

# Have You Heard of Operation Round Up?



## MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

I often discuss various ways in which your cooperative and the dedicated folks we employ give back to the communities and the members we serve. This month, I want to take that a step further and talk about the dedication and commitment we see on a daily basis from you, our members.

When we talk about the generosity of our members, one program in particular comes to mind—Operation Round Up. Now in its 12th year, this is a program our members can be proud to be a part of. Based on the percentage of participation we see each month from our faithful members, it is near and dear to a lot of hearts.

If you are not familiar with the program and are curious about it, here's how it works:

Each month, participating members round their bills up to the nearest dollar. The average member will donate approximately six tax-deductible dollars per year to the fund. This may not seem like a large amount, but as we all know, those pennies add up. Since its inception in 2003, more than \$406,500 has been collected, and more than \$383,000 has been paid out to various charities, organizations and causes.

How this money is disbursed is not taken lightly either. A conscientious board, separate from our CECA Board of Directors, oversees this fund. Regina Johnson of Comanche, Marza Adams of Moran, Bud West of Mullin, Kirk Knight of Breckenridge and Lewis Locker of Brownwood have faithfully and selflessly dedicated their time and efforts to this cause. These five board members meet twice a year to discuss the money entrusted to them and how to best invest it to benefit the members of the communities in which we provide service.

Some of the causes this money is donated to are:

- ▶ Volunteer fire departments
- ▶ Community service projects
- ▶ Economic development
- ▶ Education and youth projects
- ▶ Crisis centers
- ▶ Emergency assistance, such as fires and medical tragedies

Just this month, the program proudly assisted in the construction of two air ambulance heliports—one in Mullin and one in Gorman. What better way to demonstrate our purpose of providing a service to improve the quality of life for our members than to provide the needed facilities to assist them in life-or-death situations?

To the board, staff and employees of CECA, Operation Round Up is a great example of the charitable spirit and generosity that exists among cooperative members to reach out to those within their local community who are in need.

For more information on the program, or to sign up to be a part of this life- and community-changing program, contact one of our member service representatives at 1-800-915-2533 or at [memberservices@ceca.coop](mailto:memberservices@ceca.coop).



## Six Easy Ways To Pay Your Bill

**Check out our convenient methods and choose the one that works best for you.**

### PAY IN PERSON

Pay your bill at any of our three service centers.

**Comanche:** Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Early:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m., closed 1–2 p.m.

**Eastland:** Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

### PAY BY PHONE

1-800-915-2533

### PAY BY MAIL

P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442

### PAY BY DIRECT DRAFT

Your bill can be automatically paid each month by direct draft through your bank account or credit card. Sign up by contacting a member service representative at 1-800-915-2533.

### PAY ONLINE AT CECA.COOP

Access your account anytime, day or night, from any place with Internet service. Just click on the “Pay Your Bill” tab. Contact a member service representative at 1-800-915-2533 for first-time login instructions.

### PAY WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE

Download our smartphone app by going to your app store and searching for “Comanche Electric Cooperative” or “CECA.” Use the same login credentials you would use for online payments. If you are not already set up, contact a member service representative at 1-800-915-2533 for first-time login instructions.

