

FEC® POWER

Source

Vol. 25 No. 12

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Christmas Traditions

Christmastime is full of family traditions. All families have some little something they look forward to around the holidays. Maybe it's something they've done all their lives, year after year. Maybe it's something young parents did when they were children, and they want to revive that tradition in their own family unit. Maybe old traditions have run their course and there's a desire to start a new one.

Given this, I thought it would be appropriate to ask the employees at FEC about some of their Christmas traditions and see what fun and unique things they may do at home during this most special time of year. Below are some that I found most interesting. You might even want to start one or more of these with your family!



- Go out to eat for breakfast on Christmas Eve morning with your family. Either pick your favorite breakfast restaurant to go to or cook up your kids' favorite breakfast!
- Give each child and spouse a pair of pajamas to open up on Christmas Eve. These will be great for Christmas morning pictures.
- Start carolling at a different family member's or friend's home on the days leading up to Christmas Eve. Each night, the "host family" provides bolos (Spanish for "bag of goodies" like oranges, peanuts, and candy) for the children.
- Beginning on December 1, read one chapter, as a family, out of the book of Luke. Luke has 24 chapters. By Christmas Eve, Luke chapter 24, you'll completely understand the, "reason for the season."
- Have your immediate family pick a service project for a needy family within the community (paint, mend a fence, haul off trash, etc.) between Thanksgiving and Christmas. This will mean so much to both the family in need and to your family as well. It will teach your kids to be giving without expecting anything in return.
- On Christmas Eve, pile everyone into one car and drive around town and look at Christmas lights. On your return home, open all the main gifts for Christmas, youngest to oldest. Christmas morning the kids all wake up anxious to see what Santa has brought them!
- On Christmas Eve, dress up fancy (like for an awards show). Each sibling and parent draw a name from a hat for everyone involved. After a brief time of thought and preparation, go around the room and "award" the person you've drawn an acknowledgement pertaining to their unique personality.

See **NEW TRADITIONS** on **PAGE 3**

Manager's Message...**Lance R. Adkins, GM****Reflect and be Thankful this Christmas**

Well, winter finally arrived, though it seems more like we went from summer to winter overnight. Most of the leaves on the trees one day and most of the leaves on the ground by sundown the next day. From an electric utility perspective, leaves off the trees before a big snow or ice storm is a very good thing. Weather forecasts for the next ten days calls for a return to unseasonably warm weather with significant wind. With our area in dire need of some beneficial moisture, we are concerned about the danger of wildfire as significant growth of grass and brush during the summer is now tinder dry.

However, with the onset of cold weather, the season is starting to match the décor in area stores who have had Christmas displays out for some time, some since just after the 4th of July! In looking back at the newsletter articles, I have written over the past several months, I have spent considerable time on the challenges Farmers' Electric (FEC) faces in keeping rates affordable for the membership. It seems there is a constant barrage of regulatory and legislative initiatives that combine to make electric service more difficult and more costly to provide. Combine this with a daily dose of negative network news and it is easy to overlook those blessings I should be thankful for.



This past weekend FEC participated in the Clovis "Christmas Light Parade", a popular, annual event for close to thirty years. While FEC has been able to participate for most of those parades, I do recall a year or two when weather events caused us to dismantle our lighted "float" and truck because the equipment was needed for outage restoration. Last year, the Light Parade was limited due to covid, with significantly fewer floats. While crowds could not gather, parade organizers came up with a solution, a drive-by parade whereby folks could view the floats from their car as they drove past. Still, with all the uncertainties of covid, the crowd was there. So many folks showed up the time for viewing was extended two hours, to allow folks waiting in long lines a chance to drive through. This past weekend the weather was great, the crowds even greater. I am thankful for all the folks over the past two years determined to not let difficulties, challenges and struggles cancel the spirit of Christmas!

As we celebrate the holiday season, I plan to work harder to keep the negative news in proper perspective and reflect on the many things I have to be thankful for. My challenge to you this season of thanksgiving and Christmas and throughout next year, look for a way to assist those who are struggling; go out of your way to thank those around you each day who work to make your community a great place to live and take time to spend time with family and friends as often as you can.

Thank you too, for the support and encouragement you give those who work for you here at Farmers' Electric! Merry Christmas!

