



2 - High Bill? Call the Energy Sleuth!



3 - Co-op Direction: Make your voice heard.



3 - DMEA Supports Montrose Community Foundation



Photograph by:
Don Alejandro

the monthly
newsletter of



Powerlines

Face-to-face Service Returns to Delta County

DMEA's Read Service Center Re-opens Member Service Desk

Delta County residents accustomed to paying their bills at a kiosk in the vestibule of the Read Service Center, just outside of Delta, Colorado are being asked to come on inside and say "hi."

The Read Service Center celebrated its "Grand Re-opening" of the Member Service Desk on Monday, February 2, 2015. Since then, members have been pleased to be greeted in person. "We actually had one member who was using the kiosk,"

said Service Rep., Terri M., "he picked up the phone for help, but then he realized he was talking to me from just around the corner. We both had a bit of a laugh."

The Service Desk is open from 9 am to 4 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, and the kiosk is still available for 24/7 service.

"It's not always easy to count the value of personal service," says DMEA Member Relations Manager, Virginia Harman, "but we see it in the faces of our members."



High Bill? Ask the Energy Sleuth

Have you ever opened your DMEA bill and thought, "Wow, this is way too high?" Did you know that we can help determine what is causing your high energy usage?



Rod Geiger, DMEA Energy Services, gets high bill calls every day. "When a member calls with a high bill complaint the first thing I do is look at their account on SmartHub."

Recently, Rod received a call from a member whose electric bill tripled from one month to the next. Rod, of course, pulled up her account on SmartHub. "I could see the exact day and hour that the usage had spiked in her home over a month ago. We scheduled a visit to her home to do a free walk-through audit and found that she had a leak in a hot water pipe under her home. The electric hot water heater had been running non-stop to keep up with the leaking pipe." Luckily she was able to get a plumber to fix the leak and her electric bill went back down.

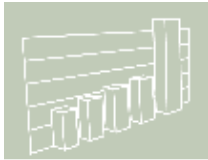
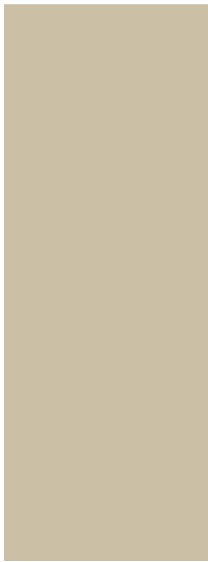
SmartHub is also available to you. "Once members learn how to use SmartHub and all the valuable information on there," says Rod, "I rarely hear back from them."

DMEA Member:
I live alone, but when my teenage grand-kids come over my bill goes way up.

DMEA:
Is there anything you can do about it?

DMEA Member:
Well, I am thinking about not inviting them anymore!

~ February 2, 2015



Get Smart DMEA's SmartHub Shows Members the Money



Android:



iOS:



<https://dmea.smarthub.coop>

Home Cookin'

Win a small appliance! Submit recipes or ideas (submit name & city) to: DMEA Newsletter P.O. Box 910, Montrose, CO 81402 or communications@dmea.com DMEA does not test nor endorse any recipe, or idea.



See: www.valleyfoodpartnership.org for this recipe's locally-grown ingredients. Valley Food Partnership; Connecting local farms to local forks.

Easy Apple Streusel Crisp:

Who has time these days? Try this simple recipe and whip out a great dessert in minutes. No pie crust needed!

Filling:

- 6 c. sliced and peeled apples
- $\frac{3}{4}$ c. brown sugar (packed)

Mix together apples and $\frac{3}{4}$ c. brown sugar, and place in an 8 inch square microwavable dish.

Topping:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. unsifted flour
- $\frac{1}{3}$ c. brown sugar (packed)
- $\frac{1}{3}$ c. quick cooking oats
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. margarine
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp cinnamon

With a pastry blender or fork, mix together until crumbly and sprinkle over the top of the apples in the dish.

Microwave on HIGH (depending on your wattage) 9-12 minutes or until the apples are tender, hot and bubbly. Let stand a few minutes before serving.

*Great topped with optional vanilla ice cream or low-fat yogurt!

