

THE PowerLines REPORT



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June 2023

No Slowing Down for Elevate Internet Fiber Build



Jack Johnston, CEO

Since the launch of Elevate in 2016, the phrase “keeping the lights on” has evolved. Not only do we maintain reliable electricity across our distribution lines to keep your lights shining bright, but we also now sustain actual lightwaves within our fiber-optic cables to deliver

high-speed internet. We are only mid-way through 2023, and it has been a construction-intensive year for our fiber internet subsidiary. Since January, our construction crews have built 143 new miles of fiber, bringing our reliable, ultra-high-speed internet to some of the most rural corners of DMEA’s service territory. Work started early in the year with two massive projects funded by federal and state grants. Our Greater Gunnison Gorge Grant project includes 232 miles of fiber in rural Montrose County, including the mountainous terrain near Cimarron. Our Reconnect 2 Grant project includes 272 miles of fiber in rural Delta County, including the Pea Green area.

We have hit the halfway mark in our Greater Gunnison Gorge project. Since January, 798 new homes and businesses now have access to Elevate’s gigabit-speed internet in areas like Shavano Valley and Davewood Road. We anticipate construction on the remaining Greater Gunnison Gorge areas to conclude by the end of the year, with the exception of the Cimarron area. This rugged country presents additional challenges, including weather, terrain, and government agency seasonal access limitations.

For our members in Reconnect 2, I’m happy to announce that Elevate became available last month in the first phase, southeast of Delta. As construction

progresses over the next year, we will steadily connect another 2,239 members west and southwest of Delta.

But there’s more! Just last month, DMEA was awarded yet another grant from the State of Colorado Broadband Board. We received \$1.5M to help build our fiber optic network along Cimarron Road leading toward Silver Jack Reservoir. We hope to begin building here in early 2024, meaning another 109 of our most rural members will have access to Elevate!

What’s left in our construction pipeline? In addition to Greater Gunnison Gorge, Reconnect 2, and South Cimarron, Elevate has two additional grant projects slated to begin next year: East Mesa, located primarily east of Olathe, and Reconnect 3, located in the North Fork Valley. The following two to three years will be a massive undertaking as we construct all the projects listed above, but when complete, more than 95% of DMEA members will have access to the fastest internet speeds in the nation.

And we’re not stopping there – we will continue working to secure additional funds for our remaining members and are creating a plan to reach all of you in the coming years. Thank you for your continued patience and support.

Find out what area your home or business is located in and order service today at elevateinternet.com or call **844-386-8744**.

GET C RRENT

Keeping you plugged in to everything electric.

ELECTRIC SMOKERS & THERMOMETERS

Transform your outdoor cooking experience with electric smokers and smart meat thermometers! These cutting-edge appliances give a modern culinary touch, ensuring you excel in preparing delicious dishes, effortlessly.

Electric smokers, ignited with a simple button press, eliminate the need for traditional fuels and offer hassle-free storage and relocation. With extended heating elements and temperature stability, enjoy seamless cooking sessions and minimal maintenance requirements.

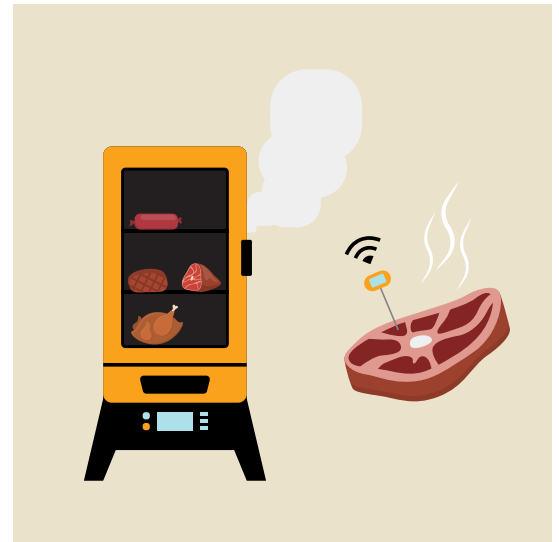
Smart meat thermometers provide accurate temperature readings and real-time monitoring, ensuring your dishes are cooked to perfection. Connected to your smartphone, these devices alert you when your meat reaches the desired doneness.