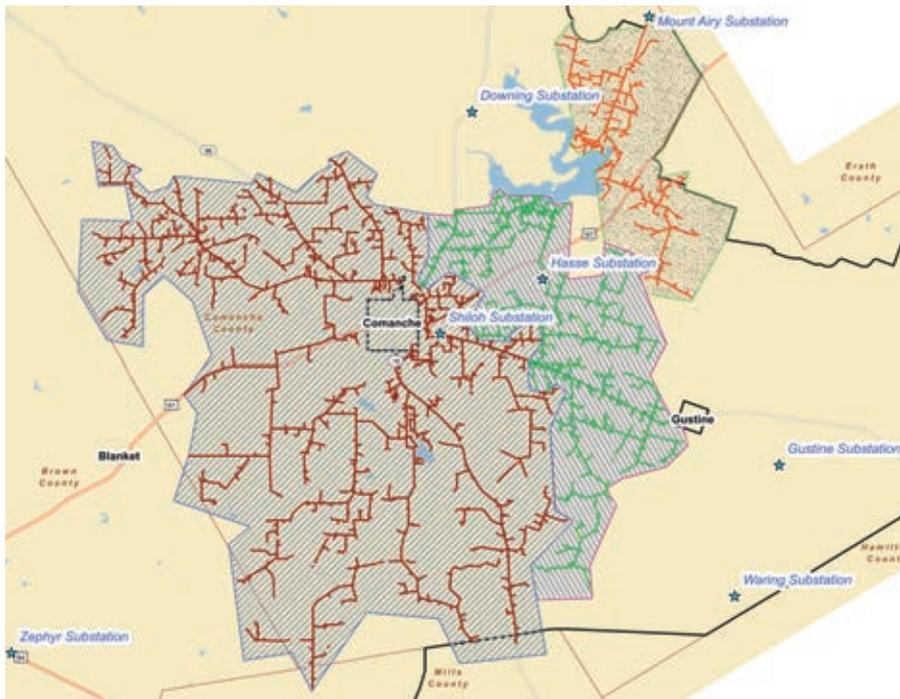
# Meter Installation Update

**Contract crews with Texas Meter Device, an experienced electric system installation service out of Waco, will be installing new, updated electric meters in the CECA service area. Crews are currently replacing all of the meters in areas serviced out of the Shiloh, Hasse and Mount Airy substations. This area is depicted in the included map.**

The installation of the new meter will cause a brief service disruption lasting no more than a couple of minutes, or even less in most cases.

All meters on the CECA system must be changed out. Therefore, each meter location in our service territory will be visited by TMD at some time. As this project progresses, we will continue to use the pages of Texas Co-op Power to keep the CECA membership informed about where crews are or will be working.

If you have any questions or concerns in relation to this project, contact CECA's metering department at 1-800-915-2533 or via email at [meterdata@ceca.coop](mailto:meterdata@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

### EARLY OFFICE

1801 CR 338  
Early, TX 76801

### EASTLAND OFFICE

1311 W. Main St.  
Eastland, TX 76448

### OFFICE HOURS

**Comanche Office:** Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**Early Office:** Monday, Wednesday and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., closed from 1 to 2 p.m.

**Eastland Office:** Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 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](mailto:sdukes@ceca.coop).



## CONTACT US

### CALL US

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

### FIND US ON THE WEB

[www.ceca.coop](http://www.ceca.coop)

 [facebook.com/CECA.coop](https://facebook.com/CECA.coop)



During summer months, our homes can be extremely hot, making living conditions uncomfortable. But while you're putting your air conditioner to work, try adding a ceiling fan into the mix—fans can help you raise your thermostat setting by about 4 degrees and still feel just as comfortable.

But remember to turn fans off in unoccupied rooms. Fans cool people, not rooms, and you're wasting energy by leaving them on if there isn't anyone in the room.



LEFT: Lucchese Gordon. ABOVE: Lucchese Gordon proudly sports her green 4-H jacket as she receives her 4-H Scholarship from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. From left are current HLSR Chairman Jack Lyons, Lucchese and past chairman Steve Stephens.

# Meet Lucchese Gordon

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

**I first met Lucchese in 2012 when she applied as a high school junior for our annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour Contest, speaking on the topic “How Emerging Technologies Fit into Tomorrow’s Power Supply.” It was evident right away that this young lady was a clear leader in that contest. She had researched a very tedious and, quite honestly, boring subject. She knew the facts, and she presented them excellently and with a definite passion. There was no doubt that she had what it takes to represent Comanche Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., with maturity and professionalism.**

Fast-forward a year to when I contacted Lucchese and asked if she would be willing to be the key speaker at CECA’s Student Leadership Conference, an annual conference dedicated to juniors in the schools within our service territory. Having heard her speak before, I was convinced that she could gain the interest of these students just as effectively as any high-profile individual. I was not disappointed. Lucchese held the attention of the almost 100 students in the room, and left them feeling confident that

they could be the leaders of tomorrow.

Lucchese is the daughter of Jerry and Kay Lynn Gordon of Zephyr. Jerry is a captain and assistant chief of training at the Game Warden Training Center in Star. Kay Lynn was a tax accountant before she dedicated her career to home-schooling their three girls—Lucchese, Cheyenne and Sierra—resulting in a trio of young women who exhibit maturity and an outstanding ability to cope with the challenges of the real world.

So what is so special about Lucchese, you might be wondering, that would make her worthy of an introduction? The answer to that requires both a simple and a not-so-simple explanation. The simple explanation is that Lucchese is CECA’s summer intern, and we just like to introduce our new employees to our membership. The not-so-simple explanation is that Lucchese will be helping me with one of my favorite features of my job: writing. I love writing the monthly human-interest stories featured in this magazine. But the other duties of my job increasingly distract from that aspect, and there are times when there just isn’t any time left over to devote to my “vocational hobby.” So when the opportunity arose to hire Lucchese on as a summer intern, we jumped at it.



