber has improved business:

"The Montrose Daily Press' mission is to capture and tell the stories of our community. Antiquated systems and a slow, unreliable internet connection were making it harder to execute on that mission.

The newspaper industry is rapidly evolving, and to some people's surprise, we utilize and rely on more technology than one might think. Almost all of our programs and computer systems are internet based. When our old connection would go down, almost everything stopped in the building. We couldn't read email, we couldn't process payments, we couldn't file photos and stories and we lost all productivity. We also use cloud-based software through Adobe, which requires enough internet speed to allow for constant upgrades and backups—which we did not consistently have.

Elevate Fiber provided the solution with speeds that could easily handle the cloud-based software. The fiber also increased the speeds of uploads and downloads of large files. Since moving to Elevate Fiber, the Daily Press has had consistent, reliable service. We have more bandwidth than some of our computers and software programs can optimally use. But, because we have the bandwidth, we can upgrade those antiquated systems, with confidence."

## Montrose Daily Press Your Local News Source



Left to right: Matt Lindberg (Managing Editor), Vincent Laboy (Publisher), Richard Seiferd (Business Manager).

## Reminder: New Rates Take Effect in January

On November 15, the DMEA Board of Directors approved a rate increase to take effect January 1, 2017. The decision is the direct result of a 4.3% increase from Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association—DMEA's wholesale power provider—and a need to accurately recover the fixed costs of operating the cooperative.

The new rates reflect a pass through of Tri-State's increase in the energy charge and adjustments to the access fee, formerly called the base charge, in all rate classes. Overall, the changes amount to a 3.61% increase.

A detailed listing of the new rates is available at [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com). If you have questions about how these changes will affect your account, please contact DMEA's energy services team at 877-687-3632.

## DECORATE WITH LEDS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



**Cheaper**  
LEDs use 75% less energy than traditional strands.



**Sturdier**  
LEDs are not made from glass, so they don't break easily.



**Long Lasting**  
LEDs can last up to 40 holiday seasons.



**Safer**  
LEDs stay cool to the touch reducing risk of fire and burning.



**Easy**  
Connect up to 25 LED strands end-to-end without overloading an outlet.

**Variety**  
LEDs come in all sizes, shapes, and colors for maximum holiday cheer!



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

