



GETTING THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS...

7 Money-Saving, Stress-Less Holiday Shopping Tips

- 1) Make a list of all the people you plan to buy a gift for, no matter how small; include gift ideas, the maximum dollars you are willing to spend on that person etc. This will help you manage your holiday budget.
- 2) Do Online Research– this helps with narrowing down what to get people, lets you re-search brands or models and compare them without any rush. This also allows you to look at several store prices and determine which one is the better deal.
- 3) Take advantage of No-Cost Shipping– some online retailers give free delivery for the holidays. This allows you to get multiple items from online retailers without having to worry about the extra shipping costs.
- 4) Don't entertain in a way that is more work than fun. Potluck dinners and parties are a great way to have guests pitch in and help with some of the details. Or ask for side dishes and desserts and provide the main course. Learn to say “yes” when someone offers to help you clean up– it takes less time with four hands than it does with two.
- 5) Don't say “yes” to everyone– pick and choose the parties you attend, not every group in your life needs to have a holiday get-together that you must attend. Take time for yourself to enjoy the holidays on your terms.

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

DECEMBER 2014

SCAMMING AT CHRISTMAS...

Scammers do not take the holiday off... so neither should your protection!

- Unsolicited Donations– A lot of “charities” prey on people during the holiday season. Best rule of thumb– give money only to the charities of your choice in your time– do not donate money to people who call you on the phone, unless you requested them to do so, because you never know where the money will end up.
- Purchase Gift Cards Behind the Service Counter or Online– Some scammers are able to scan the cards on racks available to everyone, and when the actual card is activated, the scammers use the money, before the card reaches its destination. Periodically call the number on the card and verify the balance that remains on the card to make sure that the money is still available.
- Watch your Credit Card Statements– If you go shopping and use a credit card, watch your statement charges either online or when the statement arrives in the mail. Do not wait to dispute a charge if you aren't sure what it is. Always protect your credit cards, by using pin #'s and keeping them in a secure place.



FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK...



Happy Holidays... can't believe how fast this year has gone by. We have been busy with the Agate Mutual Telephone Annual Meeting, which was held on Saturday, October 25, 2014. We had a good turn-out and gave away a lot of prizes and gift certificates. For two years now, we have drawn a progressive jackpot, and every year we add \$100 cash into the pot, but the name drawn out of the pack must be in attendance to win. In 2013, the jackpot was not won, so this year the pot was \$200. It was won by Dennis and Rebecca Musser who have been customers of Agate Mutual since 2012.

On the plant side of things, our company has finished putting in the fiber for 2014— adding an additional 3 mile stretch on County Road 178. In 2015 we are looking to upgrade our South Route to Highway 86. Eventually we will be able to get all customers on fiber, and then start adding new speed packages and offerings. On the telephone side of things, we are up to 110 phone lines and still growing... this is important as the federal funding is based off the line counts, and the less you have the less dollars you receive.

On the Exede Satellite side, we are happy to announce that bandwidth packages will be available starting December 1st 2014. Exede which is owned by ViaSat has been very customer oriented, and have listened to what customers want. Higher bandwidth was the most requested item by the customers. The new packages will be 20GB, 30GB, 50GB. At the time that I write this letter, we are still getting all the prices and options worked out, so see a separate flyer in this bill and in the months to come with all the information.

I want to personally thank all our customers for allowing us to serve you. We have been working hard to meet your needs, and I hope that you are satisfied with our services. The team here at Agate Mutual & Prairie Networks wishes to extend Happy Holidays to everyone, and may your Holidays be safe and happy ones!

As always, don't forget my door is always open, you can contact me at the office at 764-2578, or danh@amtca.net.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hollembeak

General Manager,
Agate Mutual and Prairie Networks



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US!!

Daniel

Amy

Judy

Eric

AMTCA & PN BOARDS MERGE...

Agate Mutual Telephone had their annual members meeting and luncheon on Saturday, October 25, 2014. There were 30 members, 5 guests, and 17 children in attendance.

The board of directors requested that the Agate Mutual Telephone and the Prairie Networks boards be merged into one board with seven members (all members to remain in office) to eliminate duplication of meeting items, eliminate long meeting times due to both meetings held on the same evening, and allows Agate Mutual's board to absorb two additional members from Prairie Networks and so a quorum can be met if several members are unable to attend. The request was discussed among the members and approved at the annual meeting.

Elections were also held at the annual meeting and all the remaining board members were placed in office. The board members are as follows: Dale Purdy, Delmer Davis, Barry Hollembeak, Larry Rector, Larry Pitzer, Harold Smith, and Joe Craven. Positions will be determined at the next board meeting in December.

The meeting also shared the current services that our company offers, reviewed the community service projects we are involved in, and reviewed the 2014 financials.

We want to thank all that attended the meeting, and especially thank the families of the board members for allowing us to utilize your family member in the board position. In little communities it is hard to find volunteers, but we are very fortunate!



Customers of the Quarter

A new addition to our newsletter is the Customer of the Quarter section. To reward you for being GREAT Customers, we will randomly draw a name out of a hat and the two winners will be announced on the newsletter every quarter. If your name is listed below, contact our office at either 719-764-2578 or anoah@amtca.net to claim your prize. One Agate Mutual and one Prairie Networks customer will be given a chance to collect their \$25 Visa Gift Card— all you have to do is contact us to get your prize.

This quarter's winners are:

Jeromie Otto

Daniel Fronefield

Agate Mutual Telephone Customer

Prairie Networks Customer

CONGRATULATIONS!



38619 Monroe St
PO Box 38
Agate, CO 80101

Tel: 719-764-3000
Toll Free: 877-565-2045
Fax: 719-764-2391
PN Email:
pn@prairienetworks.net

Were On the
Web!!

www.prairienetworks.net

Office Hours:

7:00 am to 5:00 pm

Monday—Thursday



SHORT SHORTS

The Mirror

On Christmas Eve, Nathan thought he would be nice to buy his wife a little gift for the next day. Always short of money, he thought long and hard about what that present might be. Unable to decide, Nathan headed to the local department store and ended up at the cosmetics counter. He asked the woman, “How about some perfume?”. The woman pulled out a bottle costing \$75.



“Too expensive,” he muttered, so the woman came back with a smaller bottle for \$50. “Oh dear,” Nathan grouched, “still far too much.” Growing rather annoyed at Nathan’s meanness the sales woman bought out a tiny bottle for \$30 and offered it to him.

Nathan became agitated, “What I mean is I’d like to see something really cheap.” So the sales woman handed him a mirror.

Turkey Dilemma

Sarah, a young new bride calls her mother in tears. She sobs, “Richard doesn’t appreciate what I do for him.” “Now, now,” her mother comforted, “I am sure it was all just a misunderstanding.” “No mother you don’t understand. I bought a frozen turkey roll and he yelled and screamed at me about the price.” “The turkey rolls are only a few dollars, I don’t see why he would be mad at you for that,” her mother replied. “No mother...” Sarah paused, “it wasn’t the price of the turkey. It was the airplane ticket.” “Airplane ticket— what did you need that for?” the mother asked.

“Well, when I went to fix it, I looked at the directions on the package and it said: ‘Prepare from a frozen state’, so I flew to Alaska...”



F U N F A C T S

Did you know...



- Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the U.S. alone.
- The world’s largest Christmas stocking measured 106 feet 9 inches long and 49 feet 1 inch wide. It was made by the Children’s Society in London on Dec. 14, 2007.
- All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts.
- Oklahoma was the last U.S. state to declare Christmas a legal holiday, in 1907.

