

# Home COOKING

## KORINA'S CHUCKWAGON CHILI

### Ingredients:

- 2 lbs ground beef
- 2 green peppers
- 2 large onions
- 1 habañero or 2 jalapeño peppers (depending on how spicy you want it)
- 1 tbsp minced garlic (about 2-3 cloves)
- 2 tbsp chili powder
- ¼ tsp garlic salt
- dash of cumin
- 4 cans tomato sauce (14.5 oz, can use fire roasted tomatoes for part)
- 3 cans beans (kidney, dark red or light red, black)
- a little brown sugar

### Directions:

Brown and season beef in large pot. Sauté peppers, onions, and garlic until onions are transparent. Add pepper/onion mix to beef. Add tomato sauce. Add beans. Add seasoning and stir. Let simmer for at least one hour, stirring occasionally. Serve with crackers, cheese, and sour cream.

- Bill Hunt, Hotchkiss



Bring your questions and appetite to Power Bites with DMEA. Meet up with co-op employees and board members for a quick bite and great info. Elevate Fiber will be there too. The event is free to attend and there is no formal presentation. Rather chat one-on-one with your co-op and get all your questions answered.

February 9, 2018

11:00am - 1:00pm  
Diamond Joe's  
277 CO-92, Crawford

DMEA / ELEVATE

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with the LG InstaView refrigerator.

Modernize your kitchen with the LG side-by-side refrigerator. Its InstaView technology lets you see the contents without opening the door or letting any chilled air escape. The separate door-in-door compartment lets you reach snack and beverage items quickly to conserve energy. Take your kitchen a step further, and check out the Samsung Family Hub refrigerator. The smart screen helps with food management, can create grocery lists, display the weather, and more!

When you get a new refrigerator, don't forget about the energy savings rebate from DMEA.

DMEA and Elevate Fiber, harnessing today's technology to help you manage your energy use.



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 |  

### 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.



# THE PowerLines REPORT



Steady Rates for 2018



Teaming Up with Coffee Trader



Thank You Susie



Get to Know your Co-op

January 2018

## Rates Remain Steady with the New Year



Jasen Bronec, CEO

DMEA will hold your electric rates steady in 2018. At their November meeting, your DMEA Board of Directors voted unanimously to approve the 2018 budget and in doing so, they also chose to maintain current electric rates in the coming year.

DMEA's rates (what you pay for electricity) consist of two main components: The first is the cost of the wholesale electricity we purchase from Tri-State Generation and Association, Inc. (Tri-State) along with the electricity we self-generate. Purchased power from Tri-State accounts for approximately 63% of our overall expenses. Fortunately, Tri-State announced it would not raise rates in 2018. The second component is the cost for DMEA to deliver power to our members. This includes such items as our power lines, poles, transformers, labor, and the like. As a not-for-profit cooperative, DMEA sets its rates to cover the costs outlined above and there is no profit margin included in our rates. That's why we are on a dedicated mission to control costs.

Critical to these efforts are our hydro and solar generation plants. These resources result in little to no fuel expenses and help DMEA stabilize the cost of wholesale electricity. As a result, DMEA has hit the self-generation limitation set forth in our contract with Tri-State.

In early 2015, DMEA petitioned the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) asking for clarification on our legal obligation to purchase electricity from Qualifying Facilities (commonly called QFs) under the Public Utilities Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA). FERC ruled that DMEA is obligated to purchase power from QFs regardless of the self-generation limitation set forth in our contract with Tri-State and can do so at negotiated rates. Tri-State subsequently adopted a policy to impose a "lost revenue recovery fee" on its member cooperatives (43 co-ops purchase power from Tri-State) if they purchase power from QFs. FERC struck down Tri-State's

proposed fee. In response, Tri-State appealed the decision. FERC has not yet responded to that appeal.

In October 2016, DMEA's Board of Directors passed a resolution to begin discussions with Tri-State to determine the process and costs of potentially withdrawing from Tri-State's membership. Our wholesale power contract with Tri-State is set to expire in 2040.

As your member-owned cooperative, we know it is our responsibility to explore any possibility that can significantly reduce our power costs, which we pass along to our membership. Where this journey goes in 2018 is yet to be determined. We will continue discussions with Tri-State and quantify our options so DMEA's Board of Directors can make a decision to either stay in Tri-State as a member or exit Tri-State and find an alternative power supplier. Reliability, safety, and affordability are the key components we continue to seek for our membership.

We are seeing changes, albeit small, within our Tri-State family. More fellow cooperatives are embracing new technologies, renewable energy, and the changing dynamics within the power industry. And the one thing we all know is that change is inevitable: we're ready.





# COFFEE TRADER

## Teams up with Elevate

### The Coffee Trader: A Montrose Icon

Dee Coram and Phong Nguyen introduced The Coffee Trader to Montrose in a quaint bungalow in Downtown Montrose in 1999. Little did they know that almost two decades later not only would their shop become a Montrose icon, but they have also expanded to include locations in Grand Junction, the Montrose airport, and their new space just off Townsend and 5th Street.

From the start, Dee and Phong focused on the community and they pride themselves on being a local brand that delivers a local taste. When they're not creating the perfect blends for us to enjoy, you'll find Dee and Phong serving the community on volunteer boards or charities. Why? Because, like Elevate, they are invested in making their home (our home) the best place to live.

