AH, SPRING HAS SPRUNG AND (JUST MAYBE) OL’ MAN WINTER HAS receded to the north once more. It’s good to put some distance between us and the last three months of weather. And now, many of you are eager to get your lawns and gardens back into form. I know some of the storms and the bitter winter temperatures have taken a toll on a lot of our homes’ foliage. Quite a few of you might be planting or replanting trees, as Arbor Day falls in the month of April. If you are planning on planting trees this year, please keep two important points in mind.

First, you should always utilize the Texas one-call network by calling 811 prior to any extensive soil excavation. While you might think you know where every buried gas or electric line (if any) is on your property, wouldn’t you want to know for sure? This is a service that will cost you absolutely nothing and might save you a whole lot of trouble. Even in our business, we utilize a one-call system to seek out hidden dangers underground.

Also, please review the spots where you are planting any trees. Make sure that you are not planting trees right underneath an overhead power line. Even if you feel a sapling is too small at the time of planting to come into contact with our power lines, the whole purpose of the tree is to grow. Far too many times, our vegetation department has to remove trees that were planted underneath or too close to our utility easement. We then become the bad guy when we show up to cut your tree down. And believe it or not, we don’t like being the bad guys. But we will do what we have to do to maintain the reliable service our members expect from us.

So, when you are planting trees anywhere in the vicinity of a power line, please keep the tree a minimum of 40 feet from the middle of our power line easement. Some trees might need more space.

One more thing to note: On April 13, please join me in honoring our linemen as we celebrate them on National Lineman Appreciation Day. These guys are extremely dedicated to their jobs and serving our membership regardless of inclement weather. I know that each and every one of our linemen always goes above and beyond in their duties to serve you. (See more within this month’s articles.)

And one more plug for our annual meeting on May 16. Please make plans to join us! Until next time, take care.
Each year, San Bernard Electric Cooperative looks forward to getting together with our co-op community to hear what you have to say, enjoy fellowship among friends and give everyone the chance to win prizes.

The co-op’s annual meeting is not only a chance to visit with friends, though. It’s also a great opportunity to learn about programs offered by the cooperative and to get to know our staff. For us, the annual meeting provides an important forum for gathering feedback about how we can better serve you.

So, circle Saturday, May 16, on your calendar and make sure to join us at the annual meeting. We’ll save you a seat!
“BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME.” THAT FAMOUS LINE FROM THE movie Field of Dreams can be applied to the Fiddlers’ Frolics Texas State Championship fiddling competition and the way it has grown over the years.

What started as an idea formulated by a man named Frank Zaruba, the Frolics has grown into what many consider the largest fiddling contest in the world—spanning more than four days and attracting several thousand each year.

“When the Fiddlers’ Frolics first started, I thought it was going to be a local fiddle contest,” Zaruba said. “We never envisioned it would get as big as it has grown.”

The notion to hold a fiddling contest came after Zaruba and his wife, Rita, attended a hoedown at the Ezzell School sometime in the late 1960s. Zaruba said that when he and Rita arrived at the event, there were so many cars parked near the school that they had to walk more than three-quarters of a mile to get to the performance area.

After attending the hoedown, which included performances by local fiddlers and guitarists, Zaruba realized that this type of event could be held in Hallettsville, so he presented the idea to Kenneth Henneke, who had a creative enthusiasm for promoting various projects.

“I told Kenneth this is really a bird nest on the ground because people will come to something like this,” Zaruba said. Henneke thought it was a great idea, and the two devised a plan for hosting a contest that would feature fiddle players competing against one another and other entertainment.

Knowing that Cliff and Velda Fryer traveled to fiddling contests throughout the country, Zaruba and Henneke sought Cliff Fryer’s help in getting their idea rolling.

“Cliff was the key to it,” Zaruba said. “Because he went to fiddling contests, he knew all the good fiddlers, and they knew him.”

Working together, the three men were not sure how big their planned event would be, but they felt they needed to obtain sponsorship. Seeking a backer for the event, Henneke presented their plans to the Knights of Columbus Council 2433.

Zaruba said when they revealed their idea at the Knights of Columbus meeting, he didn’t know what to expect.

“I remember there was no discussion by the members,” Zaruba said. “But when they decided to vote, the members looked at one another and voted on it, saying yes to the sponsorship.”

