

# THE PowerLines REPORT



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December 2023

## Happy Holidays. Happy News.



Jack Johnston, CEO

This holiday season brings more than just good cheer here at DMEA – it also brings an abundance of good news for our members. I have the privilege of sharing it with you this month!

### Stable Energy Rates

I'm happy to keep repeating myself on this first item. I mentioned it at our Annual Meeting in June and again the

following month, but as colder weather and higher energy use set in, it's worth sharing again. **DMEA will not have a rate increase in 2024.** We are all experiencing rising costs from the grocery store to the gas station, so the focus on stabilizing your energy rates will continue. And remember, if you're struggling to pay your energy bills this winter, I encourage you to check out Colorado's LEAP program. Eligibility is income-based, and the program helps cover a portion of your home heating costs, regardless of whether you heat your home with electricity or gas. You can learn more online at [cdhs.colorado.gov/leap](https://cdhs.colorado.gov/leap).

### Even Faster Internet

Never a broadband provider to settle for internet that's just fast enough, Elevate recently increased

its base internet speed from 150 Mbps to 400 Mbps. Prices stayed the same, and you've been experiencing your new faster speed for a few months now, no strings attached. It's one way we're saying thank you for your support over the years. But more importantly, it's our way of making sure you always have the speed you need before it's too late.

### Risk-Free Connections

There is another bit of good news on the Elevate front. When we first began building our fiber network and serving customers, Elevate required you to sign a 1-year contract. While it was a standard industry business practice at the time, many of our customers didn't like it. I am happy to announce that we have listened and responded to your desires. Elevate officially scrapped our contract term commitments in October. You can now try us risk-free. We'll work hard to earn your loyalty because that's how it should be.

To close out my holiday message, I want to offer a few words beyond the business. As you gather to celebrate the holiday season, remember that not everyone in our community may be so fortunate to experience its joy and warmth. Let us all extend grace, kindness, and a helping hand to those in need. May you all find joy in your heart and love in your home – Happy Holidays!



# LEAP

## HERE TO HELP

LEAP is a federally funded program that helps eligible Coloradans pay a portion of their winter home heating costs. To qualify for LEAP, your maximum monthly household income must fall within the guidelines during the month you apply. Applications are being accepted November 1 - April 30.

Learn more by calling 1-866-HEAT-HELP or at [cdhs.colorado.gov/LEAP](https://cdhs.colorado.gov/LEAP).



# 2024 DMEA SCHOLARSHIPS

## **\$3,000 High School Graduate**

Awarded to ten graduating seniors from the local high schools within DMEA service territory.

## **\$2,000 Colorado Mesa University Montrose**

Awarded to two applicants who are attending or planning to attend full-time at CMU-Montrose.

## **\$2,000 Continuing Education**

Awarded to three applicants who are currently enrolled full-time in an accredited post-high school educational institution.

## **\$2,000 Lineworker**

Awarded to two applicants enrolled in or planning to enroll in a lineworker school.

## **\$2,000 Technical College of the Rockies**

Awarded to two applicants who are attending or planning to attend full-time at TCR.

## **\$3,000 Guzman Character**

Awarded to one high school graduate showing exceptional character.

**Each year, DMEA offers more than \$50,000 in college scholarships to local graduating seniors and continuing education students.**

**Applications open December 1, 2023. Apply by March 1, 2024 at [dmea.com/scholarships](https://dmea.com/scholarships).**



## **DMEA BOARD APPOINTS STEVE METHENY**





On November 10, 2023, DMEA's Board of Directors appointed Steve Metheny as the District 2 board representative. No stranger to DMEA, Steve spent 38 years as a cooperative employee playing a significant role in energy efficiency, engineering, hydroelectric generation, and the creation of Elevate Internet, DMEA's fiber internet subsidiary. Steve retired from DMEA in 2018, but it didn't last long, and he now currently serves as the Director of the Montrose Campus for Colorado Mesa University.

