

Electricity Use Rises With Summer Temperatures

Increased demand could test the state's supply



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

DO YOU REMEMBER THE electricity bill you received after this winter's cold spell? It gave many of our members a bit of sticker shock. Of course, we all use more kilowatt-hours to stay warm when the cold and ice of January come knocking. The unfortunate result is higher-than-usual bills.

Now, as we look forward to summer, a reverse weather pattern holds the potential to cause higher-than-normal bills again. "Compared with last summer," the U.S. Energy Information Administration predicts, "this summer's temperatures are forecast to be warmer." The EIA expects Americans will use more electricity this summer than last and pay more for it. The agency forecasts the typical residential electricity bill to increase 3.4 percent over last summer's bill.

In addition to higher temperatures increasing demand, we also face the possibility of higher wholesale electricity prices. That's because three coal-fired power plants that supplied part of Texas have shut down.

Now add in the demands of the fast-growing state economy, and you have all the makings for higher electric bills.

No one knows how much extra your co-op might have to pay, but the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, which oversees 90 percent of the state's power grid, is predicting record-breaking peak power usage. To keep the system reliable, ERCOT prefers to maintain a small percentage of generation capacity beyond what is needed to meet peak demand. This extra energy capacity is called the "reserve margin," and it measures the system's ability to meet demand for power during the hottest days. The current projections for hotter summer weather and increased demand could test the reserve margin.

With that in mind, we all need to get ready for summer by managing our electricity use.

A few home improvements and simple changes in day-to-day habits can add up to big savings this summer. For example, a few tubes of latex or silicone caulk for your windows will help keep cooler air inside your

home and the hot air outside where it belongs. If you insulate your hot water pipes, you can cut water heating costs by 4 percent. And remember to set your air conditioning system thermostat to 78 degrees and maybe even a little higher if you're planning to be away from the house for a while.

Would you like to make an even greater impact on your bill? Check your home's insulation. According to energystar.gov, the insulation in your home's attic should cover joists and be evenly distributed. It is also important to use insulation with a recommended R-value of 30–60. You will not only feel the difference in your home, you'll help offset peak demand.

At energystar.gov, you'll find a variety of tools and tips to help maximize your home's energy efficiency.

Most importantly, Comanche Electric Cooperative is a not-for-profit power provider. That means our mission is to provide you with the electricity you need to improve your quality of life—not turn a profit for investors. An important part of that mission entails providing you the tools you need to manage your electricity use. We want you to stay comfortable this summer with power bills you can afford.

For more helpful tips to reduce your energy usage, contact our Member Services Department at 1-800-915-2533.





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FLAG DAY IS JUNE 14. This lesser known and lesser-celebrated holiday, established by Congress in 1949, pays tribute to a great and meaningful symbol.

Most of us know that the 13 red and white stripes and the field of 50 stars represent the original 13 colonies and the current 50 states. But there's much more to learn about Old Glory.

The Beginning

Recognizing that a new nation needed a new flag, Congress passed the country's first flag law June 14, 1777: "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be 13 stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

A Proclamation

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson paved the way for the observance with a proclamation addressing his concerns about "forces within and forces without that seemed likely to draw us away from the happy traditions of united purpose and action of which we have been so proud." The proclamation urged Americans to "give significant expression to our thoughtful love of America."

The Symbolism

The red on the flag represents valor and bravery; white symbolizes innocence and purity; and vigilance, justice and perseverance are represented by blue. The stripes are symbolic of rays of sunlight, and the stars reference the heavens.

The First Flag

The oft-told story of President George Washington asking Betsy Ross to create the first flag unfortunately can't be substantiated. The Betsy Ross House, a museum in her honor, promotes her story but encourages visitors to decide whether it's historical fact or well-loved fiction.

The Pledge

As originally written in 1892, it read: "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Congress added the phrase "under God" to the pledge in 1954.

While only Pennsylvania recognizes Flag Day as a state holiday, we wish you a happy Flag Day and encourage you to take time to acknowledge the significance of the day.



