

THE PowerLines REPORT



October 2019

Safety First: For Us and You

A message from Jasen Bronec, CEO

The safety of DMEA's employees is a top priority. They, along with our contractors, receive regular training and maintain important certifications. Why? Because at the end of every day, we want every employee to go back home to their family. We also we want the same for you. DMEA has seen a rising trend of members engaging in unsafe practices when it comes to electricity. This is alarming for all of us here at DMEA, because each and every one of us sees it as our job to keep you safe.

Over the past few months, DMEA has responded to a number of situations with our members that we call near misses. What's a near miss? It's an accident that was only narrowly avoided. They've included situations such as members moving or touching a downed line, not recognizing the possibility that it could be a live power line, and members digging into our underground lines and then attempting to repair or cut the line themselves. In ALL of these scenarios someone could have died.

It's not just members who get into sticky situations. Our employees have near misses too. Recently, a crew was responding to an outage and they needed to replace a broken pole. While moving the damaged pole, it fell. Like above, no one was hurt, but the risk was still there. DMEA openly discusses each and every near miss so we can learn from them. Today, I wanted to take a minute to discuss safety with you.

1. ALWAYS ASSUME IT'S LIVE: Whether a power line is high above you on a pole or torn down lying on the ground, ALWAYS assume electricity is surging through it. Never touch or attempt to move the line or anything in contact with it. Call us immediately.

2. CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG: DMEA has 1,200 miles of underground power lines in our service territory. Before any digging project, whether you are planning a large excavation or simply planting a tree, call 811 to get all your underground utilities marked. If you do hit an underground power line, stop working immediately, call DMEA, and keep people and pets clear of the hole. And whatever you do, do not touch or attempt to fix or cut the line.

3. CALL THE EXPERTS: Notice a sagging wire? See a power line running right through a tree? Accidentally back into the transformer near the corner of your driveway? Don't attempt to fix any of these issues yourself. Call DMEA immediately, and we will send our trained crews to assess the situation and safely make repairs.

DMEA is proud to hold safety as a top priority for our organization. I hope you'll take the tips above to heart and join us in that commitment too.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DMEA Sip & Tell

(see more on page 3)

October 24 | 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Big B's Delicious Orchards

November 7 | 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Grand Mesa Arts & Event Center

November 14 | 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Ted Nelson's Steakhouse

Thanksgiving

DMEA offices closed

Thursday, November 28 – Friday, November 29.

Christmas

DMEA offices closed

Tuesday, December 24 – Wednesday, December 25.

First Tuesday of the Month

DMEA is closed beginning at noon the first Tuesday of every month for employee training and certifications.

Elevate Opens Doors for Local Boys & Girls Club

Nestled among acres of fertile farm ground, with a population of just shy of 2,000, Olathe is known for exactly what you'd expect: rich agriculture, one stop light, and to-die-for sweet corn. But appearances are deceiving here, and all you have to do is walk through the doors at the Olathe unit of the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club (BCBGC) to see it.



Olathe Club kids teach Gigfoot the basics of coding.

You'll find access to a truly modern internet connection and every educational advantage that comes with it. In other words, local children eagerly learning the basics of computer programming during the Club's newest program, Hour of Code. The class teaches kids how to code (a 21st century basic these days), which was an impossibility before the arrival of Elevate's fiber internet. This unexpected opportunity gives children in our rural territory a chance to learn a high-tech and in-demand skill that can help them think outside their current hometown offerings.

For Club Executive Director, Bud Taylor, and Olathe Site Director, Tim Costanza, the addition of Hour of Code is a tangible representation of the Club's mission to enrich and develop members' lives.

"I was a Club kid back in the 6th grade. That's even where I first met Tim. Club played a huge role in my life; keeping me out of trouble and teaching me important life skills—even how to do laundry. It's now my turn to help Club kids get a head start with all the life skills and technology is major part of that," said Bud.

After learning that Elevate had come to Olathe last year, it wasn't long before Bud and Tim cooked up their new coding program, which both teaches kids computer basics and exposes them to careers that, before Elevate, many didn't think were possible unless you lived in a large city. According to Costanza, the kids have been incredibly excited to figure out the inner workings of how tech comes together and to realize that it is not all that complicated and that they CAN do it.

The Olathe unit is now the best place in town to access high-speed internet. So much so, that they have had to design a specially designated area for their Olathe High Schoolers to come and access an Elevate internet connection, enabling them to complete their assignments.

