WITH THANKSGIVING JUST AROUND THE CORNER, I’d like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for your membership and support of San Bernard Electric Cooperative. And this is no offhand or perfunctory thanks: Because of your connection to San Bernard EC, we are able to make our community a better place. It might sound trite if it weren’t so true.

In the spirit of this month’s holiday, I think it’s important to let our members know just what an impact you have on our co-op and the greater community, likely in ways you may not even realize.

As a cooperative, one of our core principles is Concern for Community. While our priority is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also seek to be a catalyst for good. We are purposeful in partnering with local groups, such as volunteer fire departments, who share our commitment to enriching our community’s safety and quality of life.

Another cooperative principle we work to amplify is Education, Training and Information. We espouse this principle by working closely with area schools to provide safety demonstrations and award college scholarships, and by sponsoring some of our community’s brightest young people on the annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour.

Youth Tour sends teens from cooperatives around Texas and the nation to Washington, D.C., each June for a week of immersion in democracy in action. The trip is life-changing for many students, and we are humbled and honored to be part of this golden opportunity.

These investments in our community wouldn’t be possible without you. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and patronage of these programs. When you attend co-op events—particularly the annual meeting—and alert us to problems, give kudos, or provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve our operations and, ultimately, better serve the entire membership.

Because we are locally governed, San Bernard EC has a firsthand perspective on community priorities, which enables us to make reasoned decisions about long-term and infrastructure investments, including considerations of whether certain projects are a timely fit for our membership.

I’m thankful for our board members’ willingness to carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. Their time is well spent, as it results in better informed advisers who serve the co-op’s interests in a way that our members expect and deserve.

I also appreciate the countless acts of kindness shown to our lineworkers and other employees when they are working in severe weather or its aftermath. Our employees are thankful for your patience, care and concern while they work to restore power during prolonged outages amid challenging conditions.

San Bernard EC was established 80 years ago to bring electricity to our area when no one else would. The cooperative is a reflection of our community and its evolving needs. Together, let’s continue making our corner of the world a better place. We can’t do it without you, and for that reason and many others, we’re thankful for your membership.

Until next time, take care.
WHILE A GOOD CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM IS DESIGNED TO MEET WHOLE-HOUSE NEEDS, sometimes we have to turn to space heaters for additional warmth. And in some cases, small space heaters can make financial sense—for example, if you only want to heat or supplement inadequate heating in one room. However, a space heater is not necessarily an economical source of long-term warmth.

Get More for Less

The key to efficiency is using space heaters in smaller rooms that are occupied infrequently, in conjunction with lower thermostat settings on your central system.

Lowering thermostat settings from 70 to 65 degrees and using a thermostat-controlled space heater to heat 10% of a home’s conditioned floor space will save about $67 a year. Space heaters are most efficient when used in small spaces for limited periods and will likely waste energy if used to heat too large of an area.

Buy the right size heater for the right size space—too small and the results could be disappointing, too large or powerful and you’ll be uncomfortable (and pay more).

Be Safe, Not Sorry

Space heaters get seasonal use, but they are responsible for 25,000 residential fires a year. Burn injuries associated with surface contacts with room heaters send about 6,000 people to emergency rooms every year.

Because the devices are designed to give off heat, they should always be plugged directly into the wall and set in locations clear of all flammable materials and out of reach of small children, pets and anyone with impaired mobility.

Choose a heater with an adjustable thermostat and a tip-over safety feature to automatically shut off in the event that the unit tilts beyond its upright position.
IN 2007, SEALY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BEGAN LAYING HOLIDAY wreaths on the graves of veterans buried at Houston National Cemetery as part of Wreaths Across America. Since then, they’ve expanded their efforts to include veteran gravesites at one of their local cemeteries, and they hope to continue growing their reach until they have covered all veteran gravesites in their school district.

Wreaths Across America is a national organization whose mission is to remember fallen veterans, honor those who have served our country and teach children the value of freedom. Each December, WAA volunteers place wreaths at more than 1,600 locations across the country to show our vets and their families that we won’t forget those who fought for our freedom.

Members of Sealy High School’s student council, National Honor Society and Rotary Club Interact are proud to be among those volunteers and to bring this project to Austin County.