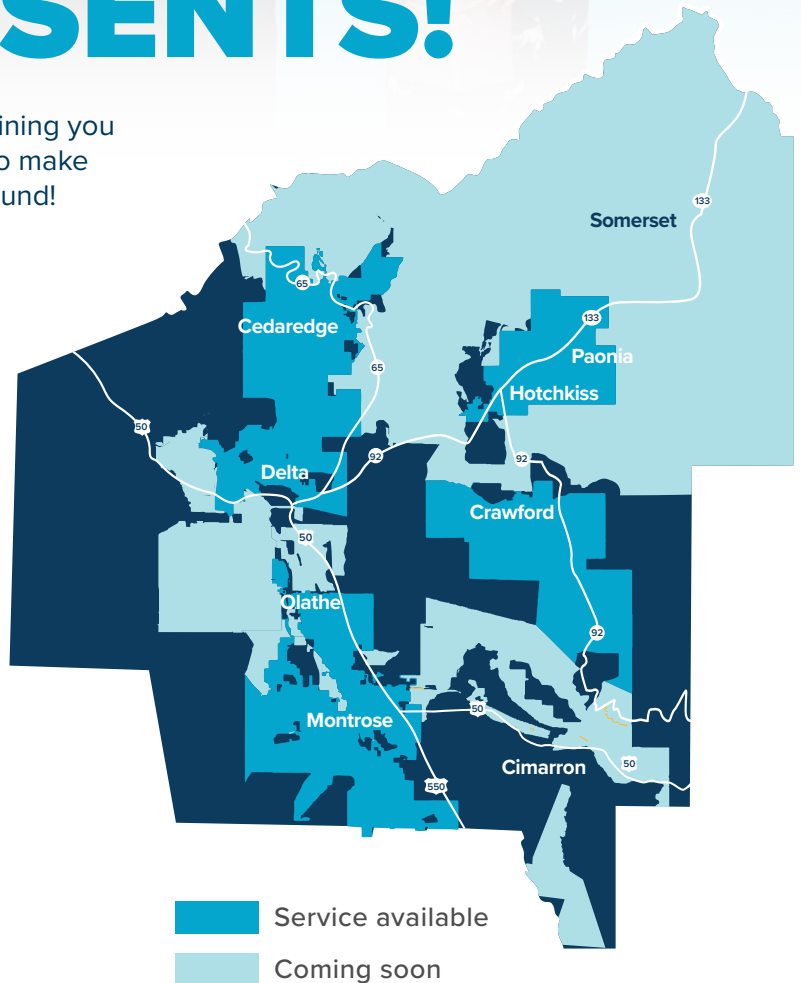
**Welcome, Steve! Learn more about your DMEA board of directors at [dmea.com](https://dmea.com).**




# 'Tis the Season FOR PRESENTS!

With family and friends from near and far joining you for the holidays, we have some extra gifts to make sure you have enough bandwidth to go around!

-  Minimum speeds increased to 400 Mbps, same low price
-  Free ElevateIQ app keeps you and your loved ones protected
-  No contracts
-  Service available in even more new areas



	Fast Internet	per month
	400 Mbps	\$54.95
	1,000 Mbps (1 Gig)	\$79.95
	Even Faster Internet	per month
	2,000 Mbps (2 Gig)	\$124.95
	6,000 Mbps (6 Gig)*	\$189.95

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Available in live service areas only. Installation is zero money down and \$10/mo., for 10 months or \$100 upfront. Internet speeds up to 6 Gig for wired connections. \*Six-gig internet packages require initial consultation with Elevate tech support.

# CONCERN FOR Community

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLE #7



From left to right: Thomas, Greater Somerset Food Pantry; Sharon, Hotchkiss Methodist Church; Stacia Cannon, DMEA Board President.

## A Double Dose of Donations

Each year, DMEA supports young people at the Delta and Montrose County Fairs by purchasing the prize-winning animals they have raised. Once those animals are processed, we donate the meat to local food banks to feed those in need.

## How we are helping

This year, DMEA teamed up with Guzman Energy to purchase and process beef, pork, goat, and lamb. We delivered more than 600 pounds of meat to the Hotchkiss Methodist Church Food Bank, the Greater Somerset Food Pantry, and Sharing Ministries.

## How you can help

Donate or volunteer at a food bank near you!



From left to right: Bradley Adams and Terri Hart, Sharing Ministries; Bill Patterson and Emily Sanchez, DMEA Board Members.