Get ready to grill and thrill adding a touch of modern magic to your outdoor feasts and flavor fests!

Where to buy: Home improvement & outdoor stores

Who it's for: Home cooks & BBQ enthusiasts

Extras: Protective covers, extra racks, drip pans, & more



- ✓ Easy Operation
- ✓ Consistent Results
- ✓ Smart Notifications
- ✓ Compact Design



DMEA BOARD APPOINTS EMILY SANCHEZ

At the DMEA monthly board meeting on April 25, 2023, DMEA's Board of Directors appointed Emily Sanchez to the District 4 board seat vacated by Ken Watson at the beginning of February. Emily currently serves as the Project Manager and Grant Coordinator for Montrose County and previously served as the Director of the Montrose County Fairgrounds & Event Center.

Learn more at dmea.com.



A SENIOR'S GUIDE TO THE DIGITAL WORLD

Free!

Feeling lost in our digital world? Elevate is here to help!

Learn the basics of streaming TV, smart devices, video chatting, and email through this 4-class series. All classes are held on Thursdays, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at DMEA's Office (11925 6300 Rd., Montrose, CO). Refreshments will be provided. Class is free of charge, but donations to Montrose Rec District's scholarship program are welcome!

Intro to Video Chatting

Join Elevate Internet experts to tap into the world of video chatting. Learn about the differences between chat platforms and how to choose the best option for you.

When:

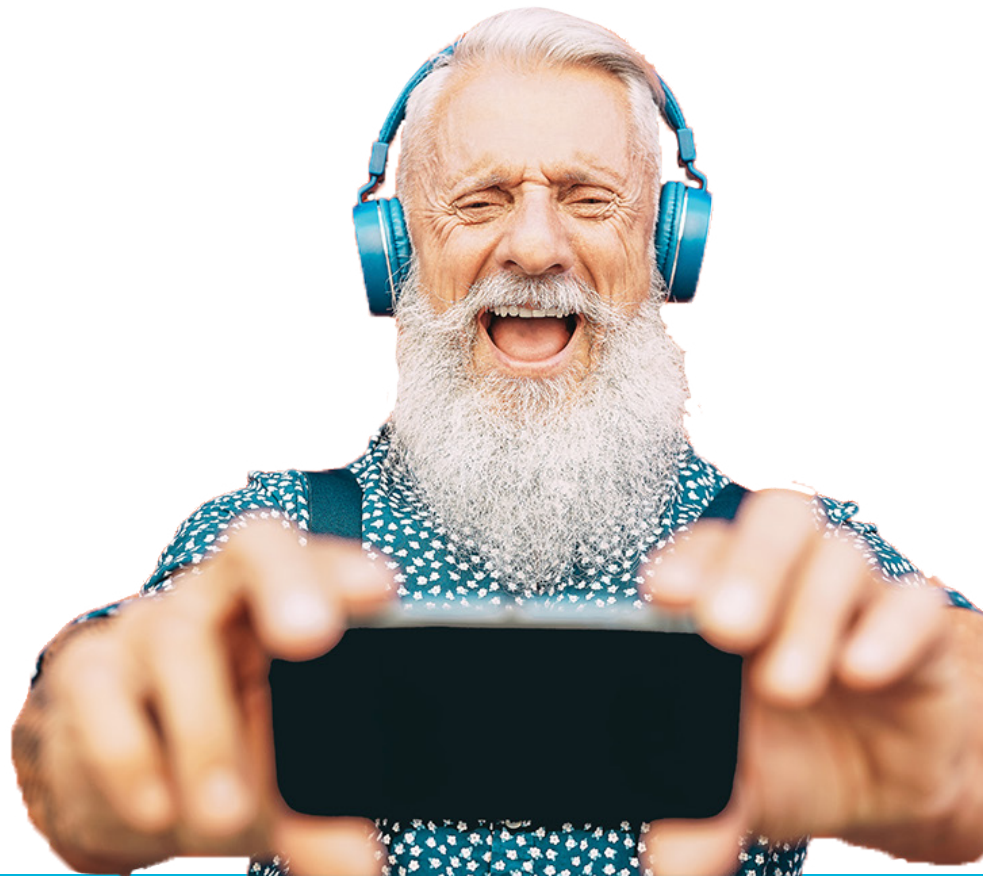
July 27, 10-11:30 a.m.

