

THE PowerLines REPORT

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JULY 2020

Get to Know Your Chief Technology Officer



Kent Blackwell, Chief Technology Officer

Years at DMEA: Two

Education/experience:

I have 30 years of experience in telecom, 20 of which have been working for electric co-ops that have developed telecom solutions in their communities.

What is DMEA/Elevate doing that you're most proud to be a part of?

An unwavering desire to improve the lives of the communities we serve. Back in 1938, DMEA was formed to improve the quality of life for Montrose and Delta counties by bringing electricity to these parts of rural Colorado. Fast-forward 80 years and DMEA is aiming to improve the quality of life again by bringing broadband services to these same communities. This is truly a labor of love for the entire staff. We believe Elevate is essential to helping our communities thrive in the future, complete with all modern necessities, conveniences, and luxuries that will sustain - and grow - our area economy.

What motivates you to work hard?

Knowing that everything we do is for the benefit of our members, neighbors, friends, and relatives.

What is your favorite family tradition?

As with many kids growing up, going to grandma and grandpa's house was ever exciting. Of course, back then, I didn't realize how much it meant to me, but it did nourish eternal gratefulness for family. As I got older, my grandparents passed on and that family

togetherness took on new meaning. Simply gathering as a family, no matter the excuse to do so, is forever appreciated - thanks completely to the home and haven that my grandparents created.

Where would we find you in your free time?

Most likely in a pile of sawdust or dipped in grease. I love building and wrenching on things.

If you didn't work for DMEA what would be doing?

As my college studies were in Architectural Engineering, likely designing, building, or engineering structures of some sort.

What are you most thankful for?

Family. Undoubtedly and unquestionably, family.

What makes DMEA/Elevate special to you?

The fact that everything we do and every goal we have is for the greater benefit of the communities we serve. Every single day has reward in our ability to serve

If you had to describe yourself in just 1 word, what would it be?

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious (a super long word that speaks to fun, witty-yet-whimsical, timelessly-debonair but spontaneously-charming).





Olathe-native Kyle Martinez may be best known around these parts as a jack-of-all-trades. He's a farmer and rancher, businessman, and entrepreneur. And now, he's making an even more impressive mark well beyond our local communities, serving on two State of Colorado councils created to help the state recover from the repercussions of COVID-19.

Kyle, along with his wife Kat, operates a farm growing hay and raising horses and cows. He works full-time at his family's home health agency, Touch of Care, where he manages several in-home support programs and serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the hospice division. Kyle and Kat also own Black Canyon Tickets, so chances are you've also seen him working the door at your favorite local event.

Since 2015, Kyle has served the citizens of Montrose and Delta counties as a board of director for DMEA, helping the co-op navigate the launch of a fiber internet company and transition to a new power supplier. And last, but certainly not least, he's also a sleep-deprived dad to young daughter Elizabeth.

To many, that might seem like an overfull plate, but according to Kyle, it's a blessing. "I've been blessed with a lot in this life - a healthy and happy family and the opportunity to live and work in a place I love. And now, I'm in a position where I can give back to my community," says Kyle.

So, when Federico Peña, Chairman of the Governor's Council on Economic Stabilization and Growth, rang up Kyle asking him to join the council's energy committee, the answer was an obvious yes. The purpose of this council is to bring together the best and brightest minds from across the state and various industries to create strategies that will put people back to work and revitalize Colorado's economy. Kyle has been a voice for Western Colorado on this committee, helping craft both federal and state recommendations.

"I have worked hard to help members through these tough times and have been successful in some of my recommendations. The Governor accepted and implemented all of [the committee's] ideas submitted on our first report," said Kyle.

His work didn't go unnoticed. Sighting his diverse experience with home health care, hospice, and electric cooperatives - in addition to the Energy Committee - Chairman Pena then recommended Kyle also be appointed to the Governor's New Normal Advisory Board. The mission of this 14-member board is to advise the Governor and state health department on how to implement successful social distancing measures, put in place due to COVID-19, at a local level.