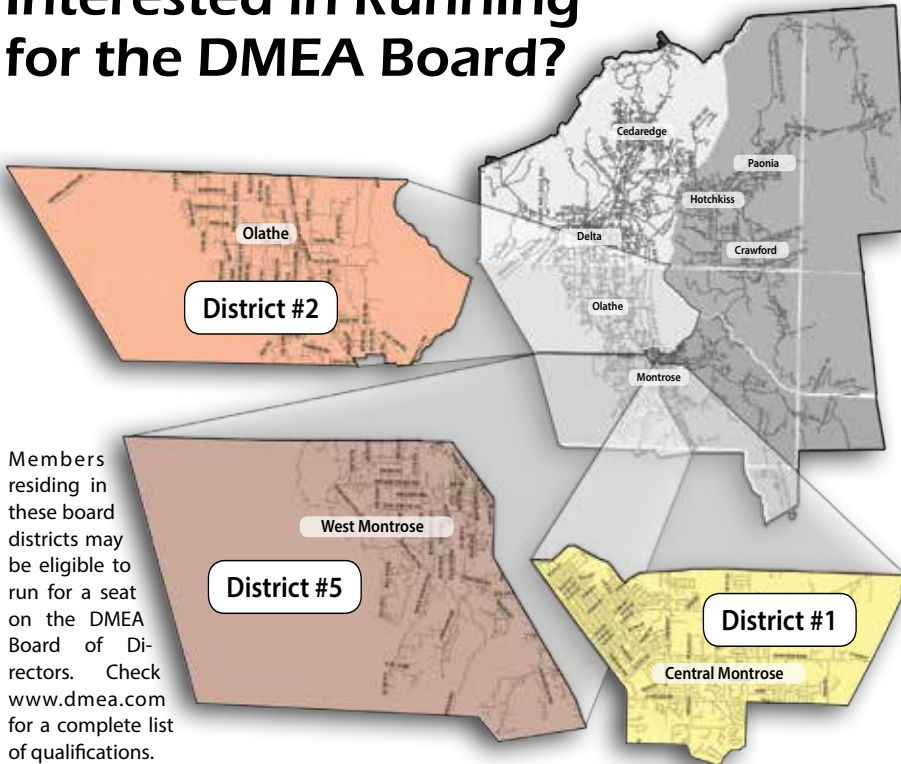
- Jan Waggoner, Eckert, CO

Bright Ideas

To remove pet hair from a rug or carpet when a vacuum does not work well, just wipe a damp sponge across the surface. It will catch and roll up the hair making it very easy to remove.

- Tom Lamb, Montrose

Interested in Running for the DMEA Board?



Members residing in these board districts may be eligible to run for a seat on the DMEA Board of Directors. Check www.dmea.com for a complete list of qualifications.

Every Member... has a voice. Make yours Count

DMEA is an electric cooperative. It belongs to you and your fellow member-owners. Each year there is an election to determine the representative from three of the nine board districts. You can vote in this election and, if you meet certain qualifications, you can even run for a board position yourself. See the deadlines and board candidate qualifications at www.dmea.com.

2015 Key Dates:

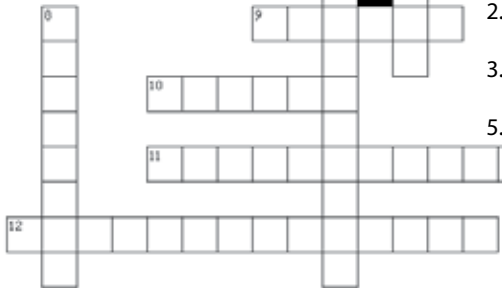
- **Friday, April 3, 2015** Candidate petition packets available.
- **Friday, May 1, 2015** Petition deadline
- **Tuesday, May 26, 2015** Ballots mailed to DMEA members.
- **Tuesday, June 16, 2015** Deadline for ballots to be received by mail.
- **Wednesday, June 17, 2015** DMEA annual meeting. Election results will be announced at the end of the meeting.

