



THE PowerLines REPORT

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December 2018

What I'm Grateful for This Holiday Season



Like most of you, I get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season—shopping for my family of five, gathering with friends and family, and eating 1 (or 10) too many Christmas goodies. So, this year, I'm taking a moment to reflect on one of life's many blessings: you.

DMEA has been a cornerstone in my life since 2014. Four years ago, your DMEA Board of Directors choose me to lead this trailblazing cooperative; a fact I'm still humbled by today. DMEA has a long history of bucking tradition and leading by example.

All that is thanks to members like you who continue to voice their ideas and embrace an entrepreneurial spirit. Members like you who continue to push DMEA to always fulfill its original promise of improving the quality of life in Western Colorado. It is members like you who keep me and all of us at DMEA grounded. You remind us that our most important job at DMEA is to serve you. And it is that which I choose to focus on and be grateful this holiday season.

Now, if only you could also help me refrain from yet another piece of my wife's famous homemade fudge. Who am I kidding?

DMEA HOLIDAY CLOSURES

December

MONDAY

24

TUESDAY

25

January

TUESDAY

1

If you need to access your account or pay your bill, visit www.dmea.com or use the payment kiosks located in our front lobbies

Happy Holidays. We wish you the joy of family, the gift of friends, and a peaceful holiday season. Thank you for your loyalty and goodwill throughout the year.



MEMBERS MAKING IT HAPPEN

Elevate would not be a possibility without you. Continue to help us get more communities connected by sharing why you love Elevate with your neighbors. Thank you to all members for making Elevate happen!

Elevate Fiber Big Picture Update

- » Over 11,000 members preregistered for Elevate
- » Over 20 zones/communities with access to Elevate
- » Over 5,000 members connected

Elevate Live Zones

- » Cedaredge 125 | 126
- » Crawford 57 Subzone
- » Hotchkiss 48
- » Montrose 336 | 415 | 417 | 418 | 425 | 426 | 427 | 428 B | 721 | 741 | 813
- » Olathe 138
- » Orchard City 104 | 112
- » Paonia 45 | 47 | 55

Elevate Zones Making Progress



Zone progress recorded on 11/14/2018. To see your zone's current progress or to get your name on the list, visit join.elevatefiber.com.

Elevate TV is Here

Sit back. Relax. Enjoy. Yep, it's that simple. Elevate TV is an app-based TV service so all you have to do is have internet from Elevate, download the app, and go. Three packages to choose from:

- ▶ Locals \$29.95/mo.
- ▶ Expanded \$84.95/mo.
- ▶ Extreme \$109.95/mo.

Elevate launched their TV service at the beginning of November. This means that you can now get it all with Elevate—for real. Internet with speeds up to 1 Gig, unlimited home phone, and now TV—Elevate wants you to be able to get it all from the local provider, powered by local people. Give us a call to add TV today, 1-844-386-8744.

Check out our new website!

See if Elevate is available in your community, sign up for service, manage your services if you are a current customer, pay your bill, and more.

EXPLORE MORE. DO MORE.

elevateinternet.com

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR MEMBERS

Elevate was inspired by you and started for you. It has been a little over two years since the first customers were connected to the fastest and most reliable internet in our community. Those connections would not be possible without your support—thank you! We know the Elevate build process can be frustrating and getting your community to goal can be hard. Keep trying, keep pushing, and we will keep building the fiber network that will take our community forward for years and years to come.

ELEVATE

elevateinternet.com / [f](#) [v](#) [i](#)



"From signing up for Elevate, to installation, we have been most pleased with the service we have received from the kind and efficient ground installation crew and install technician. We are especially pleased with the fast reliable internet connection we are enjoying. Thanks again to all involved."

- John

"Thank you so much for bringing Elevate to me. It has helped immensely. I recommend it to everyone."

- Dorothy

"We are more than satisfied with our new service. You obviously spent a lot of time, effort and money to get your service to us. We did not expect it to happen for at least another several years. THANK YOU. THANK YOU. THANK YOU!!!"

- Sarah

Christmas Brunch

Bagel Breakfast Casserole

Ingredients:

- Unsalted butter or nonstick cooking spray, for greasing the baking dish
- 2 cups whole milk
- 3/4 cup half-and-half
- Pinch of cayenne pepper
- 8 large eggs
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 1/3 cups crumbled cooked breakfast sausage
- 1 1/3 cups packed baby spinach
- 2 large plain bagels, split and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 1/3 cups shredded provolone
- 8 ounces cream cheese, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons everything bagel seasoning

Directions:

Position a rack in the center of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with butter or cooking spray.

Whisk together the milk, half-and-half, cayenne, eggs, 3/4 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper in a large bowl. Fold in the sausage, spinach, bagels and 3/4 cup of the provolone, then pour into the prepared baking dish. Dot the top with the cream cheese and sprinkle all over with the everything bagel seasoning and remaining provolone (see Cook's Note).