With the support of the Knights of Columbus, Zaruba, Henneke and Fryer began looking for a site and date to hold the
first fiddle contest in Hallettsville. But securing a venue in the area proved difficult, as the American Legion Hall had been destroyed by a recent fire and the construction of a Knights of Columbus hall was only a thought at that time.

According to Zaruba, the only venue available was Wied Hall, and the three men proceeded with the plan to host a one-day event, which would take place on the fourth Saturday in April 1971.

As the organizers discussed what to name the event, Zaruba said, they initially planned to call it the State Championship Fiddlers’ Contest. But out of the blue, the words “Fiddlers’ Frolics” popped into Zaruba’s head, and the rest is history.

“Something just hit my mind, and I said, ‘Why don’t we call it the Fiddlers’ Frolics?’ and so we decided to go with it,” Zaruba said.

With the date and site set, the next items of business were getting the word out and inviting fiddlers to compete for the title of best fiddler in the state.

Advertising the event as a fiddle contest, the event attracted what Zaruba believes was every dance band fiddler from across a wide-ranging area.

“When we first started, we felt the contest would only attract local fiddlers,” he said. “But when the day arrived, they had more fiddlers competing than expected.”

When that April Saturday finally arrived, the organizers had a bevy of fiddlers lined up to compete. Martha Lynn and the Westerners, a well-known band of that era, volunteered to play for free at a dance following the contest.

In the competition’s early years, most of the performers were in bands, Zaruba said. However, today’s competitors are primarily contest fiddlers.

This year’s Fiddlers’ Frolics runs Thursday, April 23, through Sunday, April 26. The event includes live entertainment throughout the weekend with six fiddling competitions, a barbecue cook-off and the Fit as a Fiddle 5K. Friday night’s featured artists are Keith Junot, Doug Kershaw, Bonnie Riley and Chris Rybak. You won’t want to miss the entertainment on Saturday afternoon, which again includes Junot, Riley and Rybak. On Saturday night, Fiddlers’ Frolics will welcome to the stage Broken Alibi, Shane Smith and the Saints, and Josh Ward, and the Sunday afternoon entertainment will be provided by the Texas Unlimited Band.

So make plans and come out to Hallettsville to enjoy Fiddlers’ Frolics Texas State Championship.
FOR SALE

VARIOUS—Two large, old iron hay rake-wheels, $100 each or both for $150; 150-year-old ribbon barn wire, 500 ft., $300; 12 cured and cut cedar logs, 8–10 ft., $2/board foot. Call Will at (713) 501-1019.

HOUSE—2 bedroom, 1½ bath, 1,250 sq. ft. on large lot in Sheridan. City water, city sewer, $65,000. Call or text Dawn at (979) 732-1383.

VARIOUS—Dresser from 1920s–1930s, long center mirror with two side folding mirrors, has stool, $125. Framed wall hanging mirror, 30.25"x29.25", $80. Berkey light countertop water filter system, has four filters, 28"x9", slightly used, $150. Handmade fleece blankets, various sizes: baby, stroller, bassinet, crib. Call (979) 263-4124.

VARIOUS—H.P. Nelson player piano (it works!) plus over 200 piano rolls, $1,200; cherry dining table 42"x64" (extends to 88" with two leaves), eight matching chairs, matching Hutch, $1,500; antique double bed with matching dressing table with mirror and chair, $400. Call or text (979) 253-8265.

ElliPTICAL MACHINE—Schwinn 470 Journey 4.5 elliptical exercise machine, hardly used, like new, $200. Altair. Call Mike at (281) 782-5496.

TRACTOR—50-hp Zetor tractor w/ front loader, model 3320, in great shape, new brakes, new front end and power steering, PTO and emergency brake cables, primarily kept in barn, 918 hours. Photos available. Front end hay fork and Armstrong Ag fork-lift attachments also available. Kenney. $13,500. Call (832) 250-3568.

WOOD STOVE—Monarch Malleable cooking wood stove with pipes, excellent condition, $1,000. Call (281) 382-4306.

TAXIDERMY ITEMS—flying turkey FB, $75; hog mount, $200. Household items: gas clothes dryer, $75; GE dishwasher, $50; large fish tank, $40; fish tank, complete, new, $45; misc. books, $2 and up; Danielle Steele collection of 66 novels, $250; five-drawer lateral file cabinet, $79. Medical items: extra-large potty chair, new, $75; shower bench, $35; trapeze bar, $75; grab bar, $10; extra-large 30" wheelchair, detachable arm, etc., $300. Chevy 1984 pickup, 4x4 drive, new engine, carb, trans, in very good condition, $12,995. Car parts: Edelbrock carburetor, 700 cpm, $75; Ford fuel injection and distributor for 302 EFI, $125 both. Misc. items: Snow skis, for decoration only, $30/box; Enchanted HDTV booster, 25-mile range, $15. Call (979) 733-9816.

