

# THE PowerLines REPORT

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December 2017

## Holiday Classics Meet the Cooperative Difference



Jasen Bronec, CEO

What’s your favorite holiday movie? My personal favorite is *A Christmas Story*. But there are many other classics like, *It’s a Wonderful Life*, *Christmas Vacation*, and *Elf*. What makes these movies a must-see year after year? I can’t help but think that it’s the lessons behind each movie that I’m drawn to.

Take *It’s a Wonderful Life*, for example. Consumed by the stress of losing his life savings and being punished for someone else’s mistake, George Bailey has hit rock bottom. But, thanks to Clarence, he gets to see what life would be like without him. The meaning? People matter most, not possessions.

Then, I think about *A Christmas Story* and Ralphie’s unwavering faith and determination to get just one thing for Christmas: a Red Ryder Carbine-Action 200-shot Range Model air rifle. Despite being told by everyone, from Santa to his teacher, “you’ll shoot your eye out,” Ralphie never gives up.

It’s lessons like these that stand the test of time: valuing the people and relationships in your life, perseverance in the face of opposition, being generous to others, and sharing kindness and love with the world. I believe these lessons are also an important part of what I like to call the cooperative difference.

As your member-owned cooperative, we pride ourselves on valuing your membership above all else. By definition (according to Merriam-Webster) a cooperative is an enterprise or organization owned and operated for the benefit of those using its service. Simply put, we work for you. Like George Bailey, we understand that you, our members, make us who we are. And, like Ralphie, we are determined to make good on our mission to energize and serve our communities day in and day out.

And so, like Buddy the Elf, I’m “singing loud for all to hear.” All of us at DMEA, wish you and yours the happiest of holiday seasons. May 2017 bless you with health, happiness, and prosperity. Thank you for your membership.



DMEA employees giving back to our members through community volunteering in 2017





# FREEDOM TO EXPLORE

Go ahead—check out Elevate Fiber.

## Internet, voice, and so much more.

With internet speeds up to 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps), you can surf the web, stream HD movies, and game without buffering or frustration. Plus, with reliable unlimited voice and a local team dedicated to serving you, Elevate—powered by DMEA—is giving you the freedom to explore.

Make sure to check us out on Facebook and YouTube.

## ELEVATE FIBER REMINDERS

### Find Your Zone

Elevate's network will ultimately cover DMEA's entire service territory. But, as you know, we can't do it all at once. That's why the territory is divided into 50 different zones. Find your zone and check out how close you are to getting fiber at [join.elevatefiber.com](http://join.elevatefiber.com) or give us a call at 877-687-3632. Just click on the zones tab. If you can't remember your zone, search your address in the box on the right, choose between residential or business, and click submit. Scroll down to find your zone assignment.

### Make The Call

It's what you've been waiting for—clear, reliable, and affordable voice service. We're now offering voice for both homes and businesses in active zones. Get started by calling 877-687-3632 or emailing [customerservice@elevatefiber.com](mailto:customerservice@elevatefiber.com).

#### Elevate Voice Service

Residential.....\$30/mo.

Basic Business..... \$50/mo.

Custom Business Voice..... starts at \$64/mo.

### 2,000<sup>th</sup> Customer Milestone

We know we have a long way to go in order to make Elevate available in all parts of DMEA's service territory. We also know we've made some impressive progress in less than two years too. On October 20, we celebrated our 2,000th customer installation—congratulations Donald and Maureen Funston. It's worth noting that just one year ago, on October 14, we were kicking off our first fiber install in Paonia. Thank you to everyone who has supported and continues to support this project to take our great area forward.



### Are You On The List?

Check out pricing, residential internet starts at just \$49.95, and preregister for service today at [join.elevatefiber.com](http://join.elevatefiber.com) or give us a call at 877-687-3632. Already preregistered? Check out our updates section at [join.elevatefiber.com](http://join.elevatefiber.com) to see what's new with the project.

**Join.elevatefiber.com is your one-stop-shop for updates, pricing, and construction progress.**



## \$40,000 Available in College Scholarships

DMEA is now accepting applications for its 2018 scholarship program. Current scholarship opportunities include the following.

**High School Graduate Scholarship:** \$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 January 29, 2018.**



## Attention Parents of our Future Leaders

### Apply for Youth Tour and Leadership Camp Today

Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 18 at the time of the program and currently enrolled as a sophomore or junior in high school. They must be dependents of a DMEA member. Download the application at [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) or have your teen visit their high school guidance counselor. For more information contact Phil at (970) 240-1207 or [phil.sanchez@dmea.com](mailto:phil.sanchez@dmea.com).

**Application deadline January 8, 2018.**



# Don't Wait to Submit Your Rebate

DMEA's 2017 rebate program will end on December 31, 2017. A new funding cycle will begin with the start of the new year, but those incentive levels aren't set yet. In order to receive the best possible rebate, members are encouraged to submit their paperwork now.

DMEA provides rebates for numerous Energy Star appliances, LED lighting, water heaters, geothermal heating and cooling systems, and motors. Energy efficient equipment can lower your electric bill and improve the comfort and safety of your home. But, they also require an upfront investment.

