

THE PowerLines REPORT

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February 2018

Grassroots Support Propels Elevate Fiber Forward



Jasen Bronec, CEO

It's been four months since I've updated you on the progress of Elevate Fiber. The last quarter of 2017 was quite the whirlwind. More than 1,000 members preregistered; we connected more than 500 new customers to our network; four new zones hit their signup goals, and we launched voice service in the fall. That is significant progress and that progress is

due to grassroots support from members like you. Your support continues to move us toward the goal of making reliable, high-speed internet available throughout our service territory.

We now provide ultra-fast internet and voice (phone) service in areas of Paonia, Orchard City, Montrose, Cedaredge, and Hotchkiss. As we move into 2018, our goal is to continue pushing more zones to their goals and to expand our network further into Montrose and Delta counties. As of this month, we have eight more zones that are more than halfway to their preregistration goals. We anticipate we will be constructing Elevate's network in many of these zones within the first half of the year.

There are also three zones currently in a holding pattern. Last fall, we submitted a proposal to the Colorado High-Cost Broadband Fund asking for state a grant to help build Paonia 055, Montrose W. 741, and Olathe 138. Shortly before the end of the year, we learned our application was approved. Although this was excellent news, state statute allows incumbent providers, in our case this includes TDS and Century Link, to claim the funds granted to entities like DMEA if they demonstrate that they can offer a substantially similar service. We are currently navigating the appeal process and hope to receive a status update by the end of the month. If our efforts are successful, we will begin building these zones as soon as possible.

A project of this magnitude doesn't come without challenges. We realize that while most areas of our service territory want better internet service, in some places, that want is actually a

desperate need. Frustration, frayed patience, and doubt begin to surface. I can't tell you that we will build Elevate's network to all corners of our service territory all at once. And I can't promise that many of you won't continue to wait another year, two, or even three. These are the realities of building a new fiber network.

Just as DMEA prudently budgets in order to provide safe and reliable power, so too does Elevate. There is only so much financing we can obtain, only so much risk we can tolerate, and only so many miles of fiber we can physically build at one time. What I can promise you is that your board and the employees at DMEA and Elevate will continue to do everything they can to make Elevate available to all members. I hope we can count on your continued support too.

OUR SERVICES

Residential Internet

- 100 Mbps at \$49.95/mo.
- 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps) at \$79.95/mo
- WiFi support packages starting at \$4.95/mo.

Voice

- Now available - call 877-687-3632 to add
- Residential, \$30/mo.
- Basic Business, \$50/mo.

Video

- Coming soon in 2018!

ZONES STATUS *(as of January 16, 2018)*

Montrose 813 | 90%, 68 more needed

Montrose 417 | 84%, 11 more needed

Cedaredge 126 | 79%, 25 more needed

Orchard City 112 | 70%, 194 more needed

Hotchkiss 67 | 62%, 161 more needed

Montrose 415 | 61%, 79 more needed

Montrose 336 | 60%, 4 more needed

Montrose S. 337 | 50%, 76 more needed

GO AHEAD AND GO FAST




With Elevate internet you can get speeds up to 1 Gig (1,000 Mbps).

With so many options and all the technical jargon out there, how do you really know what internet speed you need?

Things to consider when choosing your speed:

- How many people/devices are connected at once?
- Do you want to stream any HD content?
- Does anyone game online?
- Do you upload large files or work from home?

What can your connection do for you?

Activity	10 Mbps 	100 Mbps 	1 Gig (1,000 Mbps) 
1-2 devices connected to the internet for surfing, emailing, streaming	✓	✓	✓
Cloud-based file sharing		✓	✓
Crystal-clear video call		✓	✓
Online gaming		✓	✓
Stream 4K HD content		✓	✓
Stream 5 HD videos at once			✓
Download a 4-minute song	3 seconds	0.3 seconds	0.03 seconds
Download a 2-hour HD movie	60 minutes	4.5 minutes	25 seconds

Elevate Fiber is here to deliver much more than a “good experience” on every device that needs to be connected to the internet, wired or via WiFi. Not only is Elevate delivering truly high-speed internet options, we are building the most reliable, future-proof network with fiber. You may have asked yourself why do I need more speed? If you are a basic email user, you may not think you need more speed, but wouldn't you like to have the reliability of fiber and be able to upload or download photos from email without waiting?

