



[Echoes of the Empire]

Energy Experts Working for You

SHOW YOU CARE WITH SAFETY-MINDED GIFTS

As you create your holiday gift list this year, consider adding safety-minded gifts as a way to show you care. From a smart doorbell to a smoke detector, a gift that keeps loved ones safe gives peace of mind and could help save lives.

Empire Electric Association offers the following tips and gift ideas to help keep everyone on your gift list safer this holiday season and throughout the year:

FOR ADULTS:

- Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- A flashlight with extra batteries for emergencies
- A roadside emergency kit
- Reflective clothing for runners or walkers
- Gloves with LED lights or handheld “knuckle lights” designed for runners
- A smart doorbell to see who’s at the door while at home or away

- Gift certificates for home services and home maintenance, such as heating and cooling system inspection or chimney sweeping
- A fire extinguisher for the kitchen
- A pack of GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets and a gift certificate for a qualified electrician to install them
- A cozy bed blanket to replace an older electric blanket; those more than 10 years old are often unsafe
- Aftermarket safety systems for cars that don’t have them, which include features such as forward-collision and lane-departure warnings
- For vehicles not equipped with them, a rearview camera and dash cam



- A pet harness for use in a vehicle; make sure it earned crash-test certification

FOR KIDS:

- Buy age appropriate gifts; children younger than age 3 should not have access to toys with small parts. Also avoid marbles and small balls for small children
- Don’t forget proper safety gear, such as helmets and knee and elbow pads, when gifting scooters, roller blades, bikes and other riding toys
- Many gaming consoles are equipped with internet browsers and chat features that allow players to communicate with each other, so be aware of these capabilities in any game or electronic device

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets like televisions, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they’re not in use.

Source: energy.gov



For other safety tips and information, visit SafeElectricity.org.

CO-OP PHOTO CONTEST WINNER FOR DECEMBER



“Dolores River in Winter” by Carla Fox

MY CO-OP EMPLOYEES



Denise Rosenbaugh Retires After 30 Years. Many changes occurred during the 30 years that Denise Rosenbaugh was employed at Empire Electric. However, one thing was a constant. Denise was affectionately called “Mother” by co-op employees, as she passionately looked after the board of directors, the general manager and her

co-workers. She counseled, listened to, assisted and watched out for others, making sure that their needs were met and that they felt included in the co-op family.

General Manager Josh Dellinger stated, “Denise was a great worker and we are going to miss her around here. She is also a great friend and we hope she stops by to see us from time to time.”

Denise started with Empire on May 27, 1988, as department secretary. She was promoted to executive secretary on May 1, 1997. On January 25, 2012, she accepted a dual position as human resources coordinator and executive secretary. This position was once again split in January 2017 when Chris Snyder was hired as full-time HR manager and Denise resumed her full-time executive secretary position. She retired on September 14, 2018. Her retirement from Empire has opened the door for her to spend more time with her family and friends.

CO-OP CALENDAR

DECEMBER 7 –

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

DECEMBER 14 –

Empire’s board meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at its headquarters in Cortez. The agenda is posted 10 days in advance of the meeting at eea.coop. Members are reminded that public comment is heard at the beginning of the meeting.

DECEMBER 14 –

Youth Tour applications are due.

DECEMBER 21 –

First day of winter.

DECEMBER 24-25 –

Empire office is closed Monday and Tuesday for the Christmas holiday.

Empire Electric sends warm thoughts and best wishes to our members for a joyful holiday season.

In celebration of the season, our office will be closed December 24 and 25.



MY CO-OP ADVANTAGE

EMPIRE'S YOUTH AND ADULT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Each year, Empire Electric Association offers \$1000 educational scholarships for high school seniors planning to go to college or Lineman school. Scholarships of \$500 are offered to students pursuing a vocational/technical certificate in a electrical related trade. Six scholarships are available for adults who are pursuing further education. Applicants must be EEA members, a spouse or a dependent of a member.

High school seniors may pick up a Student Scholarship Application, a Lineman or other Related Trade Vocational/Technical School Scholarship Application from their guidance counselor's office, at EEA headquarters, or download applications from www.eea.coop.

Adult Scholarship Applications may be downloaded at www.eea.coop, or picked up at EEA headquarters located at 801 N. Broadway, Cortez.

Applications for student and adult scholarships must be received by 11:30am Friday, February 15, 2019. For more information, please contact Denise Moore at denise.moore@eea.coop or 970-564-4458.



Fireplace Fundamentals

It's nice to nestle by a fire during the cold holiday season. After your fire is completely out, be sure to close the damper. This prevents heat from escaping and cold from entering through your chimney.

MY CO-OP EMPLOYEES



Congratulations to Apprentice Lineman Jake Kline.

Jake started his career with Empire Electric as an operator on September 5, 2017, and accepted the apprentice lineman position on October 17, 2018. He and his wife, Michelle, live in Dove Creek where he has resided for 25 years. After graduating from Dove Creek High School, Jake worked in construction and the oil fields. Jake has two stepdaughters, Zoey and Madison, and two stepgrandchildren, Struther and Jude. He volunteers as a firefighter and enjoys hunting, fishing and riding his Harley-Davidson.



WRAPPED IN SAFETY

After you pull out that electric blanket for its first use of the season, give it a good inspection. Be sure the wiring is snug and free of damage and discoloration.

If you're unsure of its safety, discard your electric blanket and snuggle up to a new, UL-certified one you'll love for winters to come.



KEEP SAFE **AND WARM** THIS WINTER



When the chill of fall and winter set in, be aware of **potential fire hazards that are lurking in your home**. Whether keeping warm with heat from your furnace, space heater, fireplace, or electric blanket, **Safe Electricity offers these tips to prevent a fire in your home:**



Have your furnace inspected annually.

Always place your space heater on a **steady surface** and away from curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Use a space heater with an automatic shut-off switch.



Be sure your **chimney is clear** before each use, and cover your fireplace with a screen to keep children and pets away from flames.



Inspect electric blankets for scorch marks or visible damage regularly.

For more **tips on fire prevention**, visit

Safe Electricity.org[®]