"I hope my work and contributions to these committees help my fellow community members while aiding the state in moving through these troubling times," said Kyle.

Congratulations to our 2020 Scholarship recipients!



Catherine Borner,
Montrose



Katharine King,
Delta



Olivia Haga,
Montrose



Katya Schwieterman,
Paonia



McKayla Rothe,
Montrose



Nadia Hill,
Hotchkiss



Nolan Egging,
Crawford



Calvin Reese,
Paonia



Dayton Sofka,
Olathe



Lyndsey Anderson,
Montrose



Alexis Suarez,
Montrose



Sara Jurca,
Delta



Jennifer Vidmar,
Montrose



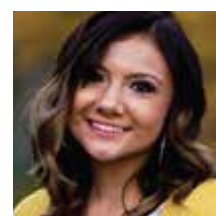
Danny Bynum,
Montrose



Eric Yergenson,
Montrose



Lauren Davey,
Olathe



Tycee Taylor,
Hotchkiss



Ashley Van Vleet

Not pictured: Emily Hartman, Montrose • Tiffany Hickey, Olathe
Joshua Jenkins, Cedaredge

VA

Staying up to date on your 401k

Researching Amazon's top-rated kayaks

Streaming your old favorites for date night

Video chatting with your college grad

Tweaking your A/C from the couch

Finding the perfect rental for your summer vacay

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DMEA

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T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

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Read Office

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Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1
Brad Harding, District 3
Chris Hauck, District 5
Enno Heuscher, District 7
Jock Fleming, South
Kyle Martinez, District 2
Ken Watson, District 4
Damon Lockhart, District 6
Stacia Cannon, North

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.

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 (269)598-9386 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.

HOME COOKING



Rhubarb Pudding Cake

Bette Behrens, Eckert



Ingredients:

4 c diced rhubarb
1 1/2 c sugar, divided
1/4 c butter or shortening
1 egg
1/2 tsp vanilla
1 c flour
2 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
1/2 c milk

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°. Cook rhubarb with 1 cup of sugar for 12-15 minutes. Cream shortening and sugar, beat in egg and vanilla. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Add to creamed mixture and alternate with milk.

Pour into greased 9" square pan and pour cooked rhubarb over top of batter. Bake for 30-35 minutes.

WE'RE IN NEED OF YOUR RECIPES!

Submit your best recipe, along with your name, address and photo of your dish, to communications@dmea.com

If we print your recipe, you win a \$25 gift card.

MONTROSE, HERE WE COME!

Elevate internet expanding throughout Montrose City Limits



Over the next eight months, Elevate will be constructing more than 130 miles of new fiber lines all across the City of Montrose, bringing truly high-speed and reliable internet to thousands of local citizens. Check out the new zones we'll be constructing to the left. Get your name on the list today at elevateinternet.com, so you'll be the first know when we're ready to provide you with live service!

Are you ready?

The wait is over - at least it almost is - for thousands of homes and businesses within the City of Montrose. Thanks to a partnership with the City, Elevate was able to subzone 97% of the city limits. We began building our fiber optic network within the Montrose city limits last month, starting in the Chipeta Subzone.

THE TIMELINE

May

Construction kicked off in the Chipeta Subzone. Folks in this zone can expect live service by the end of the month!

Now – September

Construction will ramp up, starting first in Brown Ranch and American Village subzones. These areas should be surfing on our blazing-fast network by the fall. Then, we'll hit the ground running in the Fairview (a zone we were awarded \$1.4 million to build).

Fall to early winter

Next up is South Townsend, Iron Horse, East Main, Bear Creek, and 6450 Road subzones. We expect to have these zones coming online beginning in late fall and into early 2021.

2021 through the spring

Construction in North Townsend and West Meadows subzones will wrap up construction within the city limits with live service being available here no later than April 2021.

Not sure if any of these zones are yours? Check out the updated zone map at join.elevatefiber.com.

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