

# PLUGGED IN

MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC, INC.



*Patrick Brower, left, catches up with client Adam Nicholson, owner of San Util Design, Inc., who is working to fill orders of his company's custom bike gear bags.*

## MPE IN THE COMMUNITY

## UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDIT FUND

### HELPING ENTREPRENEURS THRIVE

*PATRICK BROWER PROVIDES FREE BUSINESS COACHING IN GRAND AND JACKSON COUNTIES*

The most common issue for local businesses in Grand and Jackson counties is a lack of employees, yet Patrick Brower with Grand Enterprise Initiative and Jackson Enterprise Initiative is helping entrepreneurs work through this challenge and others through grassroots economic development efforts.

Brower, enterprise facilitator for the two non-profit organizations, works individually with business owners, providing free and confidential business coaching. Mountain Parks Electric is a proud sponsor of the Grand and Jackson Enterprise Initiative organizations through MPE's Unclaimed Capital Credits Fund. Brower shared an update with the MPE board at its February meeting.

In 2023, he helped entrepreneurs create six new businesses in Grand County and added a total of 32 new clients. Even

though activity dropped a little from 2022, in which 49 new clients were added, several of the businesses Brower works with, particularly in the Winter Park area, are thriving.

Adam Nicholson, owner of San Util Design, LLC in Winter Park, credits Brower with helping his business expand. The business designs and builds hand-made bike gear bags and accessories. Along with helping the business expand, Brower worked with Nicholson on refining his overall business model. Together, the two settled on a new location for the business in Winter Park that has improved its visibility and direct retail sales. The company also launched a new line of winter backpacks this season. These changes have allowed them to grow to three employees who work with Nicholson.

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## MPE'S 74<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING



### GENERAL MANAGERS COLUMN

VIRGINIA HARMAN

**A**s a member-owner of Mountain Parks Electric, Inc., we hope you will consider joining us for the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 27, at Middle Park High School in Granby. The breakfast begins at 8 a.m. and the meeting starts at 9:15 a.m.

Yes, the free breakfast buffet could be reason enough attend; add to that a chance to win one of 20 great door prizes. I know that the beef bundles are typically the big attraction for many members. For this year's meeting, we are partnering with local producers to give away five \$1,000 gift cards. If you're one of the lucky winners, along with beef you could also choose from their selections of poultry, pork, bundles, or other specialty items. If you aren't one of the lucky door prize winners, you will still get to take home a special members only gift bag filled with goodies from local businesses.

We hope that these beloved traditions give you a few reasons to attend this year's annual meeting. During the official meeting, you will hear important updates from the previous year at MPE, as well as a look into the year ahead and the future of the ever-evolving energy industry. As you might have seen from recent news distributed through our MPE newsletter ([www.mpei.com/newsletter](http://www.mpei.com/newsletter)) or on our website and social media outlets, we do have exciting developments to discuss.

In my column a year ago leading up to the 2023 Annual Meeting, I touched on the departure from Tri-State Generation and Transmission as our power provider. We were pleased to be able to recently

announce our new partnership with Guzman Energy. The 20-year power sales agreement will begin on February 1, 2025. If you have seen any of the articles or posts about the PSA announcement, you know that some of the key benefits for MPE as a part of this contract are stable energy costs, more flexibility to develop local renewable power generation projects, and continued reliability.

One of the roundtable discussions at this year's meeting will include representatives from Guzman Energy. I will join them to share with our members more details about our partnership and the future of the industry. There will again be another roundtable in which we will enjoy hearing stories from a few of our community partners and the work being done to improve the lives of those in our area.

As you arrive for the breakfast, we hope the weather will allow our linemen to show you all some of their safety demonstrations – a truly enlightening experience! They will also be giving bucket rides, which is fun for all ages. Inside, we are planning an array of MPE-related booths so we can share about our various member offerings and services. They will include our rebates and information on energy efficiency, our community outreach, Operation Round Up, and more.

Please mark your calendars for April 27, with "MPE breakfast, beef, and bucket truck rides."

Looking forward to seeing you there!

**MPE's 74<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 27, 2024**

**8 a.m. - Breakfast**  
**9:15 a.m. - Meeting**

**Middle Park High School**  
**795 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**  
**Granby, Colorado**

Visit [www.mpei.com/annual-meeting](http://www.mpei.com/annual-meeting) for updates and more information.

# MPE INTERNSHIP SPARKS INTEREST

MICHAEL MCCOY ENJOYED EXPLORING SEVERAL CO-OP CAREER PATHS

Michael McCoy may say his internship at Mountain Parks Electric opened his eyes to several possible career fields. The staff members who Michael shadowed have said how impressed they were with Michael's intellect, curiosity, and work ethic – that he will be successful no matter what path he chooses.