Students at Lucchese Gordon's District 7 Hunter Safety Camp learn how to load and shoot a muzzleloader. Something most people do not get to do, shooting a muzzleloader was extremely popular and a first-time experience for most of the students.

This week I spent some time with Lucchese's father and gained a little more insight into the fresh, new face who will share my office for the next two months. I was not surprised to find that she is extremely passionate about what she believes in. For instance, when she was 15, she applied to and qualified for the 4-H Congress, a mock activity "which allows 4-H members to experience the lawmaking process firsthand by writing, submitting, and then serving as a member of the House of Representatives, the Senate, the press, or as a lobbyist. From these roles, the 4-H members determine the fate of each bill submitted over the four-day event."

Before the event, which was held in the chambers of the Texas Capitol, participating students were required to apply for one of the above positions and write and submit a bill to be debated on the House floor. Lucchese applied for and was selected to a mock position on the House of Representatives. The bill she chose to debate was one of the most controversial ones she could have picked: abortion. Lucchese's father, or "Papa," as his girls call him, tried to talk her out of submitting such a controversial bill, but Lucchese refused to back down. She felt strongly about the issue and was determined to submit her bill and fight for it. Remember, I said she is passionate about what she believes in. According to Lucchese's father, she was so fervent about this cause that more than once she ended up in tears while preparing her bill.

Once the students arrive at the Capitol, their bills go into

committees to be reviewed. In real life, this bill would never have passed due to the controversy surrounding the topic, as well as the extreme stand taken by Lucchese. It was because of that controversy, however, that her bill was chosen as only one of a few to be debated on the House floor. Due to the strength of her argument, the abortion bill passed and was presented to the mock House and Senate, where it also passed.

"Sitting at a representative's desk while a bill you wrote is being debated on the House floor is a little overwhelming," said Lucchese. "I was amazed at how quickly our whole group became very professional. But it's hard to react any other way. We may be play-acting the legislative process, but the issues we're voting on are very real."

This of course, was all mock, but Lucchese said she has since sat in the gallery of the Texas Capitol and watched the actual process live. "It was a lot of routine stuff, but I did get to talk to a couple of congressmen and some people who work with Congress, and [I] got a feel of how much they care and how much more work goes into it than what I thought," she said.

Another of Lucchese's fascinating traits is her dedication to a project. At the age of 16, Lucchese had a desire to exercise leadership in 4-H by becoming an officer at the district level. Once again, there was a detailed application process that had to be adhered to. Most of the students' method of approach was telling who they were and what they had done. Lucchese chose to approach it from a different angle. Instead of telling what she



**LEFT:** Lucchese Gordon sits outside her dorm at Texas A&M University. **ABOVE:** 4-H students from District 7 gather in in the House of Representatives between sessions to discuss their bills. Pictured from left are Jay, James, Elizabeth, Lucchese, Jud, Ethan and Candace.

had done, she outlined in detail what she wanted to do.

Being the daughter of a game warden who instructed hunter safety courses, Lucchese had been attending such courses since she was a little girl, taking the tests just for fun. When she was 12, and again at 13, she wrote an essay to qualify for a camp designed to take the students on actual guided hunts. So when it came time to identify her project, it was an easy decision. As a result of her years of following her “Papa” around, Lucchese was already familiar with the course preparation and was aware of the need of instruction for teenagers. While brainstorming the idea one night at the supper table, Lucchese and Papa were able to easily name a location for the camp, as well as the game wardens, biologists, and other key figures she would need to contact to make her project a reality.

With a little guidance from Papa, Lucchese organized the entire three-day weekend including scheduling, registration, advertising, lodging, adult chaperones, meals, instructors, equipment and firearms, along with answering a multitude of questions from concerned parents before the camp.

Lucchese’s presentation of a detailed plan for a hunter safety course for kids not only landed her the position, but also turned into a successful annual camp, now in its fourth year.

A lot of positive things since have come about as a result of Lucchese’s hunter safety course. Not only has it become a sanctioned, annual event, but it also led to a speaking engagement for her at the International Hunter Education Association-USA

Conference. The Game Warden Training Center, which serves as venue for the course, benefitted as well. Because of the success of the program, donors came forward and began donating funds and equipment to ensure that the camp continues. Additionally, numerous spinoffs of the three-day camp help give credibility to the camp as well as Lucchese’s talents.

Lucchese is currently a sophomore at Texas A&M University, and plans to earn her Bachelor of Arts in 2017. Upon graduation, she plans to continue her education as she pursues a master’s degree. What will she do upon graduation from one of the most prestigious schools in Texas? That’s still to be determined. But you can bet she will be a success at whatever career she ultimately chooses.