“We feel like it is important to honor our veterans. Participating in this program has really impacted our students,” said Stephanie Novicke, National Honor Society sponsor. “When they see that they are part of something much bigger than themselves, they take ownership of civic matters, they develop a sense of pride and they honor the past.”

This project is near and dear to Novicke, who has participated since its inception in 2007. As an educator, she believes learning takes place not only within the confines of a school curriculum but also through contributing to society. She feels service projects like Wreaths Across America offer an opportunity to learn about the world, and she is proud of how students have grown through participating in the project.

“It is all about honoring our veterans and servicemen and...
women,” said Leslie Pacher, teacher and student council sponsor. “Not every student is raised in a military home or [has] the resources to experience or interact with military men and women. This gives them an opportunity to grow during their experiences.”

Before the students lay wreaths, they join local veterans and community members to remember all those who have served our country. The Knights of Columbus present the colors while students sing the national anthem. Local veterans lay a wreath for each branch of the military as well as for prisoners of war and those missing in action. The ceremony is then followed by a student performance of echo taps.

“For me, the ceremonial wreaths stand out, especially the POW [wreath],” Novicke said. “You can hear a pin drop during this part. To see those veterans—some need assistance to even walk—proudly lay that ceremonial wreath is just so amazing.”

This project is not only affecting to the teachers at Sealy High School but also the students. Last year more Sealy students participated in the Wreaths Across America program than ever, and each teen had a perspective on what this project means to them.

“The wreaths represent everlasting life,” said Carlos Godoy, Interact club president. “I feel it is important because thousands of people respond to the emotional power of wreaths to honor their loved ones and military members.”

Morgan Smith, student council vice president, stressed the importance of honoring those who have fought for the freedom we have today. She also loves that Wreaths Across America brings her community together to celebrate the lives of our veterans.
The WAA project at Sealy High School shows no signs of slowing—thanks to the passion of the school’s students and educators.

“Last year, we covered [Immaculate Conception Catholic Cemetery] before going to Houston,” Novicke said. “The student council, NHS and Interact sponsors have all talked about the importance of growing this event in Sealy for our local veterans, to give back to our community. So we are going to dedicate our time and resources to Sealy this year.”

This year, Sealy High School students will cover the ICC Cemetery and the Sealy Cemetery. They have added the Frydek and San Felipe cemeteries to the list as well.

“We have a rotation that includes every cemetery over a four-year rotation,” Novicke said. “It is a big job, but we welcome the challenge. We also welcome help in the form of wreath donations from the community.”

If you would like to sponsor a wreath, you can mail a $15 check with “wreaths” in the memo field to Sealy High School at 2372 Championship Drive, Sealy, Texas 77474, or you can sponsor them through Wreaths Across America’s website, using location code TXICCS, at wreathsacrossamerica.org/pages/155914/overview. Any funds raised and not used this year stay in the account for the years to come.

This year’s ceremony will be held Saturday, December 14, at 8 a.m. at the American Legion Hall in Sealy. The ceremony will be followed by the laying of wreaths at the ICC and Sealy cemeteries.
GET READY FOR WINTER

Take a few basic steps now to prepare your home and your family for winter.

**THERMOSTAT**
Make sure you keep your home heated to at least 60 degrees, even if you're not at home. Consider installing a programmable thermostat to regulate temperature.

**ROOF & GUTTERS**
Check for loose shingles and flashing. Clean out gutters and downspouts.

**TREE BRANCHES**
Check tree branches and trim those that are too close to your home. If trees are encroaching on power lines, let your electric cooperative know.

**WINDOWS & DOORS**
Check weatherstripping, and patch or caulk as needed. Consider thick drapes to help keep heat inside.

**FURNACE**
Clean or replace the filter every four to six weeks. Check all fireplaces, chimneys and flues.

**PIPFES**
If the temperature drops below 20 degrees, let water trickle from all faucets.

**OUTDOOR HOSES & FAUCETS**
Disconnect hoses and store inside. Locate the main water shut-off valve and know how to use it. Wrap outdoor pipes and spigots with insulation.

**SAFETY**
Check smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and replace batteries as needed. Keep a fire extinguisher handy and ensure everyone knows how to use it.