Michael, a junior at Middle Park High School, was named the school's Intern of the Month in February.

He was interested in an internship with MPE's Engineering Department because he had been looking into engineering as a possible future career path, and that the MPE experience would also offer opportunities to branch out and explore other areas.

He started when the school returned from Christmas break, coming to the MPE offices for an hour and a half in the afternoons, four days a week. He initially learned what engineers at MPE work on, and Susan "Sue" Henderson, manager of Engineering, showed him the basics of using Excel to work with data.

"Learning how to use Excel was really fun, surprisingly," said Michael. "Sue showed me the basics and I spent a week and a half learning and becoming more efficient, watching YouTube videos, and talking to Sue. Then, I could do it in a fraction of the time."

In the end, he was able to utilize the program to take raw substation energy usage data to divide and create percentages on given dates for demand at each substation.

He was also given a tour of a substation. Leading up to this outing, he said he did some research on substations.



"There is more that goes into it than you'd expect. You pass them every day, but there is so much going on in there – engineering, technology, and the thought behind it in general – we take it all for granted," he said. "I was 20 minutes late getting back to school that day, but it was worth it!"

Other MPE days that stand out in Michael's memory include his outing with Adam Paulson, manager of Operations, when they went out in the field and watched linemen string powerlines on a recently replaced pole in Grand Lake. He also enjoyed learning about MPE's warehouse processes.

Michael has lived in various places in Colorado. Before moving to Granby in the seventh grade, he spent a year traveling with his family in South America. He was a part of the Middle Park High School Nordic team that made it to the state competition this year, and he runs in various events on the track team. He is also helping get the Model UN Club started at the high school.

For more information about internship opportunities at Mountain Parks Electric, contact MPE Human Resources at 970-887-7062 or HR@mpei.com.



## CONGRATS, JOHN!

John Butler earned both MPE-sponsored awards, "Best Overall..." & "Best Energy Related Project," at West Grand School District's 16th Annual Science Fair.



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“With Patrick’s assistance, we are positioning our operation to be eligible for loans and financing in about a year to push our production to a higher level for online and local sales,” Nicholson wrote in a testimonial available at [www.grandei.org/testimonials](http://www.grandei.org/testimonials).

South + West Charcuterie, Wine, Catering and Events is another local business startup that gives credit to Brower. The mother-daughter-duo of Rachael Thackston and Jordin Fletcher had Brower help them with their business plan and to gain an understanding of the market in Winter Park. Although the pandemic delayed their initiative, they reconnected in 2023 and Brower helped them secure a location and get their business up and running. Thackston said they continue to consult with Brower. “We’ve added three new jobs to the local economy, and we are busy,” she wrote in her testimonial.

In North Park, three new clients were added in 2023, also a bit down from an average of around five new clients a year in that area. Brower admitted that it is a tougher market up there, but that he also works with the North Park Chamber of Commerce and North Park Heart and Soul in helping that community with planning and future growth. Two of his active clients in Jackson County include a new service organization and another business working on expanding.

Brower has been serving our local community for more than 12 years, utilizing his training in enterprise facilitation business coaching – a form of community-driven and client-centered economic development that supports the growth and sustainability of locally-owned and operated businesses.

To get started in making your business dreams become a reality, contact Brower at [pbrower@consultbrower.com](mailto:pbrower@consultbrower.com) or 970-531-0632.



LINDSAY McCANN  
MEMBER SERVICE SPECIALIST

## WAYS TO SAVE

### SPRING CLEANING TIPS FOR YOUR FRIDGE

Save by doing the following:

- Clean dirty coils**  
Use a duster or vacuum hose to remove dust and dirt from the coils.
- Toss old food**  
Throw out old food and unused items.
- Don't overload**  
Keep the fridge at only two-thirds full for best air circulation.
- Upgrade to Energy Star**  
Replace older refrigerators with an Energy Star Certified model, and receive a rebate for recycling the old one (see [www.mpei.comrebates](http://www.mpei.comrebates)).



• March 14, 2024 •

### GENERAL MANAGER'S BOARD MEETING BULLETIN

- The Board approved three donation requests from the Unclaimed Capital Credits Fund that will impact areas across the MPE service territory:
  - \$100,000 toward the Town of Granby's planned affordable apartment project's ground source heat pump system
  - \$100,000 toward the restoration of the Middle Park Health Wellness Center gym in Kremmling
  - \$50,000 annually in a five-year commitment towards Grand Beginnings

Read the full report at  
[www.mpei.com/BOARD-BULLETIN](http://www.mpei.com/BOARD-BULLETIN)