

# THE PowerLines REPORT

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May 2019

## What do a concert, magic, and carnival games all have in common?



Jasen Bronec, CEO

We admit it. DMEA's annual meetings can be a bit, well, predictable. You come. You vote. You eat. And then, you're kind enough to let me speak about your co-op's major accomplishments for the year, without heckling me off the stage. So, what does that have to do with a concert, magic, and carnival games? DMEA's 2019 Annual Meeting, of course. And, as our theme, *Never Settle*, implies, we couldn't settle for predictable, so we're mixing it up this year. I'm personally inviting you to join us for this year's Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at Hotchkiss High School.

As always, the meeting will also conclude the 2019 elections for DMEA's Board of Directors. This year, you're responsible for electing representatives for District 3, District 4, and the South Region. Ballots will arrive late this month. I hope you won't take your responsibility to vote lightly. Complete your ballot and return it in the envelope provided. Be sure to drop it in the mail by Friday, June 14, so that it reaches our election management company in time. You can also place your ballots in the new ballot drop boxes located in the lobbies of either DMEA office—just be sure to bring them in before June 19, 2019 at 5pm. Or, you can wait to vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

## Never Settle

**DMEA Annual Meeting of Members**

**Thursday, June 20 | Hotchkiss High School**

**5:00 – 6:00 PM**

**Voting, FREE dinner, and magic**

**6:00 – 7:00 PM**

**A quick, but necessary business meeting**

**7:00 – 9:00 PM**

**Concert on the lawn  
& kid's carnival games!**



Join us to celebrate another successful year. Enjoy grilled bratwursts from Hotchkiss Meats. Be wowed by local magician Ty Gallenbeck. And kick back or cut a rug to some great country and bluegrass tunes on the turf. The first 300 through the door get a lawn blanket to keep them warm.



# WHY DO I NEED A GIG?

VA



**There's a lot of talk about Gig internet, but do you really know what a Gig can do for you? Here are a few things you may not know about Gig speeds:**

- ▶ Only 1 Gig speed internet is fast enough to do it all at the same time without buffering: stream HD TV and movies, upload photos, finish up online homework, watch videos on Facebook, listen to music, and so much more.
- ▶ The Fiber-to-the-Home Council's nationwide study of real estate prices found that access to fiber internet and Gig speeds increases the value of a house up to 3.1%. That's \$6,200 on the average home!
- ▶ Never have to worry about the future, you can easily add new tech like 8K TVs, home security systems, and more smart home devices at any time—your Gig connection makes it seamless.

**Only a true Gig connection—1,000 Mbps—lets you do it all. And it just so happens that a fiber network, like Elevate's, is the only technology that can provide true Gig speeds!**

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FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)

## Local Hydros Could Power 8,000 Homes, but they Only Power 4,300

Spring waters are flowing, which means the local hydroelectric plants came online last month and are churning out thousands of kilowatts of local renewable energy. In total, five hydro plants are situated along the US Bureau of Reclamation's Uncompahgre Project in and around Montrose, CO—this project is locally often referred to as South Canal, Shavano Falls, or the Gunnison Tunnel diversion.

The Uncompahgre Project is managed by the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association (UVWUA), and DMEA is proud to generate (or purchase) and deliver as much local energy from it as we can to our members' homes and businesses. On average, these plants combined produce enough electricity throughout their operating season (typically early April through October) to power the annual needs of roughly 8,000 average homes in DMEA's service territory.

But, unfortunately, not all that power is actually delivered to DMEA members. DMEA is limited by a provision in our wholesale power contract that caps our ability to provide locally generated renewable energy at 5% of our members' total electricity needs. The five hydro plants together amount to as much as 13% of our annual energy needs. As a result, our members are only able to benefit from three of the five hydro plants, Drop 1, Drop 3, and Drop 5. The power produced by the other two plants is sold outside of our service territory due to the limitations of our Tri-State contract.

### Three Reasons to Love Local Hydro

#### 1. It's local

To ensure we don't send dollars out of town (or state) for power unnecessarily. Instead that money stays right here in our community because we are able to purchase the energy from local companies like the Uncompahgre Water Users Association

#### 2. It's economical

On average, the power we generate from the local hydro plants is 35% cheaper than the power we purchase from Tri-State.

#### 3. It's environmental

Small hydro uses water to produce energy with its only byproduct being that same water. And since these units are small "run-of-river" systems, its means the water passes them through is directed back in to the irrigation canal with little impact on aquatic life and the surrounding environment.



Above, Mark Kurtz leads a group middle school students on a tour of the Drop 1 Hydro facility just outside of Montrose.

## Photo Contest Winner

Lacie Pipher, Hotchkiss



I started into photography from the other side of the camera, modeling for friends when I was in college. I soon found that I like being the one holding the camera more than being in front of it. I finally took the leap and bought a DSLR in the fall of 2018, and have already seen an improvement on my part. I've never taken a course in photography and have really learned what I know by trial and error and input from friends.



My passions are my family, horses, and the great outdoors; and these are the things that inspire me. My family, as well as my husband's, have lived in the North Fork for over 100 years, and with my photography I love to share the beauty of the area that has kept them here. I enjoy taking my family on adventures in our own back yard and beyond. To see more of my work, check out Lacie Allen Art/Photography on Facebook or my website at <https://lrpipher.wixsite.com/lacieallen>.