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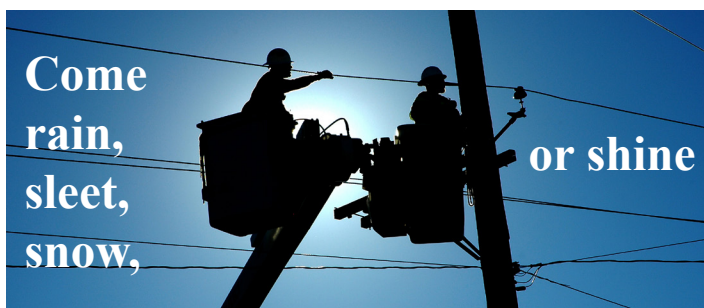
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NEW TRADITIONS *from* PAGE 1

This one is called the “Hairy Awards” because it was submitted by the Harrison family. You can name it anything you’d like. Example: “Mama Bear Award” went to the mother because she is always supporting, giving, and encouraging her kids. Be nice... try to keep the “roasting” to a minimum!

- After all the presents are opened on Christmas morning, go out and shoot clay pigeons.
- Watch Christmas movies together on the nights leading up to Christmas. Here are a few must-sees: Christmas Vacation, Polar Express, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, A Charlie Brown Christmas, Miracle on 34th Street, A Christmas Story, The Nativity Story, Elf, White Christmas, Home Alone, Die Hard, The Santa Clause, A Christmas Carol (animated), The Grinch Who Stole Christmas (Jim Carrey), and of course, It’s a Wonderful Life.
- Don’t wrap Santa gifts. To separate them from other gifts, just spread them around the tree with the appropriate name on them.
- Read the Christmas story and narrate the story with the nativity scene people. Example: Each figurine is passed around with everyone selecting a piece until all are gone. The Christmas story is read and when your character is named, you place it where it belongs (my personal favorite).

Traditions are great around Christmastime because they bond the family unit, they give everyone something special to look forward to, and they invite a shared past that children can pass on to future generations. Here’s to a very merry and tradition-filled Christmas!



Scholarship Applications Available Now!

Farmers’ Electric Cooperative will be awarding scholarships again this year through the Farmers’ Electric Education Foundation. Scholarship applications may be obtained from area high school guidance counselors or from cooperative office locations in Clovis, Ft. Sumner, and Santa Rosa. Scholarship applications can also be requested by calling the Clovis office at 575-762-4466 or 800-445-8541 or by going online to www.fecnm.org. All cooperative members and their dependents are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Don’t Delay! Deadline For Applications Is February 1, 2022!



As in the past, there are two different scholarship forms. Be sure when requesting a form that you specify either the “Graduating High School Student Application” or the “Returning College Application.” Both forms are available from any FEC office or are available to download from www.fecnm.org.

This year, the FEC Board of Trustees has authorized (63) \$1,000 scholarships and (1) \$2,000 Glenn Holland Memorial scholarship.

The Farmers’ Electric Education Foundation was established by the members of the cooperative in 1986 and is funded through donated and unclaimed patronage capital refunds and donations by private individuals.

Only the interest earned on donations is used for scholarships, ensuring that the Education Foundation will continue to support higher education for our members for many years to come. Through 2021, the foundation has awarded 1,383 scholarships totalling \$1,031,730.00.

SAVE THESE DATES!

Each Saturday Jan. 15 - Feb. 19, 2022



ANNIE'S PROJECT
EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

This six-week course is a set of interactive classes bringing women together to learn from experts in production, financial management, human resources, marketing, and the legal field. There's plenty of time for questions, sharing, reacting, and connecting with your presenters and fellow participants.

It's a relaxed, fun, and dynamic way to learn, grow, and meet other farm and ranch women.

Classes will be each Saturday
January 15- February 19, 2022
9 am - 1 pm in Tucumcari

For more information, call Susann Mikkelson at Quay County Cooperative Extension Service at (575) 461-0562 or email: susannm@nmsu.edu

Register Online: <https://ezregister.com/events/35113/>

\$125 includes all six sessions!



BE BOLD. Shape the Future.
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
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New Mexico Youth Tour Cancelled

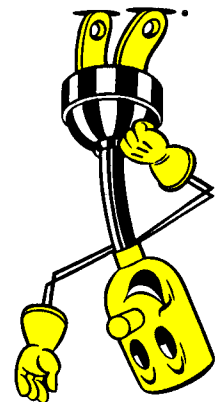
2022



From a statement released by the New Mexico Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NMRECA): "At our November Board meeting the Board of Directors voted to cancel our participation in the 2022 Government-in-Action Youth Tour due to health and safety concerns of our youth."



FEC offices will be closed December 23 and 24 and January 3 in observance of the holidays. In case of an emergency, please call (800) 455-8541. Our line crews are on call 24 hours a day.



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