As you can see, Lucchese is a well-rounded young woman, and she and I share different experiences and outlooks. Over the next few months you will see my stories in the local pages of Texas Co-op Power along with Lucchese’s.

Lucchese and I hope you enjoy both our stories in upcoming issues as told from two very different viewpoints.

“One of the reasons I love history,” she says, “is because the way ordinary people have lived throughout history. The thoughts, struggles and routines of everyday life—interest me as much as the battles or big events. So I’m thrilled to get the chance to research about that sort of thing here in our area, to write articles about the history, the people, and the interesting tidbits in our service counties.”

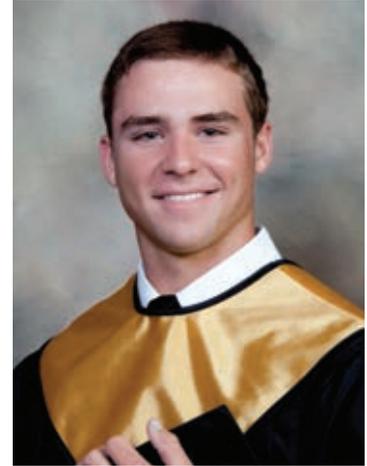
# CECA Awards Six Scholarships



Megan Herrington



Jamie Dye



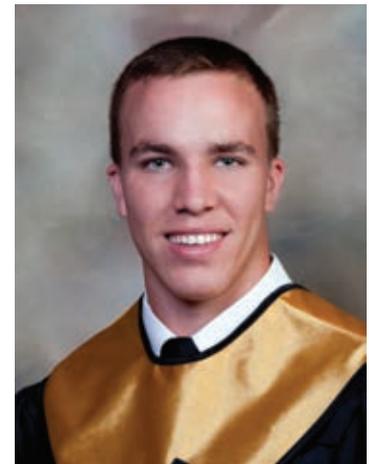
Jesse Luker



Caisson Montieth



Kaycie Drewes



Travis Hickman

Each year, Comanche Electric Cooperative awards four \$1,000 Scholarships for Excellence and two \$1,000 Operation Round-Up Scholarships to area students. CECA is pleased to announce the winners of this year's contest. Congratulations go to Megan Herrington, Jamie Dye, Jesse Luker, Caisson Montieth, Kaycie Drewes and Travis Hickman. Please join us in wishing these students the best as they pursue their educational goals.

## Scholarships for Excellence:

**Megan Herrington** is a graduate of Breckenridge High School. Her goal is to receive a degree in sonography or pediatric nursing at Weatherford College. She is the daughter of Bobby and Jennifer Herrington of Breckenridge.

**Jamie Dye** is a graduate of Breckenridge High School. Jamie is the daughter of Terry and Lisa Dye. She will be

attending Texas A&M University in the fall.

**Jesse Luker** is a graduate of Comanche High School and the son of Gene and Sandy Luker of Comanche. He will be attending Texas Tech University in pursuit of a wildlife and range management degree.

**Caisson Montieth** of Comanche is the son of Clint and Dena Davis and will be attending Howard Payne University.

## Operation Round-Up Scholarships:

**Kaycie Drewes** is a 2014 graduate of Comanche High School. She will be attending Texas A&M University, where she plans to receive a degree in business management. She is the daughter of Mark and Cathy Drewes.

**Travis Hickman** is a graduate of Comanche High School and is the son of Marcy Hickman and the late Harold Hickman of Comanche. Travis will be attending Tarleton State University to work toward an engineering degree.

*An investment in knowledge  
pays the best interest.*

*Benjamin Franklin*



**ADULT & NON-TRADITIONAL  
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS ARE HERE!!!**



**GOING BACK  
TO SCHOOL?  
CECA HAS A  
PROGRAM JUST  
FOR YOU!**

THROUGH OUR OPERATION ROUND-UP PROGRAM®, CECA IS PROUD TO OFFER A NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP TO ADULTS RETURNING TO COLLEGE, OR GOING TO COLLEGE FOR THE FIRST TIME. IN ORDER TO QUALIFY, YOU MUST BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF CECA RESIDING WITHIN THE COOPERATIVE'S SERVICE TERRITORY, AND PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATION ROUND-UP® PROGRAM.

FOR PROGRAM GUIDELINES, OR TO FIND OUT IF YOU QUALIFY, CONTACT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S MEMBER SERVICE DEPARTMENT AT 800-915-2533, OR [MEMBERSERVICES@CECA.COOP](mailto:MEMBERSERVICES@CECA.COOP).