## 3 REASONS TO SAY BYE TO YOUR PAPER BILL

### Stop wasting paper.

Every month, DMEA sends more than 27,000 paper statements to members, like you. That's a lot of paper—324,000 sheets a year just in bills to be exact. That equates to 32 trees cut down every year just to send paper bills.

### Reduce clutter.

Every house has that one spot where mail, bills included, just stack up. Maybe that's the corner of your desk or right next to your phone on the kitchen counter. Either way, your DMEA bill doesn't have to be part of that clutter. Instead, get your bill delivered straight to you email inbox every month.

### Save money.

Starting in July, you'll see a \$2 paper statement fee on your DMEA bill. Go paperless now and save that \$2 each month. What can \$2 get you that's way better than a bill anyway? A Wendys Jr. Bacon Cheeseburger, a candy bar, a pack a gum, a song on iTunes, a scratch ticket. . .pretty much anything is better than paying extra to get your bill.

## HOW TO OPT-OUT OF YOUR PAPER BILL



**Online:** Visit [www.dmea.com](http://www.dmea.com) and click on the Pay My Bill button at the top of the site. Hover over My Profile and click My Information. Then, click Update My Paperless Settings. Set the button under Paperless to ON. Click yes to confirm.



**By phone:** Give us a call at 877-687-3632 and let a customer service representative know you'd no longer like to receive a paper bill.



**Email:** Send an email to [csrs@dmea.com](mailto:csrs@dmea.com) with a note informing us you'd like to go paperless.

**Remember, you'll need a valid email address to go paperless, because we'll send your bill straight to your inbox each month. And don't worry, that's exactly how you'll start getting this newsletter too so you won't miss out on any important news.**



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:

<i>Bill Patterson, District 1</i>	<i>Kyle Martinez, District 2</i>
<i>Brad Harding, District 3</i>	<i>Ken Watson, District 4</i>
<i>Chris Hauck, District 5</i>	<i>Damon Lockhart, District 6</i>
<i>Mark Eckhart, District 7</i>	<i>Stacia Cannon, North</i>
<i>Tony Prendergast, 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 date, time, and location.

## Save Energy with Smart Power Strips.



Did you know that many of the items you keep plugged in all the time, like printers, computers, lamps, and TVs use electricity even when they are turned off? As your TV or computer sits waiting in standby mode it's using energy. And, while convenient, this standby mode does come at a cost.

Smart power strips are one way you can cut back on this wasted energy. Here's how they work:

- ▶ Any electronics that go into standby mode are automatically turned off by the power strip—no power is delivered to them.
- ▶ Some strips let you keep one item on but turn off power to related items. For example, one socket will power your TV, and you would plug in your BluRay player, gaming system, or other things you only use when the TV is on, into the other sockets. The strip only gives those other items power when your TV is on.

**Smart power strips can be found anywhere electronics are sold and aren't much more expensive than regular power strips. Look on the label for the benefits and features listed above.**

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

## PROTECT OUR POWER POLES



### Burning can damage our power poles.

Controlled burns are an important tool in Western Colorado for managing and restoring natural areas—we're asking you to use extra precaution when burning near our power poles or other parts of the electric system. Here are a few tips to help keep your spring burning in control:

**Be aware** – Take special note of DMEA power poles, equipment, and lines before starting your burn. Burning a power pole could result in a widespread power outage and be costly for you. Poles that have sustained damage must be replaced.

**Prep the area** – Before beginning your burn, cut all grass and weeds near our poles to reduce the fire hazard. The U.S. Department of Agriculture also advises the removal of all dead trees within 20 feet of a planned burn.

**Wet to prevent** – Water the area near our poles to help prevent it from catching fire, **but be careful to keep water streams out of our power lines.**

**Check the weather** – Be sure to check the weather on the day of your planned burn, before you starting burning. Avoid burning in windy conditions.

**Obey the law** – Do not burn when fire restrictions have been put in place in your area.

If a pole catches fire while burning your ditches or fields, call 911 and report it to us immediately at 877-687-3632. Do not attempt to put out the fire yourself because the risk for shock or electrocution is heightened.



A DMEA power pole was significantly damaged by fire and required replacement.

Remember, burnt poles can cause outages and costly repairs.



## HOME COOKING



### My Keto Bread

Recipe from *Lenice Geiger, Montrose*

#### Ingredients:

- 8 oz cream cheese
- 2 cup mozzarella cheese - shredded
- 3 lg. eggs - beaten
- ¼ cup parmesan cheese - grated
- 1 cup pork rinds – crushed
- 5 Tbsp. almond flour
- 1 Tbsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. oregano - +/- to taste
- ¼ tsp garlic powder - +/- to taste

#### Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line cookie sheet with parchment paper.

Place cream cheese and mozzarella cheese in 2-Qt glass bowl. Microwave on high for 1.5 min. Stir. Microwave another 1 – 1.5 min., until completely melted. Stir well. Add all remaining ingredients and stir until thoroughly mixed. Will have biscuit like texture.

Spread mixture on parchment lined cookie sheet (a pastry/pizza roller works great). Bake 15-20 min., until slightly golden brown. Cool on rack 15 min. Then transfer to rack and remove paper. Cool completely. Cut into 12 equal pieces to use for sandwiches or slathered with favorite spread. Cut into strips for bread sticks - great dipping in keto marinara.

### WE'RE IN NEED OF YOUR RECIPES!

Submit your best recipe, along with your name and address, to [communications@dmea.com](mailto:communications@dmea.com) and win a \$25 gift card.