"Anywhere can be the next Silicon Valley and this gives Olathe a fighting chance at it," said Bud.

And parents, don't worry, the connection is safe. While Bud and Tim were working with Elevate to get the Olathe (and now the Montrose location too) set up, Elevate's tech support team worked to establish a blanket of security for the kids who use the BCBGC's internet service. The security blanket built by the Elevate team not only ensures safe access via their hardwired computers but also from any personal devices that they bring along to club with them.

About the Black Canyon Boys & Girls Club

The BCBGC has two club units, one in Montrose and one in Olathe. While the Montrose facility supports 100 kids each day and has a 2-year waiting list, the Olathe location has room to grow with only 30 of the 100 school-year spots taken. Each location maintains a robust programming schedule with opportunities for interests of all types. Each location is also locally governed and funded by local fundraising and grants, meaning your donations are what keep the doors open.

After opening in 2002, the Montrose location has moved more than 20 times as they have outgrown one building after another. It is still housed in a rented location which, once again, the Club has outgrown. But just like BCBGC fought for access to high-speed internet so their kids could learn to code, they are fighting for a bigger and more appropriate location for the Montrose unit.

The BCBGC is raising funds for a new location, which will total 18,500 square feet and include more than 4 acres for outdoor recreation. In addition to loans and grants, local fundraising is a must for this \$3 million project. Learn more about supporting BCBGC online at:

www.bcbgc.org/support-the-club





Sip And TELL

Welcome DMEA members - you sip and we tell! Major changes are headed our way when DMEA transitions away from Tri-State to a new power supplier. We're inviting you to come out and enjoy samples of local beer and wine plus appetizers while you learn about what it means for you:

Where will our new energy come from and what will the mix look like? Who is DMEA's new power supplier? What is the plan for transitioning? What does this mean for the future of DMEA and all the communities we serve?

Events are free.

October 24 | Hotchkiss
Big B's Delicious Orchards
39126 HWY 133, Hotchkiss
5:30pm - 7:30pm

November 7 | Cedaredge
Grand Mesa Arts Center
195 W Main St, Cedaredge
5:30pm - 7:30pm

November 14 | Montrose
Ted Nelson's Steakhouse
103 Rose Ln, Montrose
5:30pm - 7:30pm



In October, DMEA and Elevate will be conducting a satisfaction survey to learn how to improve service to our members and customers. The survey will be conducted by our partner Pivot Group via phone and email. They will call on behalf of DMEA and Elevate. Members are encouraged to participate so we can learn how to serve you better.

DMEA's new rates became effective September 1, 2019. You will see the changes reflected on the bill you receive this month for the energy you consumed beginning September 1.

Photo Contest Winner



Lucy Allen

Hello, I'm Lucy Allen. One thing that deeply refreshes and energizes me is shooting and sharing photos of something beautiful, or just something I find interesting, that is suddenly right in front of me. Thankfully, I'm surrounded by beautiful and interesting things, from sunrises to sunsets, to nature in all its Colorado glory. I literally take my phone (my only camera) everywhere I go and almost always regret when I don't. I'm a

native Texan, but have lived in Cimarron, and then Montrose, with my husband (a Grand Junction native) for 13 years. Our one daughter now lives in Seattle. My husband and I both serve with Solid Rock Foundation Ministries and I also provide respite care for the elderly. I enjoy reading, camping, and playing cards and board games with family and friends. I have no burning desire or plans to become a professional photographer, but I do aspire to some day owning a "real" camera!



Free Summer Fun for Kids

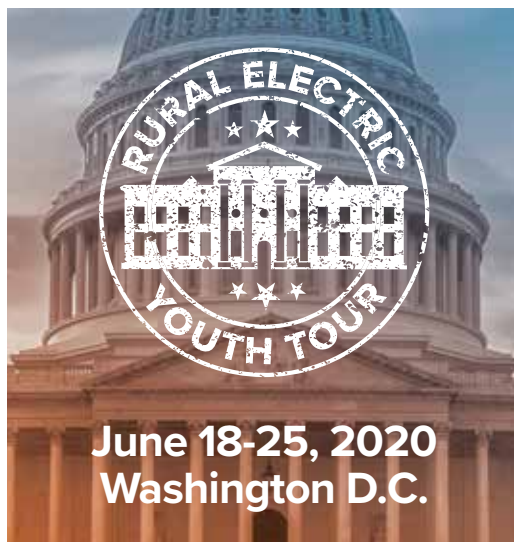
With some leadership and learning thrown in

Tour our nation's capital, get lost in one of the Smithsonian Museums, meet elected officials, and cruise down the Potomac River. That, plus so much more, is what your child can experience on DMEA's Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Designed just for high school students, Youth Tour takes teens out of their small communities for a weeklong adventure in Washington D.C. The participants get a deep dive into U.S. government, the cooperative industry, and a chance to explore all the museums, memorials, and monuments of Washington D.C. And the best, it's all FREE.