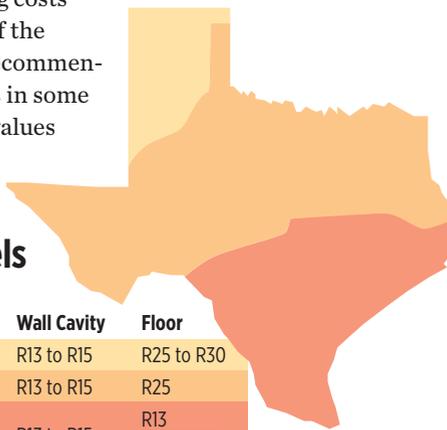
# Insulate for Comfort and Savings

BY JAMES DULLEY

Checking your home's insulating system is one of the fastest and most cost-efficient ways of using a whole-house approach to reduce energy waste and maximize your energy dollars. A good insulating system includes a combination of products and construction techniques that provide a home with thermal performance, protect it against air infiltration and control moisture. You can increase the comfort of your home while reducing your heating and cooling needs by up to 30 percent by investing just a few hundred dollars in proper insulation and weatherization products.

Adequately insulating a home saves money for homeowners every month. It also helps conserve vital energy resources—energy-efficient houses help lower air pollution emissions from the combustion of fuels for heating, air conditioning and ventilation.

Check the insulation in your attic, ceilings, exterior and basement walls, floors and crawlspaces to see if it meets the levels recommended for your area. Insulation is measured in R-values—the higher the R-value, the better your walls and roofs will resist the transfer of heat. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends ranges of R-values based on local heating and cooling costs and climate conditions in different areas of the nation. The map at right shows the DOE recommendations for your area. State and local codes in some parts of the country may require lower R-values than the DOE recommendations, which are based on cost-effectiveness.



## Recommended Insulation Levels

*New, Wood-Framed Homes*

Heating System	Attic	Cathedral Ceiling	Wall Cavity	Floor
All	R38 to R60	R30 to R38	R13 to R15	R25 to R30
All	R30 to R60	R22 to R38	R13 to R15	R25
Gas, Oil, Heat Pump Electric Furnace	R30 to R60	R22 to R38	R13 to R15	R13 R19 to R25

### Where to Insulate

Adding insulation in the attic and to walls, floors, basements and crawlspaces may be the best way to improve your home's energy efficiency.

### Insulation Types

Insulation can be made from a variety of materials, but it usually comes in one of four forms—batts, rolls, loose-fill and rigid foam boards. Each type is made to fit in a different part of your house.

Batts are made to fit between the studs in your walls or between the joists of your ceilings or floors. Batts are usually made of fiberglass or rock wool.

Rolls or blankets are also usually made of fiberglass and can be laid over the floor in the attic.

Loose-fill insulation, usually made of fiberglass, rock wool or cellulose, is blown into the attic or walls. Cellulose is made from recycled materials treated with fire-retardant chemicals.

Rigid foam boards are lightweight and provide structural support, and they generally have an R-value of 4 to 7 per inch. Rigid board insulation is made for use in confined spaces such as exterior walls, basements, foundation and stem walls, concrete slabs and cathedral ceilings.



CO-OP CONNECTIONS

## Featured Businesses

### Dublin Heating, Air Conditioning and Electric

Dublin Heating, Air Conditioning and Electrical provides quality HVAC and electrical service backed with integrity and honesty. We are a licensed and insured company that services both residential and commercial properties.

Whether you would like a free estimate on new equipment or maintenance on your existing equipment, we can meet your needs. Call us for any of your residential or commercial needs. We offer 24/7 service on all makes and models of air conditioning and heating equipment. Don't forget: We are also electricians! Whether you are adding an electrical circuit or building a new house, we can wire it!

**LOCATED:** 305 CR 242, Dublin

**PHONE:** (254) 445-2984

**HOURS:** Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., 24-hour emergency service

**WEBSITE:** dublinheatingandair.com

**EMAIL:** dublinHVAC@gmail.com

**OFFER:** One-time full-service tuneup for \$69.99

### Lemons' Bar-B-Q

If you are looking for old-time charm and great food, join us at Lemons' Bar-B-Q, where we serve the best barbecue and fish in Brown County. Our restaurant offers a comfortable atmosphere specializing in barbecue, steaks and catfish. We also offer a reunion hall and catering.

**LOCATED:** 3202 Coggin Ave., Brownwood

**PHONE:** (325) 646-9655

**HOURS:** Monday-Wednesday, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Thursday-Friday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Catering available any day.

**OFFER:** 10 percent discount on any dine-in ticket. Not valid with any other discount offer.