### Montrose County:

Shepherd's Hand  
505 South 2nd Street in Montrose  
970-275-7215  
shepherdshandmontrose.org

Sharing Ministries  
49 North 1st Street in Montrose  
970-240-8385  
sharingministries.com

### Delta County:

Hotchkiss Community United  
Methodist Church Food Pantry  
285 North 2nd Street in Hotchkiss  
970-872-3540  
hotchkisscumc.org

Cedaredge Food Bank  
245 West Main Street in Cedaredge  
970-856-1125

Greater Somerset Food Bank  
3688 Highway 133 in Somerset  
970-929-5500

Crawford Community United  
Methodist Church Food Bank  
297 Dogwood Avenue in Crawford  
970-921-3300

Delta Food Pantry  
628 Meeker Street in Delta  
970-200-4225  
deltafoodpantry.org

North Fork Ministerial Food Pantry  
325 Box Elder Avenue in Paonia  
970-314-0475  
paoniafellowship.com/food-pantry



**Montrose Office**  
11925 6300 Road  
Montrose, CO 81401  
M, W, F; 8:00am-5:00pm  
T & Th; 8:00am-6:00pm

**Read Office**  
21191 H 75 Road  
Delta, CO 81416  
M - F; 8:00am-5:00pm

**Contact Us:**  
877-687-3632 | dmea.com |    

### Your Board of Directors:

Bill Patterson, District 1  
Jacob Gray, District 3  
Kevin Williams, District 5  
Enno Heuscher, District 7  
Jock Fleming, South  
Steve Metheny, District 2  
Emily Sanchez, 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.

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 [ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](https://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 USDA by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, DC. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.instate@usda.gov](mailto:program.instate@usda.gov).

# Cyber Safety

**BE AWARE:**  
Don't fall victim to  
cyber scams



## STAYING SAFE ON PUBLIC WIFI

When you sit down at your favorite local cafe to check your email with a hot cup of coffee, remember you're not alone when you are tapping into public Wi-Fi. Follow these tips to stay safe while you sip:

- 1 Avoid those unsecured networks that are like the specialty drink listed on cafe chalkboard—unpredictable and potentially unsavory. Only use networks with strong encryption and a password, often found on your cafe receipt.
- 2 Don't forget to use a robust antivirus program to protect you like a cup sleeve, ensuring you don't get burned from downloading a hot shot of malware.
- 3 Set up a VPN, or Virtual Protection Network (available with antivirus software) to shield your sensitive data from over caffeinated bad actors lurking in that over-stuffed chair in the corner.
- 4 Be cautious with your personal information. Turn off sharing and hotspot settings and make sure your device isn't broadcasting your identity and information like the smell of burnt coffee from a newbie barista.
- 5 Keep your devices updated and secure, just like you would care for your favorite to-go mug. Regularly install security updates, use strong passwords, and consider enabling two-factor authentication for an extra layer of protection.

Read more at [elevateinternet.com/national-cybersecurity-awareness-month](http://elevateinternet.com/national-cybersecurity-awareness-month)



**SEE  
SOMETHING?**

**SAY  
SOMETHING**

### Better Power Together

As part of a member-owned cooperative, we're all in this together. That means DMEA is in charge of taking care of our electric grid so you get reliable energy delivered to your door, but we need your help with reporting anything that just doesn't seem right.

### Keep an Eye out for Equipment

If you come across a piece of electrical equipment that is damaged, it could be dangerous to you or others around you. Report anything that looks amiss to DMEA. Likewise, if you see anyone intentionally destroying substations or the hardware that brings us all power, call 911.

### Theft Costs Everyone

There have been stories in the news lately about thieves going to great lengths to steal copper lines and equipment from utilities. Even though the return on selling copper isn't that great, stealing or even tampering with equipment means we have to replace it and fix anything that was broken. Ultimately, that costs our members money. If you see a damaged fence, an unlocked gate, or anyone who isn't a DMEA representative handling our equipment, report it immediately.

**Report any damage to electrical equipment you may come upon to DMEA immediately by calling 877-687-3632.**

**CALL 911 TO REPORT  
SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR.**