Where:

DMEA
11925 6300 Rd.
Montrose

Register:

Montrose Rec. District
Cindy Marino
970-252-4884
cindy@montroserec.com



Attend all four sessions and you'll be entered to win a streaming TV package!

*Save the Date for
the final session:*

August 24: Intro to Email

ELEVATE[®]

FAST INTERNET ▶ (for real)



Congratulations Scholarship Recipients!



Charly Abbott-Zieman
Delta High School
\$3,000



Leif Coleman
Cedaredge High School
\$3,000



Vance Couturier
Montrose High School
\$3,000



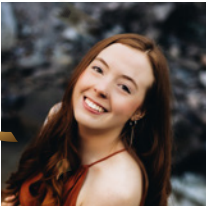
Malachi Deck
North Fork High School
\$3,000



Zoey Duncan
North Fork High School
\$3,000



Logan Files
Montrose High School
\$3,000



Olivia Guseman
Montrose High School
\$3,000



Noelani Ramon
Delta High School
\$3,000



Nancy Suarez
Olathe High School
\$3,000



Krista Brundage
Continuing Education
\$2,000



Taylor Ullmann
Continuing Education
\$2,000



Kaya Crawford
Continuing Education
\$2,000



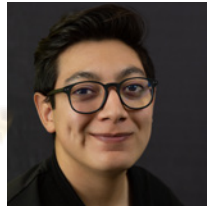
Briana Chatterton
TCR
\$2,000



Wyatt Stone
TCR
\$2,000



Riely Andresen
CMU
\$2,000



Jehu Corona-Cuna
CMU
\$2,000



Clay Sandridge
Guzman Lineworker
\$2,000



Aiden Barrios
Guzman Lineworker
\$2,000



Nylene Gutierrez
Employee Dependand
\$3,000



Kenadee Hadlock
Guzman Character
\$3,000



Cesar Castro
Ken Atchley Award
\$2,500

JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING THIS YEAR'S RECIPIENTS!

Each year, Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) offers college scholarships to local graduating seniors and continuing education students. DMEA partners with the Montrose Community Foundation to operate the program and select recipients. Scholarship funding is provided through DMEA's unclaimed capital credit fund and Guzman Energy. DMEA's scholarships provide local students with funds to attend various higher education institutions.

Not Pictured: Amy Hanks, non-traditional school: \$3,000



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
W; 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*

*Kyle Martinez, 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 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.

Cyber Safety

BE AWARE:
Don't fall victim to
cyber scams



THE IRS SCAM

There are too many scams involving impersonating the IRS to count. Seriously, don't believe us; just check this link out:
www.irs.gov/newsroom/tax-scams-consumer-alerts.

One of the most common schemes out there involves criminals calling and posing as IRS agents or using pre-recorded calls "from the IRS" stating there is an issue with your tax return. The IRS won't call you. Period. Hang up and report the scam to the IRS via email to statealert@taxadmin.org.

These IRS scams will also land in your inbox as phishing emails. Forward any scam email involving the IRS to phishing@irs.gov.

Read more at elevateinternet.com/national-cybersecurity-awareness-month



Prevent WILDFIRES

Even after a wet winter, fire season is still upon us. Wildfires can be devastating, claiming property, homes, and lives. Follow these tips to prevent wildfires this summer:



CARE FOR CAMPFIRES

Check fire restrictions and build campfires only in designated areas. Extinguish fires completely before leaving using a shovel and dirt until no smoke is coming from the ashes.



DON'T FLICK YOUR BUTTS

Never throw cigarettes out of car windows or discard them outdoors. Make sure they are extinguished completely before disposing of them in a safe designated container.



WATCH FOR SPARKS

When using outdoor equipment, sparks from lawnmowers, chainsaws, and power tools can ignite dry grass, causing a wildfire. Keep an eye out and don't use on days that are dry and hot.



FREE OF DEBRIS

Clear dry leaves, twigs, and branches from your property, especially around your house. If you burn debris, pick a day without wind and keep a shovel, water, and fire retardant nearby to keep it in check.



PLAN & PREPARE

Create an emergency evacuation plan and designated meeting spot with your family. Prepare a 'Go Bag' that includes essential items such as food, water, and medical supplies.