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HAPPY FATHER'S DAY | JUNE 17



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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–Friday,
7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

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

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

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CECA crews are available 24/7 in the event of a power-quality issue by calling 1-800-915-2533.

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Kimmel Boot Company

Built on Faith and Family

BY SHIRLEY KIDD DUKES

GEORGE STRAIT HAS WORN THEM. SO HAVE Priscilla Presley, Merle Haggard, Brooks & Dunn, Sandra Bullock, and Tommy Lee and Dawn Jones, plus a host of other celebrities—proof that you don't have to be a cowboy to love cowboy boots. But the celebrities are not the reason boot lovers flock to Kimmel Boot Company on the outskirts of Comanche. They come for the quality and longevity of the product along with the guaranteed custom fit that comes with every pair of Kimmel boots.

Kimmel Boot Company was created in 1980 when Eddie and Kathy Kimmel, taking a leap of faith borne of necessity, opened a small shop in a barn behind their house on a lonely dirt road east of Comanche. There was no storefront and no big marketing plan—just a quality boot that solidified its reputation through word of mouth. A reputation so good, in fact, that at one time the waitlist for a pair of Kimmel boots was two to three years long.

In May 2015, the Kimmels decided it was time to retire and began to downsize the business by closing down the retail side. They began a small wholesale business in which they bought materials in bulk, broke them down and then sold them to individual boot-makers who cannot or do not want to procure large wholesale orders just to get the few items they need.

Heath and Jodie Tucker, son-in-law and daughter to the Kimmels, lived in San Antonio at the time, and Heath began to wonder where he now would go to get boots. He and Jodie discussed moving back home, and soon a deal was struck with the Kimmels whereby the Tuckers would take over running the boot shop. The Tuckers and their two children relocated to their hometown, Comanche, and began learning the business. With the Kimmels' help, and after training for three years, Heath and Jodie took over in January.

Over the decades, Kimmel Boot Company built up a base of more than 7,000 customers, many of whom have returned for multiple orders. Their client base stretches throughout the United States and across oceans to England, Belgium and Australia. Eddie Kimmel estimates they have crafted more than 20,000 pairs of boots over the past 38 years.

"I look at it and think: Wow! You're 7 miles from town, down a dirt road, in the middle of nowhere—in the middle of nowhere," Heath said. "We still have people from Comanche, but that's not where the base of the business is. It's Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and everywhere in between. They come a long way. Just for you."

Kathy and Eddie Kimmel are in the shop every day but are slowly phasing out all they



Heath and Jodie Tucker are the driving force behind Kimmel Boot Company. "It's all about family," Heath Tucker said. Pictured, from left, are Jodie Tucker; Will Tucker, 11; Kate Tucker, 7; and Heath Tucker.



do. They still help with all aspects of the business daily but are concentrating on the wholesale and supply portions now.

Heath Tucker builds boot lasts for clients while running the majority of the business, and Jodie Tucker handles all social media and marketing efforts. Their two children, Will and Kate, are avid boot wearers but, aside from designing their own boots, do not currently have a role in running the shop. The shop also employ two longtime workers, Genaro Cruz and Margarita Pedraza. Cruz does much of the sewing

and construction of the boots, while Pedraza performs the more detailed cutting of inlays and stitching on the boot tops. "I don't know what we would do without them," Heath said. "They are an integral part of the business."

With the six of them working full time, the boot shop can produce four to six pairs of boots per week, depending on the intricacies of each order. It takes about three to four months to fulfill an order, but it is well worth the wait given each boot's custom design and guaranteed fit.



The first step in building a custom pair of Kimmel boots is precise measurement of the foot, including calf, ankle, heel, instep, waist and ball of the foot. These measurements, along with an accurate outline of each foot, are used to build the last, which in turn is used to create a custom boot designed to fit the individual foot of the wearer.



Kate Tucker could easily become a designer for Kimmel Boot Company, having designed this pair of boots using scraps of leather from the discard bin.