**“The customers that walk through our door aren’t just numbers. They are our neighbors and friends. We’ve been here for 19 years and I think the most amazing thing is realizing that this is the place we get to call home,” said Phong.**

Save the  
**DATE** **JANUARY 19**

Come explore the new Montrose Coffee Trader at the Elevate Fiber Winter Wrap-Up. Coffee, tea, treats, and fun for the whole family. Plus, you'll have the chance to test out Gig WiFi and get your questions answered.

**211 South 5th Street**  
**11 AM - 2 PM**

### Inside Scoop with Dee and Phong

Elevate Fiber is all about supporting our local businesses and creating a partnership with them to help them succeed. With the Coffee Trader opening its newest, fourth location, it was the perfect time to sit down with the owners.

So, how does a local boy and transplant from Great Britain end up opening a coffee shop in Montrose? The pair met in Las Vegas while working in the entertainment business. Eventually, they were ready for something new. Dee was born and raised in Montrose and Phong's family came through the area for ski trips throughout his childhood, so Montrose just made sense. After they opened, they knew they would stay and wanted to create something that the locals would love, relate to, and depend on.

“More than anything, our goal was to create a sense of community within the community. We have customers who have been coming faithfully since we opened our doors,” said Dee. “We have always wanted to live in a community we love and in order to do that, you need to

create what you love; we've been able to do that with Coffee Trader,” added Phong.

The Coffee Trader is as now a local hot spot, great for coffee, conversations, and making connections. The Coffee Trader has chosen Elevate to make sure they can operate their business and also support their customers with a strong WiFi connection while sipping coffee, working from their shop, or sharing fun moments on social media. Dee said, “We like to do business with people who do business with us. Elevate will let us offer an all-around better experience for our customers.”

We love coffee (and tea, and treats, and friends) and are here to help local businesses thrive, so stop by Coffee Trader to enjoy a drink and some super-fast WiFi.



## The Co-op: A Place Called Home and Colleagues Called Family



*Retirement wishes for Susie Keenan*

When Susie Keenan walked in the door for her first day at DMEA in 1993, she had no idea that it would lead to a 24-plus year career and what she calls her “second family.”

Born and raised in Bedrock, CO, Susie graduated from Nucla High School during a boom year with 76 other teens. Her husband, Mike, is also from Nucla. And while they've put down temporary roots in various places across the West Slope, only one place captured their hearts.

“Paradox will always be my home. Montrose is next, because we raised our kids here; it's their home,” said Susie. Home is also something Susie values most when she reflects upon her time at DMEA.

“It's more like a family. I've gone through the good and bad, highs and lows; family losses, weddings, babies, and grandbabies. I'll miss the people, my coworkers, my friends,” said Susie.

Susie began her career at the co-op as a switchboard operator but quickly moved up to customer service where she spent 12 years on the frontline. The next 12 years were spent in DMEA's accounting and finance department; a place Susie admits suited her just fine.

“I loved working with the members one-on-one, but when the opportunity came to move over to [accounts payable] I found my home again,” said Susie. “I took some college courses in accounting, and payables was always my favorite.”

Susie retired from DMEA in September 2017. What's next? The same thing we all wish for: more time spent at the family cabin (on Miramonte Lake in the West End, of course), more laughs with the grandchildren, and more time with family. Please join us as we wish Susie many more years of just that.

# Protecting Your Investment

Whether you're operating center pivot irrigation systems, industrial machinery, commercial air-handling units, or large-scale air compressors, you've made an investment worth protecting. Equipment like this uses three-phase induction motors, in general 10 HP or greater, which require special protection.

To operate at its optimal performance, a three-phase motor requires all three phases of power – aka services – be fully operational. However, that's not always the case. DMEA's power system is not immune to outages, tree limbs, weather, and other interruptions. In some cases, loss of one phase to your motor may occur and you may not even know it. While three-phase motors can remain operational in this situation, doing so will cause costly damage.

DMEA urges all members who operate three-phase motors to work with their local electrician to install motor protection, which should include loss-of-phase, reverse phasing, and low voltage protection. This protection will sense disturbances, power interruptions, and loss of phases and then turn off the motor to protect it.

If you have questions about your three-phase service, equipment needs, or power quality contact DMEA's engineering team at 877-687-3632.

**A three-phase monitor relay, also called a phase failure relay, is an economical investment that is simple to install. A three-phase monitor relay protects against damage caused by phase loss as well as other three-phase fault conditions. These relays notify of fault conditions and provide control contacts to turn off motors or other equipment before damage occurs. Further, the relay provides clear indication of the fault present allowing for rapid troubleshooting and reduced downtime.**

**Three-phase monitor relays can be designed into new installations or easily retrofitted into existing installations. Several models are available providing different types of protection and multiple voltage ranges are offered to fit most three phase applications.**

**Three-phase motors and other equipment are commonly used in a variety of industries:**

- HVAC
- Mining
- Pumping
- Elevator
- Crane
- Lift
- Generator
- Irrigation
- Petro-Chem
- Wastewater

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**ELEVATE**

Educational Scholarships  
DMEA Educational Scholarships  
Application deadline: January 29, 2018.  
**REMINDER**