

We Have a Feast of Blessings



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

.....
Later this month, people will sit down at dinner tables with family and friends for the annual Thanksgiving Day feast (followed by the traditional post-dinner nap and Texans and Cowboys NFL games).

But Thanksgiving isn't just about full bellies and football. It's also a time we set aside for reflecting, counting our blessings and enjoying the company of our loved ones.

Speaking for myself, the blessings are many, including the fact that I am privileged to work for an electric cooperative.

As general manager of Comanche Electric Cooperative, I am thankful for members like you who support the mission of this cooperative not only to provide reliable electricity at a reasonable rate, but also to be a strong presence in sustaining the communities we serve. Your participation in co-op meetings, elections and activities makes Comanche Electric Cooperative a vital organization, one that can be counted on to support volunteer fire departments, food banks, scholarships and other mainstays of a healthy community.

I am thankful for our directors, those civic-minded members who give of their time and talents to represent your interests as we set policies and plan for our future electricity supply. With each passing year, as financial and regulatory challenges mount, your board members must stay abreast of the factors that influence the efficient and cost-effective delivery of electricity to your home.

I am thankful for Comanche Electric's employees, who, day in and day out, demonstrate dedication and professionalism in performing their duties. Electric cooperatives seem to attract and retain people who choose to make their living in an environment where service comes first.

And last—but certainly not least—I am thankful for my understanding family, who sometimes has to share me with my job. They know that in a crisis, the phone may ring in the middle of the night, calling me away to work, and that sometimes my duties include time away on business trips. With their support and love, my job and my life are much easier.

I hope that this Thanksgiving, you also have plenty for which to give thanks. May you and your loved ones have a happy, healthy and blessed holiday.



Welcome, Monty

Please welcome Monty Cunningham to the CECA family. He comes to us from the Blanket community. Cunningham joined the CECA team as a mechanic in April after having worked as a master technician and diesel mechanic. He received his ASE certifications in 1989.

He and his wife, Tina, along with their 8-year-old son, Matthew, and 6-year-old daughter, Chloe, are members of Victory Life Church in Brownwood.

Monty enjoys hunting, fishing, gardening and motorcycles.

Welcome aboard, Monty!



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ATTENTION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

You Could Win a FREE Trip to Washington, D.C.!

The contest is open to any student, sophomore and above, who attends a high school where CECA has facilities, or whose parents or legal guardians are members of CECA.

- ▶ Essay topic is “What Makes a Business Excel for 75 Years?”
- ▶ Deadline for applications is November 1, 2012.
- ▶ Essays will be judged, and the top 10 applicants will return to present their essays in the form of a speech.

▶ For additional information, contest rules and applications, contact: CECA, Attn.: Shirley Dukes, 201 W. Wrights Ave., P.O. Box 729, Comanche TX 76442-0729. Call 1-800-915-2533 or email sdukes@ceca.coop.



CECA

P.O. Box 729
Comanche, TX 76442

Operating in Brown, Callahan, Comanche, Eastland, Mills, Shackelford and Stephens counties

HEADQUARTERS

201 W. Wrights Ave.
Comanche, TX 76442

EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.
Eastland, TX 76448

EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338
Early, TX 76801

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Eastland closed from noon to 1:15 p.m.
Early closed from 1 to 2 p.m..

YOUR LOCAL PAGES

This section of Texas Co-op Power is produced by CECA each month to provide you with information about current events, special programs and other activities of the cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact Shirley at the Comanche office or at sdukes@ceca.coop.



CONTACT US

CALL US

(325) 356-2533 local or
1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

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'Tis the Season To Be Giving

It's that time of year again when our thoughts start turning to the excitement of the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. With all the hustle and bustle of shopping and cooking and company, let's not forget those who are struggling during this downturn in our economy.

CECA's Operation Round Up Program started the season off by donating \$500 to each of four local charities. Please remember these and others within your community as you consider your gift-giving this holiday season.



