

# THE PowerLines REPORT



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November 2023

## Regular Maintenance is the Key to Reliability



Cody Carver  
Chief Operations Officer

DMEA has a legacy of providing reliable power to our members, but that doesn't happen by chance. It requires concentrated regular maintenance, and this month, I'm highlighting two of DMEA's most recent grid reliability efforts. One on foot, the other in the air.

Every year, DMEA partners with the experienced industry expert, SBS Inspections Inc., to quality test a portion of our power poles. In September, this boots-on-the-ground team began working in some of our most rural terrain, primarily the Cimarron area. The contractors are visually inspecting each pole, looking for obvious damage, but they are also testing

for unseen indicators.

To test for internal decay, contractors bore a small sample from the pole and inspect it for rot or moisture. They will also dig down up to 18" around the base of the pole and look for signs of external decay. In total, SBS will visit and test more than 3,500 DMEA power poles, and we expect the work to continue into the winter – but don't worry, as the weather turns, they'll move out of our mountain terrain into lower elevations.

Another critical aspect of DMEA's system reliability program is aerial line patrol. Last month, two DMEA lineworkers took flight with the local helicopter service, Mountain Blade Runner, to inspect our grid from above. This one-day task requires intense focus as the lineworkers visually inspect more than 160 miles of line, along with pole structures, equipment, and substations. They look for damage, wear and tear, and overgrown vegetation. The flight path takes them to every corner of our service territory, again to some of our most rural places that aren't accessed regularly.

These are just two of our many system reliability programs, but regardless of what we're doing, the goal is the same - to keep your lights on, homes warm, and families connected.





# CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY



## WESTERN SLOPE CONSERVATION CENTER



Spring flood along  
River Park Trail



Reconstructed  
School Loop Trail

## Reopening the Paonia River Park

The Paonia River Park and K-8 School Loop Trails are the culmination of a multi-decade community vision, successful collaboration between non-profit and municipal stakeholders, and significant community investment. The park and walking trails are alive with activity from boaters, dog walkers, and kids learning about riparian ecology. Foxes, deer, and eagles can often be spotted in the park from dawn to dusk.

This spring, flooding damaged more than 1,000 feet of river bank and washed away trails in several areas. Parts of the park were underwater for weeks and needed to be rebuilt to make the park accessible.

## How We Helped

In conjunction with multiple partners, including The Nature Connection, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, community businesses, residents, and volunteer donations, DMEA contributed \$25,000 from its unclaimed capital credits fund to help reconstruct more than 1,000 feet of trails.



# SMALL CHANGE MAKES A BIG IMPACT

Through DMEA's Operation Round Up program, your pocket change makes a big difference. The concept is simple. Every month, we'll round up your electric bill to the nearest dollar, and those extra few cents get put into a charitable donation fund. 100% of those funds get distributed to local families in need and non-profit agencies that benefit our communities. With your small donation and the pocket change of more than 8,000 other DMEA members, Operation Round Up gives back more than \$55,000 every year to those in need.

**Join Operation Round Up and start making a difference today! As a thank you for giving back, we're also offering a \$5 bill credit to all new participants. Don't wait, the \$5 bill credits will expire 12/31/23!**

**\$5**  
bill credit

▶ [dmea.com/oru.save5news](https://dmea.com/oru.save5news)



## WHO WILL YOU HELP?



Adaptive Heroes brings much-needed physical, occupational, and speech therapies to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in our Delta County communities. And they do it all by bus, bringing their services directly to those in need. They requested funding to help retrofit a 45-foot-long motor coach into a mobile therapy gym. Operation Round Up was able to donate \$500 toward the effort.



After experiencing a medical emergency with their daughter that required extended hospital stays, a trip to Children's Hospital, and extensive testing, a local family was struggling to cover basic utility bills. Operation Round Up supported the family with a \$549 donation.



A local member is housebound due to medical issues, and when their phone broke, so did their lifeline. The member needed help replacing their phone and paying initial activation fees so they could remain in contact with family, their medical provider, and a medical supply distributor. Operation Round Up supported this individual with a \$200 donation.

# A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

## ANNOUNCING DMEA 2024 YOUTH PROGRAMS



### 2024 Washington D.C. Youth Tour

- ▶ Spend an educational and fun week in Washington, D.C., all expenses paid for by DMEA.
- ▶ Visit historic monuments, tour world class museums, and meet elected officials.
- ▶ Develop life-long friendships with delegates from across the country!



### 2024 Youth Leadership Camp

- ▶ Spend a week in Steamboat, CO, all expenses paid for by DMEA
- ▶ Float the Colorado River, hike to Fish Creek Falls, and ride on the gondola to the top of Mt. Werner.
- ▶ Learn about the cooperative business model, tour a generation facility, and make lasting connections with students from Colorado, Wyoming, and Kansas.

### HOW TO APPLY

Complete the Youth Leadership Application at [dmea.com/youth-leadership-programs](https://dmea.com/youth-leadership-programs). DMEA will select one overall winner to attend the Rural Electric Youth Tour and up to three other students to attend the Youth Leadership Camp. If selected, you will be notified in January.



Applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 18 at the time of the programs but not yet have graduated from high school; be dependents of a DMEA member (your parents/guardians are DMEA members); and submit a completed application and a 500-word essay before January 1, 2024.



#### Montrose Office

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

#### Lead Office

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

#### Contact Us:

877-687-3632 | [dmea.com](https://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  
Vacant, 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



## SAFE ONLINE HOLIDAY SHOPPING

'Tis the season for snuggling up with your laptop and a mug of cocoa to release your inner elf on-line for the purpose of picking out toys and treats for your loved ones. But wait! There may be a cyber grinch waiting to

steal your personal information. Follow these tips to stay safe and keep this the most wonderful time of the year:

- 1 Update Your Device and Software.** Ensure your computer, smartphone, and browser are up-to-date with the latest security patches and updates.
- 2 Use Secure Websites.** Stick to reputable online retailers with secure websites. Look for "https://" and a padlock icon in the address bar.
- 3 Create Unique Strong Passwords.** Consider using a reputable password manager to help you generate and store passwords securely.
- 4 Use Credit Cards.** Credit cards often offer better fraud protection. Be sure to review your statements regularly!
- 5 Read Return Policies & Keep Records.** Familiarize yourself with return and refund policies of the store before making a purchase. Save email confirmations, receipts, and order details for your purchases, which may be needed for returns or disputes.

With a dash of knowledge and a sprinkle of preparation, you'll fill your sleigh online without any bah hum (or other) bugs!

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

## Lighting your Way through the Holidays

Energy-efficient holiday lighting can save you time and money—so you have more to spend with and on others!

### Deck the Halls with LEDs

Swap out those incandescent bulbs you inherited from Uncle Joe for LED lights, and you'll not only enjoy vibrant, long-lasting colors, but you'll also save money on your electricity bill. LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights.

### Time Out for Convenience

Automate your lighting by making use of timers or smart plugs. Set a timer so they shine bright during the evening hours and automatically turn off when everyone's tucked in bed. This not only saves energy but is convenient, allowing you to enjoy the festive glow without flipping switches.

### Harness the Winter Sun

Solar-powered string lights and decorations are an easy way to 'set it and forget it.' These lights soak up the sun's energy during the day and provide a beautiful glow in the evening.