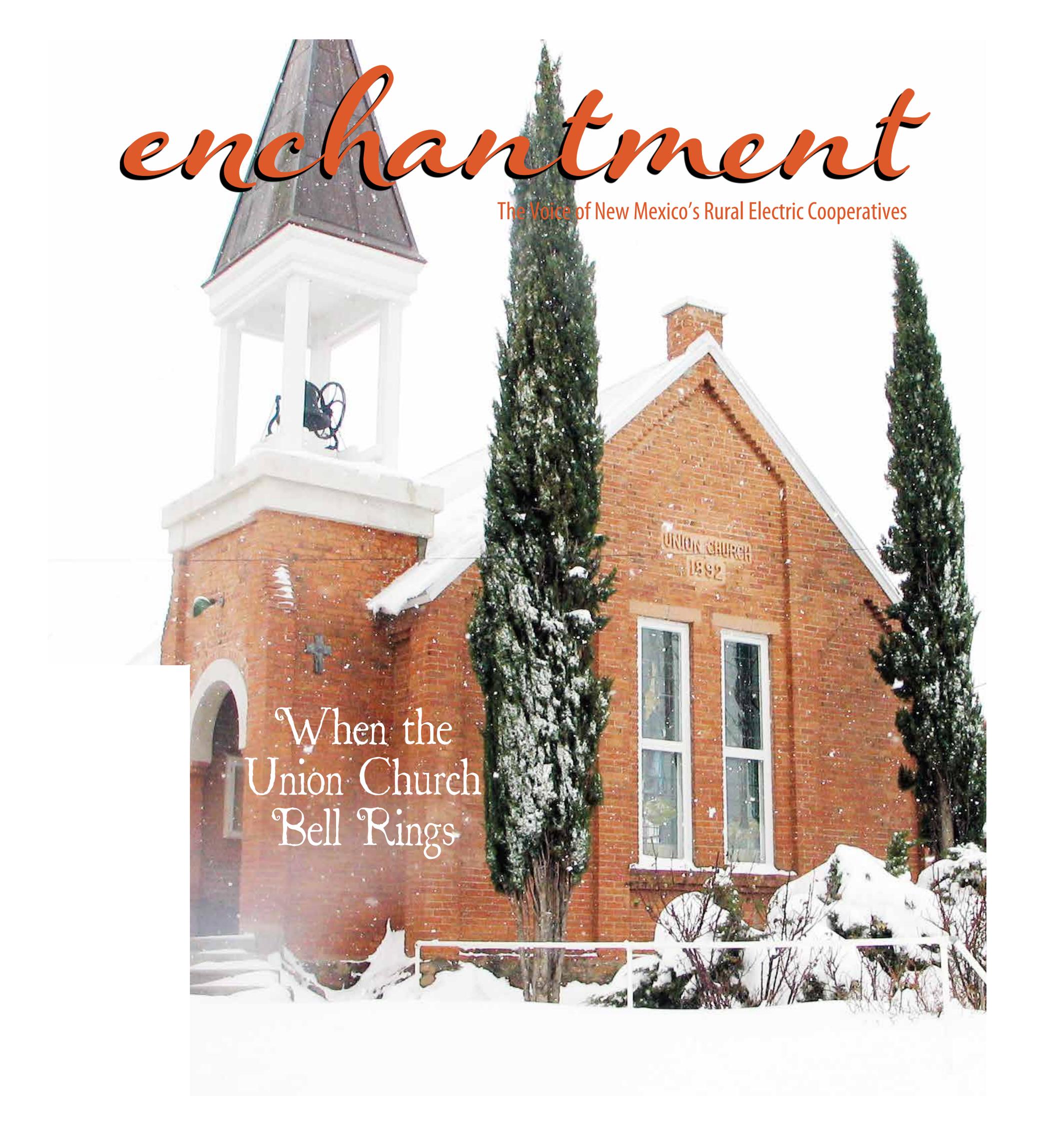


# *enchantment*

The Voice of New Mexico's Rural Electric Cooperatives

A photograph of a brick church building in winter. The church has a prominent bell tower on the left side with a bell hanging inside. The main building is made of red brick and has a gabled roof. Two tall, thin evergreen trees are in the foreground, covered in snow. The ground is also covered in snow. The text "UNION CHURCH 1892" is visible on the brick wall above the windows.