1: Kenneth Hagood with the Comanche Salvation Army accepts a check from CECA to be used for the purchase of food to be distributed to families in the community. **2:** Kerry Dudley accepts a check on behalf of Santa's Helpers of Comanche, a Christmas charity assisting families and seniors with gifts, food, clothing, coats and blankets. **3:** Pictured is Caryn Greene with the Apostles Mission in Cisco. The Mission purchases clothing, coats and shoes each year for children in Cisco. **4:** Each Christmas season, the Albany Ministerial Alliance contributes food to more than 100 families and toys to nearly 100 children. Accepting the check on behalf of the Alliance is the Rev. Dr. Dennis Patience of the First Christian Church in Albany.



Conservation Matters

THE LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION ABOUT ENERGY CONSERVATION FROM YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Save Energy While You Prepare Holiday Feast

Baking pies, roasting a turkey and warming up the side dishes for your family's Thanksgiving feast can be hard on your electric bill if you rely on your oven to do all the work.

This Thanksgiving, consider using your stovetop, barbecue grill, microwave oven, slow cooker, toaster oven, electric skillet or even your blender or food processor to prepare your bird and all the trimmings.

Here are some tips for a more energy-efficient Thanksgiving.

1. Give your oven a break and your family a treat by frying, grilling or smoking your turkey outdoors. The smoky flavor can be a nice change from a traditional, oven-roasted turkey.

2. Use the microwave oven to heat up vegetables, potatoes and other side dishes.

3. Consider serving some foods that don't need cooking. The turkey, stuffing and potatoes will be nice and hot. Add some variety to the menu by preparing a few cold salads and raw vegetables with dip. Experiment with no-bake desserts, like frozen peanut butter pie or no-bake cheesecake.

No peeking! Keep the oven door closed when baking. Even a quick peek instantly lowers the temperature several degrees, making your oven work harder and consume more electricity.

4. When you do use the oven, resist opening the door to check on the food. Every time you open the door, you let heat out, and the oven has to work harder to get back to the proper temperature. Use the window and light instead.

5. Bake everything at the same time: pies, bread, turkey, potatoes. The more your oven can do at once, the less time you'll need to use it. Leave enough room between items for air and heat to circulate.

6. Choose glass or ceramic pans for the oven. They cook food at temperatures as much as 25 degrees lower than metal pans.

7. The burners on your cooktop will work more efficiently if you match the size of the burner to the size of the pot. Placing a small pot on a larger burner wastes the heat from the part of the burner that doesn't touch the pot.

8. Clean the burners and the oven. There's no need for your appliance to spend any energy heating spilled, baked-on food that you haven't cleaned up yet. If you make a habit of using the self-cleaning function on your oven while it's still hot after you use it, it will use the residual heat and work more quickly.



CREMAS IMAGES



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Straight Shooting on Safety

Texans love to hunt. Nature beckons. There's suspense and excitement and escape from the daily routine.

Here are the "10 commandments" of shooting safety:

- ▶ Always point the muzzle of your gun in a safe direction.
- ▶ Treat every firearm or bow with the same respect you would show a loaded gun or nocked arrow.
- ▶ Be sure of your target.
- ▶ Unload firearms and unstring conventional bows when not in use.
- ▶ Handle firearms, arrows and ammunition with care.
- ▶ Know your safe zone-of-fire and stick to it.
- ▶ Control your emotions when using weapons.
- ▶ Wear hearing and eye protection.
- ▶ Don't consume alcohol or drugs before or while handling firearms or bows.
- ▶ Be responsible: Never use electrical equipment, such as insulators and transformers, as targets.

If you practice these rules, you'll help to ensure a safe future for yourself, for others and for the shooting sports.



CECA will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 22-23, in observance of the holiday.

As always, crews will be on standby in the event of an emergency.

We wish you and your family a richly blessed Thanksgiving.

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Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 4, at 2 a.m.

And as you set your clocks back an hour, CECA encourages you to use the occasion as a reminder to change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Smoke alarms have significantly reduced fire fatalities—but they can only help if they work.

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She saw her dad blow insulation into the attic to make the house more energy-efficient. Then, she got an idea. Find out how CECA can help you lead by example at TogetherWeSave.com. Or contact our Member Service Department at 1-800-915-2533 for information on rebates through our ecoPOWR Rebate Program.

**ERICA BECAME
CONCERNED BY
THE LACK OF
INSULATION IN
HER DOLLHOUSE.**



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