DMEA's rebates are here to help you offset the cost of that investment – it's just one way DMEA is helping you manage your energy use. Get more energy-saving information and a listing of DMEA's rebate programs online at [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com), call 877-687-3632, or email [rebates@dmea.com](mailto:rebates@dmea.com).

## ENERGY STAR Buyers Guide

Purchasing ENERGY STAR-certified appliances and electronics is a great way to save energy in your home. But how do you choose the right product? It depends on your energy-saving goals and how you use energy in your home.



Do you wash multiple loads of laundry each week? Investing in an ENERGY STAR-certified washer could save you around \$45 on your utility bill each year. Some of the top-rated ENERGY STAR-certified large washers come from LG and Samsung.



Home computers can use a shocking amount of energy each year. If all computers in the U.S. were ENERGY STAR certified, we would save more than \$1 billion in energy costs per year. If you can't buy an ENERGY STAR-certified computer, consider updating the power management setting on your computer. Visit [energystar.gov/products/office\\_equipment/computers](http://energystar.gov/products/office_equipment/computers).



The larger TVs get, the more energy they use. But ENERGY STAR-certified TVs are, on average, 25% more efficient than conventional models. LG, Samsung and Vizio make the list of ENERGY STAR's most efficient TVs.

- There are many different types of ENERGY STAR-certified products, including:
- Air purifiers
  - Roof products
  - Set-top boxes and cable boxes
  - Decorative light strands
  - Data center storage
  - Pool pumps
  - Vending machines
  - Dehumidifiers



# SMART HOME & ENERGY SAVINGS

### with the Nest smart thermostat.

Take your programmable thermostat to the next level with a smart thermostat. An internet-connected thermostat, like the Nest, can be accessed from any smart device through an app, so you can control your home's heating and cooling systems on the go. No more forgetting to turn down the heat when you head off to grandma's for Christmas (hint: you can turn down your thermostat as low as 54 degrees without your pipes freezing). Plus, the Nest can also recognize your family's habits and automatically adjust itself when you're away. An added bonus to saving money is peace of mind. The Nest allows you to setup alerts to warn you if your systems aren't working right and create maintenance reminders, like when it's time to change your air filter.

**Nest is one of the best options on the market today, but is not the only option out there. Search for 'smart thermostats' online or at your local hardware store to find one that fits your budget!**

# Smart Tips for Using Space Heaters and Electric Blankets

Many people turn to space heaters or electric blankets for added warmth in the winter. DMEA reminds those who use space heaters and electric blankets to use these devices with caution.

When buying a space heater or electric blanket, check for approved safety certification marks to verify the product has been tested for safety. Look for space heaters and electric blankets with safety features, including an automatic shut off. Be very cautious about buying used space heaters or electric blankets. They may not have up-to-date safety mechanisms. Your safety is worth the investment in a new heater or blanket.

- Tips to use heaters and blankets safely:**
- Plug space heaters and electric blankets directly into outlets; avoid using an extension cord.
  - Always remember to turn off space heaters and electric blankets when not in use. Never leave one of these devices on unattended or after going to bed.
  - Many fires start when flammable products are placed too close to heating devices. Space heaters should be kept at least 3 feet from blankets, clothing, paper, and other flammables.
  - Place space heaters out of high-traffic areas and on a level, hard, non-flammable floor surface — NOT on carpets, furniture, or countertops.
  - Be aware of pets and children near heating appliances. Pets should never be allowed to sleep on top of electric blankets.
  - Keep space heaters and electric blankets away from water. If they become wet, do not turn them on to dry.
  - Regularly examine cords to make sure there is no cracking or fraying. Do not use damaged appliances. Also, inspect your electric blanket to ensure that it is not worn or damaged. It should not have any charred or dark areas. Replace old or damaged blankets.
  - Store your electric blanket in a manner which avoids creasing. If it cannot be stored flat, loosely fold or roll the blanket in a cool, dry closet.

For more information on electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

# Home COOKING

## Rhubarb Custard Bars

- Ingredients:**
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
  - 1/4 cup sugar
  - 1 cup cold butter

- Filling:**
- 2 cups sugar
  - 7 tablespoons all-purpose flour
  - 1 cup heavy whipping cream
  - 3 large eggs, beaten
  - 5 cups finely chopped fresh or frozen rhubarb, thawed and drained

- Topping:**
- 6 ounces cream cheese, softened
  - 1/2 cup sugar
  - 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
  - 1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped

**Directions:**  
In a bowl, combine the flour and sugar; cut in butter until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Press into a greased 13"x9" baking pan. Bake at 350° for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, for filling, combine sugar and flour in a bowl. Whisk in cream and eggs. Stir in the rhubarb. Pour over crust. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes or until custard is set. Cool.

For topping, beat cream cheese, sugar and vanilla until smooth; fold in whipped cream. Spread over top. Cover and chill. Cut into bars. Store in the refrigerator. Yield: 3 dozen.

- Bette Behrens, Eckert



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) |

### 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*  
Damon Lockhart, *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 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.asc.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.asc.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).