KOHLER REMOTE START GENERATOR—Brand new, never used, series 10,000, gas powered. Call (979) 270-1213.

TIRES AND ALUMINUM RIMS—Firestone Destination AT P235/75 R17, mounted and balanced on 2014 Ford F-150 factory aluminum wheels with center caps, 6 lug, tires 95% tread, $125 each. Call (979) 877-9574.

LOWREY PALLADIUM ORGAN—Excellent condition, like new, 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 Lowrey Music books and training books, computer screen with 750 prerecorded songs and background accompaniment, can record your own music. Dimensions: 4’Hx55”Wx42”D. Owners are moving and cannot take organ. Valued at $10,000, asking $5,000. Call (979) 942-9021 or (979) 732-1872.

BUTANE TANK—200-pound butane tank, best cash offer. Call (979) 942-6146.

VARIOUS—For baby: high chair, $12; short chair with tray, $10; couch, $8; two play tents, $5 each; small rocking chair, $4; rubber boots, size 2, $4; rubber life jacket, free. Hardback books, corona typewriter, $24; computer screen, $12; den and table, $6; ceiling light globe, $14; four folding lawn chairs in bags, $16; picnic basket, $2; ice chest, approximately 5 quart, $3; ice chest with handle and rollers, $4; thermos jug, free. Large suitcase on rollers, $4; saddle and blanket, fair condition, $45; punch bowl w/cups, $6; candy dish, $2; other glass bowls, free; blender, $2; large glass jug, approx. 17” tall, $8; Honeywell air cleaner, $2. Call (979) 732-8608.

ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE ITEMS—Dark washstand, $375; walnut carved armoire, $400; oak secretary with dropleaf and three drawers, $400 or best offer. Call (713) 922-9357.

HORSES—Mare, 23 years old, good with kids, Appaloosa, $800 OBO; foal, 3 years old, need to break, Azteca, $1,500 OBO; foal, 1 year old, Azteca breed, $1,200 OBO. Call (979) 203-2200.

CANNING JARS—Approximately three dozen canning jars and lids, various sizes from jam to quart pickle jars. Some are blue glass, some have designs on sides. Includes screw tops and lids for all sizes. Located in Columbus on Zimmerscheidt Road. Call (713) 907-6316 or email cindyjobhunt@yahoo.com.

VARIOUS—14’ jon boat with trailer (trailer needs some repairs); 1986 Honda Rebel, 250-cc motorcycle, new battery, carb recently rebuilt; 15-hp Johnson saltwater outboard motor, long shaft; two-drawer steel file cabinet with lock. Call (979) 732-1910.
ANGUS BULL—Registered, good herd bull, 8 years, I have papers, $1,500. Call (361) 772-5088.

LAND AND HOUSE—2 acres, old farmhouse, electric and water, country living in Bellville. Call (979) 877-5609.

WINNEBAGO RV AND FORD FOCUS—2017 Winnebago 27B RV, 12,000 miles, like new with numerous extras, Ford V-10, 26 foot, $47,900; 2018 Ford Focus, four-door sedan, tow car complete with Blue Ox system including braking system, $13,900 or both for $55,000. Less than cost of new 27B by itself. Call (979) 865-9538 or (979) 877-4371.

VARIOUS—36” solid wood exterior door, $50; ’88 Ford truck, six-cylinder, four-speed, one owner, not running, $450; IBM Selectric for parts, $20. (979) 877-7257.

TRAVEL TRAILER AND JON BOAT—2017 Forest River “Wolf Pup” 16-ft. travel trailer, used once then husband fell ill, kept under carport, $12,000. Also, 2016 Alumacraft jon boat, 10 ft. on a custom TSC carry-on utility trailer, will not separate, $800 firm. Call (979) 777-8343 or (713) 252-6520.

GERMAN SHEPHERD—Male, has all vaccines up to date, dewormed, 8 months old, he stays around children, asking $200. Call or text (979) 270-0516.

