



Photo By
Eva Grimes

PO BOX 369, EKALAKA, MT 59324 • PH 406-775-8762 • WWW.SEECOOP.COM

FROM SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

By **VICKI L FIX** | Southeast Electric Member Services

DON'T forget that with a new year comes new challenges and new opportunities.

I have long since given up on resolutions. Well, the lose weight one has never worked for me. I mean, seriously, we have New Year's Day, Super Bowl, Valentine's Day, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Presidents' Day, St. Patrick's Day... I'm doomed before I even get through the first three months. I think I will just work toward a better version of myself. Improve my outlook on life, people and our country. Quit focusing on the negative and look for the positive in each situation.

I would also like to spend 2022 connecting with our members more. If you have ideas of articles you would like to see or if you need information on our rebate programs, energy-assistance program or education/scholarship programs, please give me a call.

Good luck on your resolutions and Happy New Year!

RM

The year is yours.
What will you do with it?

TOP 10 RESOLUTIONS

1. Exercise more
2. Lose weight
3. Get organized
4. Learn a new skill or hobby
5. Live life to the fullest
6. Save more money / spend less money
7. Quit smoking
8. Spend more time with family and friends
9. Travel more
10. Read more

SOURCE: GOOGLE

AFTER-HOURS PROCEDURES

THE POWER JUST WENT OUT – WHAT DO I DO?

Monday - Friday: If the power goes out Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., call us at the office at 406-775-8762. From 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. you can call Mike Dalzell at 406-697-4117, Jake Hammel at 406-581-0884 or Adam Kuntz at 406-941-0861.

Holidays and Weekends (Friday 5 p.m. to Monday 8 a.m.) call our office at 406-775-8762. The phones are automatically forwarded to the lineman on call.

We encourage our members to always call. You never know if it is an isolated outage and only affects you. RM

SCHOLARSHIPS

DON'T FORGET!

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE JANUARY 21

MECA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP: \$500
SOUTHEAST ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP: \$1,000
BASIN ELECTRIC SCHOLARSHIP: \$1,000
VERNON EMERY MEMORIAL LINEMAN SCHOLARSHIP: \$1,500

More information about all the scholarships and the applications is available at <https://www.seecoop.com/scholarships>, the Southeast Electric Cooperative office, or from your high school guidance counselor.

Are portable space heaters efficient?

By **ABBY BERRY**
 For Southeast Electric

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, such as inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weatherstripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home, adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

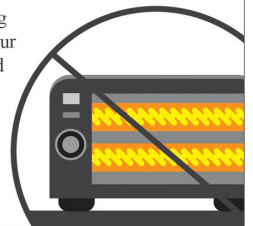
Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans; we use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can



TIPS TO DITCH THE SPACE HEATER

Space heaters are energy hogs, and older models can be extremely dangerous. This winter, ditch the space heater and try these alternative solutions to stay cozy.

- Use an electric blanket to keep warm during the night.
- Caulk and weatherstrip around all windows and doors to prevent heat loss.
- Consider adding insulation to your attic and around duct work.



be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it

carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating. Place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Consider alternative ways to stay warm such as extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal).

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly. 