Community

DMEA was proud to help sponsor the gala celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Montrose Community Foundation (MCF). The MCF is a great asset to DMEA members, promoting community service and philanthropy throughout the Montrose area. One of the seven cooperative principles is "concern for the community" and DMEA's mission is to "energize and serve our communities." Supporting this type of activity helps us achieve our mission and helps make our communities better places in which to live and work.

Across

- The location of the Montrose Women's Club Flea Market next month.
- _____ gives members 24/7 access to account information and basic services.
- Electricity is always looking for a path to the _____.
- A damp sponge might help pick up pet hair that this missed.
- The Montrose Community Foundation promotes _____ throughout the Montrose Area
- Members interested in running for DMEA's board should check www.dmea.com for a list of these.



Hint: All the answers are in this newsletter.

Community Announcements:

The Montrose Women's Club will be hosting a Flea Market fund raiser.

Saturday, April 4th | 8 am - 4 pm
Friendship Hall

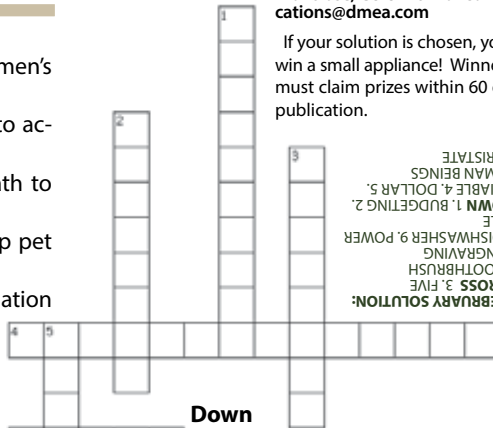
Proceeds benefit local charities. To reserve table space, call 964-4721.

Crisscross

Within 30 days of this publication, send the solution to this puzzle, (include your name and city) to:

**DMEA Newsletter P.O. Box 910,
 Montrose, CO 81402 or communications@dmea.com**

If your solution is chosen, you may win a small appliance! Winners must claim prizes within 60 days of publication.



Down

- Never retrieve a kite from a tree near _____.
- DMEA is an equal opportunity _____ and employer.
- DMEA's mission is to "_____ and serve our communities."
- DMEA Board Directors represent seven districts and two _____.
- "Concern for _____" is one of the seven cooperative principles.
- _____ can help you determine why a bill might be higher than average.

FEBRUARY SOLUTION:
 ACROSS 3. FIVE
 6. TOOTHBRUSH
 7. ENGRAVING
 8. DISHWASHER
 9. POWER
 POLE
DOWN
 1. BUDGETING
 2. RELIABLE
 4. DOLLAR
 5. HUMAN BEINGS
 6. TRISTATE

Delta-Montrose Electric Association (DMEA) Contact:

1-877-OUR-DMEA
 (1-877-687-3632)

P.O. Box 910
 Montrose, CO 81402

www.dmea.com

Locations:

11925 6300 Road, Montrose
 &
 21191 H75 Road, Delta

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Safety Alert

A kite string can detour the electricity from the power line to the ground, using the string – and the person flying the kite – as conductors.

Keep these safety tips in mind next time you pull out the kites:

- Fly kites only in open areas, away from power lines, and other obstacles.
- Use only cotton, linen or nylon string, never wire or wire-reinforced string. Wet string is also dangerous.
- Only fly kites in dry weather. And, never fly a kite during an electrical storm.
- If a kite is caught in a tree, check to make certain there aren't any power lines near the tree before climbing it.
- And, **NEVER** attempt to retrieve a kite caught in a power line or that falls into a substation. Instead, call DMEA, toll-free 1-877-687-3632.

DMEA Board Of Directors:

Bill Patterson, *District #1*; Brent Hines, *District #2*; Olen Lund, *District #3*
 Jim Elder, *District #4*; Marshall Collins, *District #5*; Terry Brown, *District #6*
 Mark Eckhart, *District #7*; Tony Prendergast, *South Region*
 John Gavan, *North Region*

DMEA board meetings are open to all members. They are generally held on the 4th Tuesday of each month beginning at 3pm with the public comment period at 5pm. Call 240-1212 to confirm specific dates, times and locations.