PAINT—High-quality paint, all color coded to Behr Comfy Beige Satin. Three gallons Sherwin Williams Emerald, 4 gallons Behr Premium Ultra, 1 gallon Behr Ultra oil-based paint. All 8 gallons retail cost $465, selling for $250. Also, aluminum camper topper, 8 ft., $150. Call (979) 865-5725.

EXPRESS METAL LONG-ARM QUILTER—8-inch-long frame with cloth leaders and 18-inch throat, manual straight stitching. Make offer. Call (281) 639-4049.

VARIOUS—Frigidaire stainless steel top freezer refrigerator purchased six months ago, $500; Thomasville china cabinet, great condition, $800; bistro table with two barstools, light colored wood, great condition, $150; mahogany nightstand, fair condition, $30; ladies’ recliner, light brown, great condition, $50; vanity table with chair, black, fair condition, $20; golf club set with a lot of extras, including more clubs, two carrying bags and wheel cart, everything you need, $500. Call (979) 997-1428.

WOODEN OFFICE DESK—37” wide, 66” long, 30” high, good condition, $100. Call (281) 468-6921.

2001 FORD F-250—7.3-liter Power Stroke turbo diesel, 335,000 miles, silver, dark denim blue interior, excellent condition, runs and drives perfectly, 8-ft. bed, trailer towing package, Ranch Hand bumper plus original bumper, running boards, trailer hitch, $9,500. Call (281) 658-8896.

CHIPPER—Echo Bear Cat CH4550 three-point PTO chipper, excellent to like-new condition with very little use, 4-inch capacity, has been stored indoors, cost new $3,400, asking $2,500. Call or text (713) 870-8964.

WANTED

CHILDREN’S RIDING TRACTOR, CAR OR TRUCK—In good condition, a volt or larger battery. Call (979) 732-4287.

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.

ELECTRIC RANGE—Small, 24-inch electric apartment-type range in good condition. Call (979) 877-9573.

FOR RENT

SMALL TRAVEL TRAILER—Single person, no pets, no children, first and last month’s rent, $450/month. Located at 34476 FM 2979, Waller 77484. Call (936) 372-3581.

SERVICES

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

ADVERTISE IN THE TRADING POST

SBEC 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 April 20, it will appear in the June 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.
BELLVILLE STUDENTS HUNTER SCHUMANN AND REGAN WOODLEY will be representing San Bernard Electric Cooperative and Texas on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour, June 17–26. Emma Grace Fogle was selected as the alternate.

Youth Tour begins in Austin, where Schumann and Woodley will learn about state government alongside 158 other Texas teens before the whole group heads to Washington, D.C. Once in Washington, they will join nearly 2,000 students from across the country. During the trip, Schumann and Woodley will visit the U.S. Capitol, museums and monuments and meet with Rep. Michael McCaul’s staff.

San Bernard EC adheres to the Seven Cooperative Principles, one of which is Education, Training and Information. SBEC is happy to provide education and training to its membership, particularly through programs such as Youth Tour. By educating our young people, we inspire new leaders who can contribute effectively to their rural communities.

Since the Government-in-Action Youth Tour began in 1965, San Bernard EC has sent more than 80 students on this trip to Washington—what many alumni have described as the trip of a lifetime. Students have returned with new friends, a new appreciation of government, new leadership skills and a better idea of the world outside their hometowns.

Schumann is the son of Brian and Kristi Schumann of Bellville and is a junior at Bellville High School. He is active in Bellville FFA, debate, 4-H, National Honor Society, UIL Social Studies and Boy Scouts, to name a handful of his activities. “I want to see Congress in session,” Schumann said. “I have had an interest in politics for a number of years now and really want to see how less than 1,000 people can make the laws that over 300 million people follow every day.”

Woodley is the daughter of Kenneth and Stacy Woodley of Bellville and is a senior at Faith Academy. She is very active at her school and participates in student council, National Honor Society, volleyball, softball, Destination Imagination, and praise and worship band. She is the Faith Academy Class of 2020 valedictorian. “Perhaps the common mental picture of Washington, D.C., is the beautiful landmarks such as the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial and White House,” Woodley said. “I wish to extend my experience of Washington, D.C., beyond a mental picture but to life experience that will undoubtedly surpass any government encounter in which I have previously participated.”

Congratulations to Hunter Schumann, Regan Woodley and Emma Grace Fogle. All three are remarkable students and represent Texas, San Bernard Electric Cooperative and Bellville with pride and honor.
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