If you're looking for a summer adventure for your teen a little closer to home, check out DMEA's Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp—another weeklong adventure in the mountains near Steamboat Springs, CO. Here, campers dig into what makes co-ops tick by creating their very own cooperative business. Plus, they'll participate in hands-on leadership activities, raft the Little Colorado River, enjoy a day in Steamboat Springs, and tour a coal mine and power plant. And yes, this trip is FREE too.

Both summer adventures are a great opportunity for your teen to experience a world outside our local communities and build lifelong leadership skills.



June 18-25, 2020
Washington D.C.

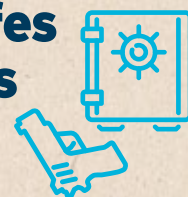


July 11-16, 2020
Steamboat Springs, CO

Apply by December 16, 2019 at www.dmea.com/youth-leadership-programs. Each program is FREE to attend and all expenses are covered by DMEA.

Participants must: 1. Be children (or dependents) of a DMEA member.
2. Be high school students age 16 - 18 and not yet graduated in May 2020.

Smart safes keep guns secure



If you are a gun owner, you know the importance of properly securing your firearms so no one can get access to them. Technology has advanced so that smart safes now use your internet connection to give you more control. Vaultek (vaulteksafe.com) and other companies offer smart safes with features like these to keep your firearms secure:

- ▶ **Biometric scanners.** Only the right fingerprints will open your safe.
- ▶ **App.** Manage your safe from afar, and get automatic notifications if the safe is ever opened when you're not around.
- ▶ **Smart keys.** Get access to your safe with a single button, and use the key as a panic button in an emergency.
- ▶ **Humidity and temperature sensors.** Make sure the environment within your safe is always optimal for your firearms.

Do yourself and others a favor and take advantage of the smartest way to keep firearms safe. Your Elevate connection opens up a world of possibilities when it comes to properly storing and securing your firearms.



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 |    

Your Board of Directors:

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

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.

PROTECT YOUR WIFI NETWORK



You don't want somebody you don't know entering your home or business and using your supplies and equipment, right? You shouldn't want someone on your WiFi network who shouldn't be using it, either. Here are two different ways Elevate customers can monitor their network and prevent neighbors, passersby, or others from using your bandwidth and slowing down your connection.

1. Log in to your router to get rid of the unwanted visitor.

When you log in, you can check to see if there are any devices that you don't recognize using up your bandwidth. Visit the Status Devices tab and find the suspect device's MAC address (this has nothing to do with Apple Mac products—all devices have unique MAC addresses). Copy the suspect device's MAC address. Then, go to the Advanced tab, click on Scheduling Access and then Ban Access of the copied MAC address on all days and times. The unwanted device is now banned from your network!

2. Change your password.

If you suspect there is an unwanted device on your Elevate connection, simply change your WiFi's password by logging in remotely to your router and heading to the Wireless tab.

Whether at home or at work, your WiFi connection will run faster if you don't have unwanted people on your network.

Not quite sure how to get started on your own. Give us a call at 844-386-8744 and our tech support team will be with you every step of the way.

HOME COOKING



Cola Cake

Pat Bennett, Crawford

Ingredients:

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
1 cup butter
3 tbs cocoa
1 cup cola
1/2 cup buttermilk
2 beaten eggs
1 tsp vanilla
1 tsp baking soda
1 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows

Directions:

Combine flour and sugar in a large bowl. Bring butter, cocoa, and cola to a boil. Mix together buttermilk, eggs, vanilla, soda, and marshmallows. Pour boiling mixture over buttermilk. Mix and beat until smooth. Add to flour and sugar and mix. Pour into greased 9x13 pan and bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes. Ice when hot with cola icing.

Cola Icing

Ingredients:

1/2 cup butter
2 tbs cocoa
3 tbs cola
2 cups powdered sugar
1/2 cup chopped nuts

Directions:

Heat butter, cocoa, and cola to a boil. Then add powdered sugar and nuts.

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.