



GENERAL
MANAGER

BRAD
BIERSTEDT

Merry Christmas From Karnes EC

THE HOLIDAYS ARE a time of reflection. I'm grateful for my own family as well as my co-op family at Karnes Electric Cooperative. We're driven by a sense of mission and purpose, and our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members because we live here too.

While many of our community-focused programs and activities ramp up this time of year, we have several programs and services in place to help our members year-round. I'd like to remind you about some of these offerings in hopes you'll find them beneficial.

We hope you take advantage of our smartphone app, SmartHub, which empowers you to monitor your electricity usage and pay your energy bill through your phone.



One of the most important investments we make is in our local youths. Karnes EC has awarded some \$257,000 in scholarships to local students through the years. And each year, through our Government-in-Action Youth Tour program, we send high school juniors and seniors to Washington, D.C., for an immersive weeklong experience of democracy in action.

At the heart of all of these programs is you—the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

This holiday season, I wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity. Speaking on behalf of our team at Karnes EC, I know the future will be bright because of you. ■



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Get Your Chimney Ready for Santa— and Cold Weather

YOU EMPTY THE ashes and sweep your fireplace after every use to keep it safe and looking nice, right? But is it ready for Santa?

Your fireplace isn't really clean until you remove what you can't see: the creosote, soot, ashes, dust, leaves and even birds that are stuck in the flue and chimney.

Unless you want Santa to scrape off the flaky mess with his big belly on his way down the chimney, you'd better get the job done before he arrives.

Why bother? When smoke from your fireplace goes up the chimney, some of it condenses into soot and tar in the flue, which is the chimney's inner surface. That creosote builds up over time, and it's highly flammable.

Unless you're already finished with your shopping, baking, wrapping, mailing and card writing, you might want to hire a professional chimney sweep to do this time-consuming and messy job.

Keeping your chimney clean will help Santa slide down it worry-free. And it will help your family enjoy the holidays around a dancing fire—worry-free. ■