



MPE linemen Zachary Knight and Jose Vargus-Serna give a table-top safety demonstration to an elementary class in 2024. The theme of MPE's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on April 26 is "Honoring our Linemen," and the breakfast at 8 a.m. will also feature fun and engaging children's activities with linemen (with chances to win big prizes). Find out more on page 4.

## MPE HELPS BRING SMILES TO SENIORS

*Staff steps up support of Smile Box Program in Jackson County*

MPE lineman and other staff brought smiles to several seniors in Walden on Tuesday, March 25.

MPE has funded the Smile Box Program through the Jackson County Council on Aging (JCCOA) for 3 years. Following a leadership transition at JCCOA, a thorough internal review of programs was conducted. During this process, it was determined by the JCCOA they would not continue facilitating the Smile Box Program due to concerns regarding past financial management. In the interim, the MPE Charitable Trust Board has generously agreed to continue funding the monthly food boxes with MPE facilitating deliveries for 4 months to support the community during this transition. Mountain Family Center



MPE's Bryce Poppe, apprentice lineman, puts Smile Boxes in a truck before he and other employees delivered the boxes to senior participants in the area.

is doing the grocery shopping and sorting the food into boxes for the 34 senior citizens in the program in Walden and Gould. MPE employees are taking the boxes to Walden and making home deliveries.

*Smile Boxes continued on page 3*



# ADVOCATING FOR CRITICAL GRANT FUNDS

*MPE CEO Virginia Harman part of co-op group that visited lawmakers*

[www.MPEI.com/New-ERA](http://www.MPEI.com/New-ERA)

A group representing electric distribution cooperatives, including Mountain Parks Electric represented by CEO Virginia Harman, went to Washington, D.C. to meet with lawmakers to garner support for the release of funding for MPE's awarded grants through the USDA New ERA program, as well as through the Department of Energy (DOE) and Colorado Energy Office (CEO) and the Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management (DHSEM) and FEMA.

MPE executed a letter of commitment with the USDA on January 14, 2025, for the New ERA program, obligating a grant in the amount of \$100,321,532 over 20 years. The funding supports MPE's new power purchase agreement (PPA) with Guzman Energy to enhance the resilience, reliability, and affordability of our rural electric system. MPE has also earned wildfire mitigation grant awards from DHSEM/FEMA totaling more than \$9.6 million and more than \$1 million from the DOE/CEO.

On March 25, the USDA announced it will release previously obligated funding under New ERA and other programs. MPE and other recipients were given 30 days to review and voluntarily update project plans to align with President Trump's Unleashing American Energy Executive Order. MPE's New ERA PPA warranted no changes, so MPE submitted the required notification form to the USDA on March 27.



Virginia Harman, third from left, with Congressman Jeff Hurd, second from left, and representatives from Grand Valley Power, United Power, Gunnison County Electric, and the Colorado Electric Cooperative Association.



Virginia Harman, far right, and the co-op group with Congressman Gabe Evans, third from right.



Virginia Harman, far right, and the co-op group with Congresswoman Lauren Boebert, third from right.

**Find out more about MPE's grants from New ERA, DHSEM/FEMA, and the Colorado Energy Office**



**PRESS RELEASE:** MPE executes letter of commitment for \$100 million New ERA grant



**BOARD MEETING BULLETIN:** MPE awarded close to \$11 million in grant funds



# Donations to support hospital and animal shelter

*Board considers donation requests totaling more than \$700,000*

The March Board Meeting is the first of three annual donation request reviews. The Board was thankful at the March 13, 2025, meeting for all of the strong funding applications, but due to the unprecedented amount of requests and MPE's fiscal policy, the Board was only able to partially fund two of the requests.

The Board approved two \$50,000 donations from the Unclaimed Capital Credits Fund, one to benefit the Middle Park Health Fraser Campus and the other to Grand County Pet Pals Animal Shelter.

The Middle Park Health Fraser Campus will be a state-of-the-art medical facility, providing essential services, including emergency care, mental health crisis stabilization, orthopedic and trauma treatment, and holistic behavioral health support. Grand County Pet Pals is fundraising for a new, permanent animal shelter that will be owned by the nonprofit. The new construction will address the growing need for comprehensive animal care and welfare services in the region.



*Rendering of the Middle Park Health Fraser Campus, currently under construction.*



*Renderings of the planned Grand County Pet Pals Animal Shelter. Find out more at [gcpetpals.org](http://gcpetpals.org).*

*Find out more in the March Board Meeting Bulletin at [www.MPEI.com/Board-Meeting-Bulletin](http://www.MPEI.com/Board-Meeting-Bulletin)*

## Smile Boxes continued

MPE Line Superintendent Drew Christensen led the effort on this first month, which drew around 15 volunteer staffers. "The food pick up and deliveries went really well. It was good we had so many employees volunteer and the smiles it brought to those receiving," he said.



*MPE's Zachary Knight, left, and Hunter Johnson, right, pose with a Smile Box recipient in Walden on Tuesday, March 25, in the first of four monthly deliveries by MPE and its staff.*



YOU'RE INVITED TO ATTEND

# MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

"Honoring our Linemen"

**APRIL 26, 2025**

**8 a.m. Breakfast**

**9:15 a.m. Meeting**

MIDDLE PARK HIGH SCHOOL  
(795 N. 2<sup>ND</sup> Street, Granby)

- Free Breakfast
- Free Member Gift Bags
- Commemorative 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Cast Iron Skillets  
*(for first 150 member families)*
- Kids Activities with Linemen  
*(participants earn a chance to win two \$500 gift cards for local experiences)*
- Raffle Prizes  
*(including \$750 local beef gift certificates)*

In honor of this being the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, the first 150 members at the Annual Meeting breakfast will get a custom cast iron skillet, paid for by our event sponsors.



More info at  
[www.MPEI.com/2025-Annual-Meeting](http://www.MPEI.com/2025-Annual-Meeting)

