



POWERLINES



Celebrating 10 Years of Elevate Internet

by Jack Johnston, CEO

A decade ago, the idea of bringing fiber internet to our rural communities wasn't born in a boardroom... it came directly from our members. Some members learned that DMEA was building fiber to connect our substations, and they approached the board with a request: could that same infrastructure be extended to homes and businesses? That question sparked what we now know as Elevate.

What began as a member-driven vision has grown into a transformative network that connects over 18,000 customers across our service territory with fast, reliable, and locally supported internet. Elevate is more than a service—it's a reflection of our cooperative roots and our commitment to listen, adapt, and deliver.

The impact of fiber connectivity in rural communities is well-documented. A study from the Center for Rural Innovation found that rural counties with high broadband utilization had 213% higher business growth rates, 10% higher self-employment growth rates,

44% higher GDP growth rates, and 18% higher per capita income. We are proud that Elevate has strengthened our communities for the future.

Elevate is a direct result of tremendous teamwork from our dedicated employees.

It required long-term investment, thoughtful planning, and an unwavering belief that rural communities deserve the same opportunities as urban areas. And I'm proud to report that several members have told me their internet is faster and more affordable than that of friends and family in big cities. This dream required a team committed not just to building infrastructure, but to serving our members and beyond. And it required the continued trust and support of our members, who believed in this vision from the very beginning.

As we celebrate Elevate's 10-year anniversary, we're proud of

what has been accomplished. This milestone belongs to our members. You asked for something better—and together, we built it.



JUNE 2026

1| Celebrating 10 Years of Elevate

2| Clever Ways to use Smart Plugs

3| A Decade of Connection

4| 2026 Scholarship Winners

Thanks for 10 great years...

... and many more to come!

CONGRATULATIONS

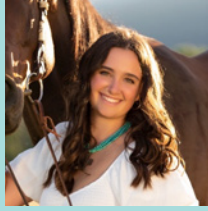
2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



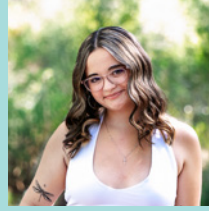
Baily Blackford
Montrose High School
\$5,000



Tyler Banulis
Olathe High School
\$5,000



Maya Cerise
Cedaredge High School
\$5,000



Avery Kinser
North Fork High School
\$5,000



Ava Martinez
Delta High School
\$5,000



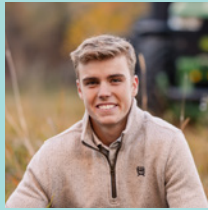
Ally Metzger
Montrose High School
\$5,000



Kaitlyn Moss
Non-trad. High School
\$5,000



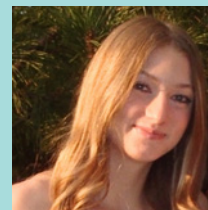
Aneka Price
North Fork High School
\$5,000



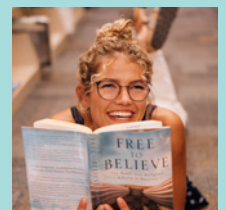
Jhett Ryan
Delta High School
\$5,000



Shiloh Warthen
Montrose High School
\$5,000



Lillie Baier
Continuing Education
\$5,000



Brianna Huff
Continuing Education
\$5,000



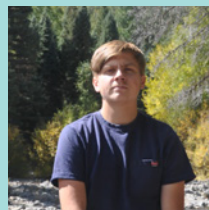
Vivian Messano
Continuing Education
\$5,000



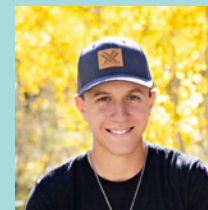
Hope Stephens
CMU - Montrose
\$5,000



Gretchen Brumley
CMU - Montrose
\$5,000



William Hyde
TCR
\$5,000



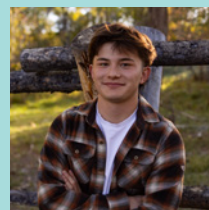
Jack Schwartz
TCR
\$5,000



Donovan Bolton
Guzman Lineworker
\$5,000



Azure Wallace
Guzman Character
\$5,000



Mason Hall
Guzman Character
\$5,000

TCR: Technical College of the Rockies
CMU: Colorado Mesa University

CNCC: Colorado Northwestern
Community College

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.

Not pictured: Trevor Piatt, Guzman Lineworker: \$5,000



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Kevin Williams, District 5 *Damon Lockhart, District 6*
Enno Heuscher, District 7 *Stacia Cannon, North*
Ken Norris, 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.

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.intake@usda.gov.



Snap It!

SUMMER PHOTO CONTEST

Enter Your Best Summer Photo

Calling all members! We want to see your best winter shots of Delta and Montrose counties. Whether it's a beautiful landscape, a candid moment, or something that captures the spirit of your town in DMEA territory, snap your photo and send it in for the chance to be featured in upcoming newsletters and win a summer prize package!



Spring Snap It Winner 'Mesa Beauty' by Isabel Otis, pictured with Kayla Klein.



The Details:

Amateur or professional photographers are welcome. People, pets, kids, food, and sunsets shot in Montrose or Delta counties are all fair game. One photo per person, please. Photos must be less than 10MB in size and .jpg or .jpeg format.*

Submit your photo **by August 31, 11:59 PM MST** using the form found at tally.so/r/Bz8KD5 or scan the QR code here:



Photos will be judged on technical quality, creativity, emotional impact, and relevance to the summer theme. Winners will be announced and published in a future issue.

*DMEA reserves the right to use photos in other member communications and to resize or crop entries for publication requirements.