Cover with foil and bake for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake until the casserole is puffed, golden brown at the edges and set in the center, about 45 minutes more. Let cool 15 minutes before serving.

Cook's Note

This casserole can be baked right away or assembled the night before, refrigerated and baked the following morning. Let the chilled casserole sit at room temperature for 15 to 20 minutes before baking.

- Foodnetwork.com



Montrose Lighthouse Helping the Homeless

Tucked down a quiet side road on the north edge of town, Montrose Lighthouse Ministries doesn't look like much. But, as is often the case, appearances can be deceiving. This haven for the homeless provided safe and warm overnight shelter last winter for 97 individuals. And it's geared up to help even more this year. Montrose Lighthouse Ministries is a place where the homeless and needy in the Uncompahgre Valley can go for a safe bed, hot meal, and community support. Guests must check in nightly and pass a screening process that ensures sobriety and safety.

"We are a first responder to the homeless and needy in this community. We are not the long-term fix," said Gary Martinez, one of the founding members of the local non-profit.

Martinez is just one of approximately 15 volunteers who put their time in to help maintain Montrose Lighthouse Ministries. He lives a life dedicated to helping those in need also serving as the president of The Shepard's Hand, a local daytime gathering place for homeless individuals where they can eat a nutritious meal, shower, launder clothing, and receive counseling.

"The people we serve are Montrose citizens. [Homelessness] is a community issue that isn't going away," said Martinez.

Montrose Lighthouse Ministries is funded entirely by private donations and DMEA was honored to join that list of supporters last month. Thanks to a partnership with CoBank (a cooperative bank) that provides matching grants to charitable organizations across the United States, DMEA donated \$10,000 to Montrose Lighthouse Ministries.

"The community is supporting us," said Martinez. And he is right—Hilltop, Montrose Community Foundation, Shepard's Hand, City of Montrose, Montrose County and MADA are just a few of the other local organizations lending a hand. Support isn't just limited to organizations. Individuals can help too. According to Martinez, monetary donations make the most impact but they are also in need of housing supplies and their most pressing need is a deep freeze to store perishable food.

Donations can be sent to Montrose Jail Ministries, c/o Montrose Lighthouse Ministries, 3354 N. Townsend, Montrose, CO 81401.



DMEA Board members Kyle Martinez (back L), Ken Watson (back R), and Chris Hauck (front R) present Gary Martinez with a \$10,000 donation to Montrose Lighthouse Ministries.

SMART HOME & ENERGY SAVINGS

with smart blinds.



Make your life easier

Open and close window blinds with the touch of a button, a remote control, or an app on a smartphone. Go ahead, stay relaxed on your couch. You can get extra privacy or shade in seconds—it doesn't get much easier than that!

Save energy

When your smart blinds are connected to a smart home hub, they can help minimize the amount of energy your HVAC system uses by reacting to readings from temperature and sunlight sensors. Your blinds will know when to close during the hottest part of the day to reduce AC use, or whether to open during a sunny winter day to allow the sun to heat a room naturally.

Expand your smart home

Smart thermostats use data to determine whether opening or closing your smart blinds will improve comfort in your home. Multiple data points (weather outside, time of day, heat in the room)— help your thermostat sense when each room is getting too hot and close the shades. You also have the option to manually adjust your blinds from your smart phone or connected device. **Your smart home just got smarter!**

Smart blinds can be purchased from most window covering companies or you can add smart controls to your current blind set with a DIY product like Soma.

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	Kyle Martinez, District 2
Brad Harding, District 3	Ken Watson, District 4
Chris Hauck, District 5	Damon Lockhart, District 6
Mark Eckhart, District 7	John Gavan, North
Tony Prendergast, South	

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.

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.

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.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.

CYBER SAFETY



reminders for the holidays.

- Ignore pop-up offers and deals. Just close them.
- Don't auto-save your passwords or credit card numbers.
- Be alert for charity donation scams. Don't click on links in emails requesting donations.
- Only use apps from known, reputable sources. Keep your apps up to date.
- When not in use, disable Bluetooth and wireless on devices. For example, while traveling turn off during the night at your hotel. This will reduce the risk of your information being intercepted by thieves.
- Make sure your home Wi-Fi is secure:
 - » To prevent data thieves from easily accessing your network make sure WPA2/WPA with AES (not TKIP) is set as the encryption on your network settings. Disable WPS (WiFi Protected Setup) in your settings as well.
 - » Set a strong password—aim for minimum 12 characters with lowercase and uppercase characters, don't forget to add in some numbers and special characters.
 - » Use an inconspicuous SSID network name.
 - » Prepare for holiday guests by creating separate guest networks.
 - » Make sure you control who has administrative access to your home network and always access the admin side via wired connection, not wireless.
 - » Log into your router admin periodically to review connected devices and remove old devices. If you don't recognize a device, remove it, and then update your password.

DMEA and Elevate Fiber;
together we're looking out
for your best interests.