**EMERGENCY KIT**
Prepare an emergency kit with flashlight, batteries, a phone list, bottled water, nonperishable food, blankets, first-aid supplies, medications, matches and pet supplies.
THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME

GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION

YOUTH TOUR

JUNE 17–26, 2020

You’re a Texas high school student. You’re smart; you have big dreams. Maybe you’ve never been out of the state, and maybe you’ve never flown on a plane, but you want to travel—experience a big city, visit historic landmarks and meet people. Sound like you? Then the Government-in-Action Youth Tour is your tour.

Apply by January 17. Sponsored by San Bernard EC.
For more information, visit sbec.org.

Start your adventure at TexasYouthTour.com
Visit Facebook.com/TexasYouthTourAlumni
TRADING POST

FOR SALE


LOWREY PALLADIUM ORGAN—Excellent, like-new condition. Equipped to record and/or play CDs and 3-inch discs. Bench with tufted seat and back. Drawers on both ends of bench. Accessories: original manual, microphone, karaoke, ear buds for silent play, five blank CDs, four 3” discs, two dozen-plus published Lowrey Music books and training books, computer screen with 750 prerecorded songs and background accompaniment, can record your own music. Dimensions: 4 ft. Hx55 in. Wx42 in. Owners are moving and cannot take organ. Valued at $10,000, asking $8,500. Call (979) 942-9021 or (979) 732-1872.

CEDAR WARDROBE—Purchased in early 1950s with two doors, 61”Hx36”Wx21”D. Call (979) 877-7257.

MOBILE HOME—14’x56’ mobile home in Sheridan, 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath. Great shape, remodeled with 200-amp breaker box, PEX plumbing. All appliances included: w/d, ref, stove, cent. ht/ac. Will make a great weekend home or deer camp cabin. Contact larry132rs@gmail.com for pictures. Leave callback number.

BULL CALVES AND FARM EQUIPMENT—Two registered Angus bull calves, 11 and 9 months old, R jet black (AI) and watchout genetics. Spreader and seeder for 3-point hookup, very good condition, $400. 6-hp Troy-Bilt tiller, works. Call (936) 581-3115.

CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONER UNITS—5-ton and 2.5-ton furnace and evaporator for inside, condensing unit for outside, electric for 2.5. Call (979) 451-2098.

VERMEER ROUND BALER—5x5, works well, $1,200 OBO. Call home phone at (979) 732-2110 or cellphone at (979) 732-1722.


TOOLS AND TRAILER—Rigid 12-24 threader, conduit benders, ladders, vises, bandsaws and drills. Call (361) 798-2408, (361) 798-6283 or (361) 798-6284.

WELDING MACHINE—Lincoln Electric Classic II 350 amp diesel, 1,285 hours, $8,000 OBO. Call (979) 234-3783.

2008 E-Z-GO TXT GOLF CART—Power drive system, electric, two-seater w/rear flip seat, portable windshield and 36-V charger, batteries 2 years old, $3,000. Call (979) 885-7344.

WANTED

ANTIQUES—Want to buy old/antique gas pumps, guns and brass cash register. Please call Richard Noack at (979) 865-3098.

DOUBLE-WIDE MOBILE HOME—Small to medium square footage, will move. Call (979) 877-7257.

ELECTRIC PEA SHELLER—Call (713) 724-5090.

TRACTOR PTO-DRIVEN CEMENT MIXER—Call (979) 865-8820.

LAND PLANE—6-ft.-wide land plane with three-point hitch, adjustable scarifies and angled grading blades adjustable for depth, pitch and blade wear. Call (979) 865-8820.

SERVICES

FREE WILD HOG REMOVAL—Use dogs, experienced, will travel. Call (832) 715-1130.

ADVERTISE IN THE TRADING POST

SBE C members are invited to submit ads for the Trading Post to P. O. Box 1208, Bellville, TX 77418 or lsamford@sbec.org. However, no commercial business ads will be accepted. Ads are placed on a first-come, first-served basis, and we reserve the right to refuse any ad. Please submit your ad by the 20th of each month. (If you submit an ad by November 20, it will appear in the January issue.) Your ad will be published in two consecutive issues, then deleted. If you want the ad to run another two months, you must resubmit the ad. The ad will not exceed four consecutive months.