Preregister for service and learn more about Elevate at join.elevatefiber.com.

join.elevatefiber.com / 

ELEVATE
FIBER ► POWERED BY DMEA

Dive into Hands-on STEM Training

Free energy and science training for teachers

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association has once again teamed up with the National Energy Education Development Project (NEED) to host a hands-on energy workshop just for 4th – 12th grade teachers. The three-day conference will take place June 19 – 21, 2018, and is designed to provide local educators with the most up-to-date information on all aspects of energy so they can bring back engaging lessons and activities to their classrooms. Those in attendance receive the following:

- **Hands-on Science of Energy kits for the classroom, \$300 value**
- **Training on all aspects of energy and energy technologies**
- **Professional development credit**
- **STEM curriculum on the science of energy, sources of energy, electricity, efficiency, and more.**
- **Assistance meeting math and language Common Core Standards**



Teachers created wind turbines to understand and to share with their students how wind is used to generate electricity.

The program is open to all teachers, grades 4th – 12th, within DMEA's service territory. Interested teachers must apply online at www.regonline.com/needtristate2018. Conference tuition, lodging, meals, transportation, and conference materials are provided.

Learn more about the NEED project: www.need.org
Apply online now: www.regonline.com/needtristate2018

Concern for the Community

DMEA Stocks Local Food Banks

Cooperative Principle #7 – Concern for Community
While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

DMEA put the seventh co-op principle in action by stocking food banks in Montrose and Hotchkiss with more than 2,000 pounds of pork, beef, lamb, and goat. Every year, DMEA supports the Montrose and Delta County Fairs and local 4-H clubs by purchasing livestock during the annual Junior Livestock Auctions. After processing the meat, DMEA donates it to Sharing Ministries Food Bank (45 N. 1st Street, Montrose) and Hotchkiss United Methodist Church Food Bank (285 2nd Street, Hotchkiss).



DMEA board members Kyle Martinez (L) and Jim Elder (R) with Sharing Ministries office manager, Vanessa Ryser.

About Sharing Ministries

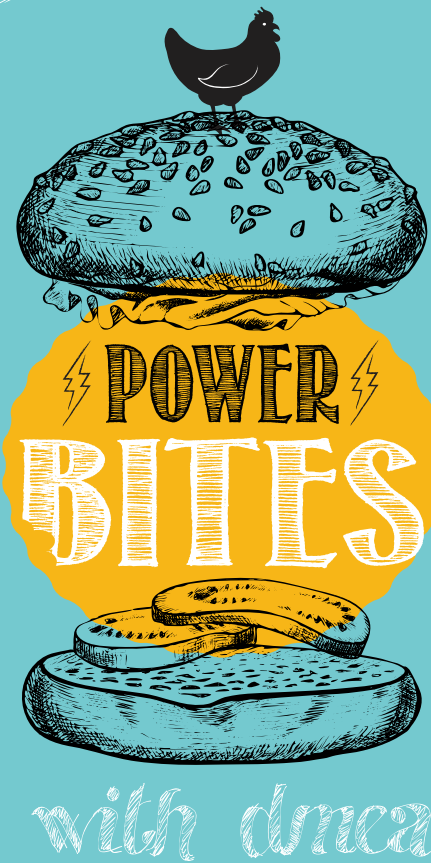
Sharing Ministries serves between 3,200-5,200 families each month and is always in need of volunteers and donations. Items that food stamps do not cover are especially needed, such as baby diapers and feminine hygiene products. As the largest food pantry on the Western Slope, Sharing Ministries also donates supplies to smaller, local community food pantries. For more information on Sharing Ministries, visit sharingministries.com and be sure to stop in at Green Cupboard on Main Street in Montrose where all sale proceeds benefit Sharing Ministries.



DMEA board members Mark Eckhart (center) and John Gavan (R) with Hotchkiss United Methodist Church Food Bank administrator, Sharon Teter.