Clever Ways to use SMART PLUGS



A smart plug sits between your outlet and your appliance or device, letting you control power remotely through an app on your phone or device. You can schedule on/off times or automate behavior based on routines.

What Makes them Smart?

Kill "Idle Power Draw"

Many electronics constantly sip electricity while idle, adding 5–10% to your electricity use. TVs, gaming consoles, coffee makers, and chargers. Use smart plugs to:

- Turn off entertainment centers overnight
- Cut power to office equipment after work hours
- Shut down kitchen gadgets after bedtime

Track Energy Usage

Some smart plugs include energy monitoring. This shows:

- Which devices use the most power
- When they use it
- Where you can cut back

Automate Heating & Cooling

Space heaters, fans, and window AC units are notorious energy hogs. Smart plug scheduling can:

- Turn heaters on just before you wake up
- Shut off fans when you leave the house
- Run window AC only during peak heat hours
- Provide comfort without, "oops I left it on all day"

Schedule Lighting the Smart Way

Instead of leaving lights on "just in case," automate them. Set schedules for:

- Porch and holiday lights at sunset
- Lamps during evening hours

Note: Check the wattage rating on your appliance. Most smart plugs handle 1200–1800 watts. Secure your Wi-Fi: Use a strong Wi-Fi password. If Wi-Fi goes down, remote access does not work. Buy reputable brands, and keep apps updated.



A DECADE OF CONNECTION

In June of 2026, Elevate was launched by locals with a simple mission: to bring fast, reliable connectivity to the people and businesses of Montrose and Delta counties. What began as a local vision has grown into a network serving more than 18,000 customers, which is still expanding. Along the way, a dedicated hometown team has been there every step of the journey, delivering the service and technical support that keep our communities connected.

Milestones have marked this decade of progress. For the past four years, Elevate has been honored as Best Internet Provider by both Montrose Daily Press and Delta County Independent—recognition that reflects the trust and support of the communities we serve.

As we celebrate this ten-year timeline, our gratitude goes to every subscriber who helped shape the journey. The first decade is in the books, and the next chapter is just getting started.

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

- 18,000 customers...and counting!
- 99.99% network uptime
- Local staff dedicated to providing you with service and technical support

YOUR FAVORITE FOR 4 YEARS

Voted “*Best Internet Provider*” for the last four years:

- Montrose Daily Press Best of the Valley
- Delta County Independent Best of Delta County

ELEVATE
Legendary Internet

Order service today!

elevateinternet.com • 844-386-8744

THIS SUMMER

— KEEP KIDS —

CYBER SAFE

Summer means more screen time, gaming, and socializing online—and opportunities for scammers to target kids and teens. Here are some common digital traps to watch for.



“Free stuff” gaming scams

Scammers know young gamers love skins, upgrades, and in-game currency. Fake websites, messages, or pop-ups promise free rewards if users log in or download something. Instead, they steal passwords or install malware.



Fake summer job offers

Teens can be targeted with offers for easy online work—social media assistant, product tester, or mystery shopper. The catch? They’re asked to pay a “training fee,” share personal information, or accept a fake check and send money back.



Ghost Stores and Bogus Service Sites

Fake online shops or websites often use legitimate-looking logos or trust badges, and accept payment — but then disappear or never deliver goods.

HELP THEM STAY SAFE

- ▶ **Review Social & Gaming Accounts Together**
Limit who can see profiles, send messages, or tag photos. If a profile is public, the entire internet is watching.
- ▶ **Teach ‘Pause-Before-Clicking’**
Encourage kids to slow down when they see exciting offers or urgent messages. Scammers rely on panic and excitement.
- ▶ **Add parental controls with ElevateIQ**
Manage screen time, filter content, and monitor online activity on home Wi-Fi. Guide kids to safe digital habits while still giving them room to explore and learn.

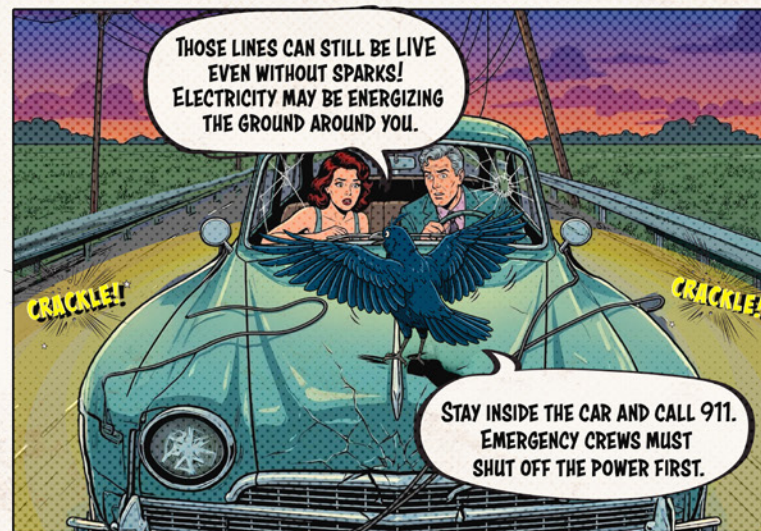
GET ElevateIQ
TODAY!



THE ELECTRIC STRIP

“STAY PUT”

...SOMEWHERE IN DELTA & MONTROSE COUNTIES



TO BE CONTINUED...

IN AN ACCIDENT INVOLVING A POWER LINE:
STAY INSIDE THE VEHICLE: THE GROUND MAY BE ENERGIZED
CALL 911: REPORT DOWNED OR DAMAGED LINES
WARN OTHERS: TELL BYSTANDERS TO STAY AWAY
WAIT FOR THE DMEA CREW: DON'T EXIT UNTIL IT'S SAFE