When the  
Union Church  
Bell Rings



## Correction to FREE Washington D.C. Trip for Local Contest Winners Article in December

**YOUTH TOUR  
2018**

In last month's *enchantment*, we announced the start of the Youth Tour contest and listed one of the eligibility requirements as "Have a 3.0 GPA." That requirement has been removed this year.

### To clarify, contest requirements are:

- Must be a junior or senior student in high school.
- Must be a dependent of a Sierra Electric Cooperative member.
- Must complete the application and answer two cooperative essay questions on the application.

### Deadline:

- Application and written essay are due Wednesday, January 17, 2018.

For more information, call 575-744-5231.

## Space Heaters During Winter

As we near the winter months, the store shelves fill with electric space heaters, tempting consumers to purchase the small unit that will provide instant heat. Touted as energy efficient, these units appear convenient and affordable.

**Energy Efficiency:** A warning to our members—the average electric space heater uses 1,500 watts of electric. This means for every hour you turn on the electric space heater, it is using 1.5 kWh. At our current residential energy charge rate, that cost to you is \$0.22 an hour. If you use the space heater for 4 hours a day, for 30 days, the energy charge on your bill could be about \$27 more than usual.

It is important to note the additional electricity cost when considering the purchase of an electric space heater. Be sure to read the specifications for the unit, especially the wattage. If using an electric space heater, carefully monitor how many hours you use it.

**Safety Precautions:** There are safety precautions to consider, including:

- Inspect heaters for cracked or broken plugs or loose connections before each use. If frayed, worn or damaged, do not use the heater.
- Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep.

- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothing, or thaw pipes.
- Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard.
- Plug space heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not use an extension cord or power strip, which could overheat and result in a fire.
- Place space heaters on level, flat surfaces. Never place heaters on cabinets, tables, furniture, or carpet, which can overheat and start a fire.



**Season's Greetings**

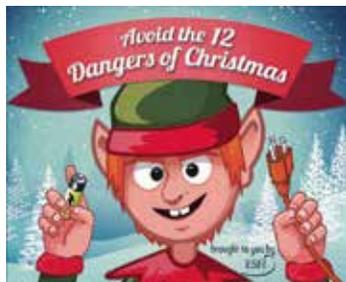
The board of trustees and employees of Sierra Electric Cooperative *Thank You*, members, for your friendship, goodwill and loyalty. May the happiness and good cheer of the holiday season be yours throughout the new year. Have a very happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

**Holiday Hours**

Our office will be closed on December 25 in observance of Christmas; and January 1, 2018, in observance of New Year's Day.

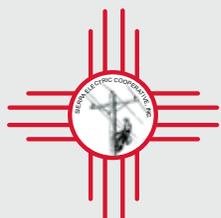
**Report an Outage**

To report any outages, call 888-336-3380.



1. Do not use any electronics near water.
2. Never sleep with electronics under your pillow.
3. Keep batteries safely stored away; they can be deadly if swallowed.
4. Do not leave space heaters unattended when in use.
5. Keep decorations at least 3 feet away from any open flames.
6. Never play with fire.
7. Do not run cords under carpets, rugs, furniture, or out of windows.
8. Sometimes less is more; be careful not to over decorate.
9. Do not overload outlets.
10. Always turn off decorations when you're sleeping or leaving your home.
11. Inspect decorations and discard damaged or worn ones.
12. Always keep your natural Christmas tree hydrated and water it daily.

Board of Trustees			
John Bokich	President	Elephant Butte	District 2
Darryl Sullivan	Vice President	Monticello	District 3
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George Biel	Treasurer	Monticello	District 3
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Charles McMath	Trustee	Elephant Butte	District 2
Judy Smith	Trustee	Caballo	District 1
Thomas Stroup	Trustee	Elephant Butte	District 2
Board Meeting			
The board of trustees meets the third Friday of the month at 8:30 a.m. in the cooperative boardroom.			



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# SIERRA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

### Office Address

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Post Office Box 290  
Elephant Butte, NM 87935

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575-744-5231

### Outage

888-336-3380

### Fax

575-744-5819

### Email Address

sierra@secpower.com

### Website Address

www.sierraelectric.org

### Office Hours

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.(M-F)

### Denise Barrera

General Manager