About Hotchkiss United Methodist Church Food Bank

The Hotchkiss Methodist Church has been facilitating the food bank in the North Fork region for the past seven years. In 2017, it served 10,501 meals to those in need and also helps to serve additional community food pantries in Paonia and Crawford. Canned goods, pantry staples, hygiene products, and monetary donations are welcomed. For more information, contact the church at 970-872-3540.



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.

[March 9, 2018]

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
 RJ's Steakhouse
 2323 S. Grand Mesa Dr.,
 Cedaredge, CO

DMEA / **ELEVATE**

SMART HOME & ENERGY SAVINGS

with the GE Smart High-Efficiency Washer and Dryer.

Rebates. WiFi control. And more. One of the top rebates we see is for new washers and dryers, but why not save more time and energy and go with a smart washer and dryer? With the WiFi enabled GE high-efficiency smart washer and dryer, you can wirelessly control your laundry (you can even use voice commands), save custom cycles, automatically dispense detergent, customize water fill levels, monitor cycle status, extend dryer time (no more wrinkled laundry), and remotely start cycles. **Learn more about DMEA's rebates at www.dmea.com.**



Check it out at The Home Depot in-store or online. You can also check out the specs at the GE Appliances website.



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, <i>District 1</i>	Kyle Martinez, <i>District 2</i>
Brad Harding, <i>District 3</i>	Jim Elder, <i>District 4</i>
Marshall Collins, <i>District 5</i>	Damon Lockhart, <i>District 6</i>
Mark Eckhart, <i>District 7</i>	John Gavan, <i>North</i>
Tony Prendergast, <i>South</i>	

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:

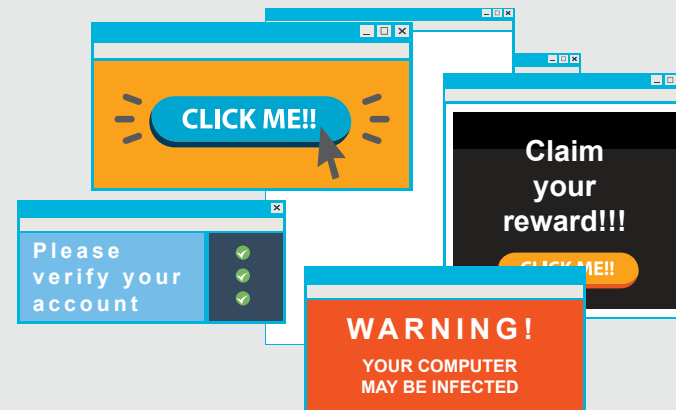
Submit recipes, including your name, address, and phone number to:
 DMEA Newsletter
 PO Box 910
 Montrose, CO 81402
 Or email your information to communications@dmea.com.

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.

PROTECT YOURSELF ONLINE

Easily identify malicious pop-ups.



Pop-ups that contain any of the following information are more than likely trying to capture your information for illegal use or install a virus on your device (computer, laptop, tablet, smartphone).

- » You are at risk
- » Windows virus warning
- » Displays an unknown number to call
- » Congratulations
- » Verify your account
- » Elevate/DMEA needs your input
- » Your reward is ready

If you see a pop-up that sounds too good to be true or looks suspicious, do not click or share. If you're questioning the legitimacy of a pop-up that looks like it is from Elevate or DMEA, don't click. Give us a call first at 877-687-3632.

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

Home COOKING

Malasadas

(Portuguese doughnuts)

Ingredients:

- 8 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 pint milk
- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 2 pkg. yeast

Directions:

Mix flour, salt, and sugar. Place yeast in 1 cup of warm milk and blend well. Beat eggs together and add to the yeast and milk. Mix about half of the flour mixture into the yeast mixture and mix well. Then, add rest of the milk and flour and mix. The mixture will be a little runny. Cover the bowl and let rise. When doubled, drop the dough by tablespoons into hot fat and fry until golden brown. Shake in a bag of sugar to coat or pour warm honey over and serve.

- LaLauna Bandmann, Montrose