Kimmel boots are constructed from a wide selection of high-quality soft leather that is durable and attractive. However, ordering a custom pair of boots involves more than picking your favorite color of leather. The foremost consideration is how the boots will be worn, for work or fashion. Next, the purchaser must decide on the type and shape of the boot. Do you want a square, round or pointed toe? What type of sole best fits your needs? How high do you need the heel to be? How high do you want the boot to be, and what type of stitching do you prefer? How many rows of stitching, and what color of thread for the design and side welt? What type of top edge and pulls do you prefer? When ordering your first pair of boots, the choices may be a bit overwhelming, but the result will be well worth the effort.

Kimmel Boot Company is located at 2080 CR 304 in Comanche. A custom fitting could take up to a couple of hours, so an appointment is required. There are no double



The term “last” is an Old English word for footstep. A last is the foundation for any shoe or boot. It determines the fit of the finished product. The last is the model used to make all custom and factory boots. The fit of a shoe depends on the design, shape and volume of the last. The boot last must represent the anatomical information of the foot, while at the same time giving the finished shoe a pleasing and fashionable appearance. The toe can be fastened to the end of the last in any style the customer desires. Small pieces of leather are shaped, glued and then sanded down until smooth to compensate for any irregularities in a foot or changes that occur normally as a customer ages.

bookings, so each client is guaranteed undivided attention during a fitting. To make an appointment, call (254) 977-3226 or drop them a line at kimmelbootcompany.com.



Genaro Cruz hand-sews the welt onto a boot. The welt is the backbone of a good boot. Heavy leather is sewn around the lower portion of the vamp, holding the vamp liner insole and sole together.



Margarita Pedraza performs the intricate work of hand-cutting the inlays and stitching. Her handiwork is seamless and perfect, and her finished product looks as if it has been laser cut and computer sewn.



CECA Awards \$12,000 to Area Students

COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION RECENTLY awarded \$12,000 to area students as part of CECA's scholarship programs. Reagan Bills, Annette Calderon, Lizbeth Noguez, Kailei Gaines and Damyon Sneed each earned a

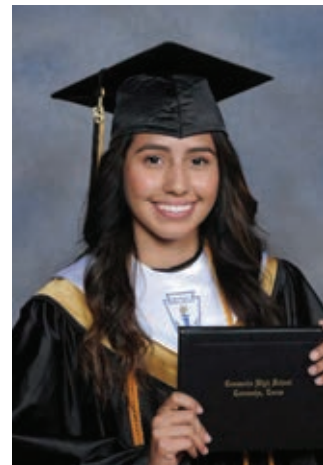
\$2,000 scholarship for excellence, funded by unclaimed capital credits funds. Wyatt Welch and Allan Piri were awarded \$1,000 scholarships funded by Operation Round-Up. Congratulations to all the recipients.



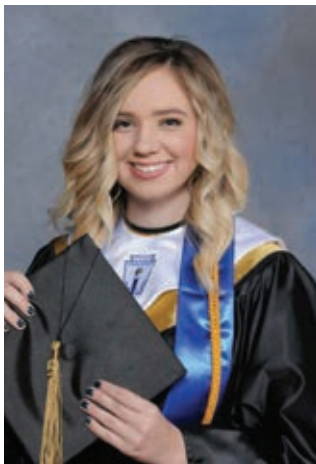
Reagan Bills is a senior at Early High School and the daughter of Mark and Holly Bills. Bills will attend Texas Tech University where she will major in accounting and agribusiness.



Annette Calderon is a senior at Comanche High School and the daughter of Martin and Maria Calderon. Calderon will attend Texas A&M University where she will major in biomedical sciences.



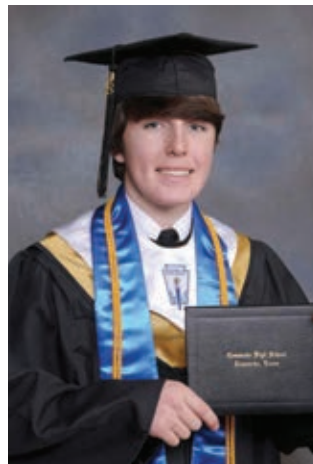
Lizbeth Noguez is a senior at Comanche High School and the daughter of Sergio Noguez. Noguez will attend Tarleton State University where she will major in nursing.



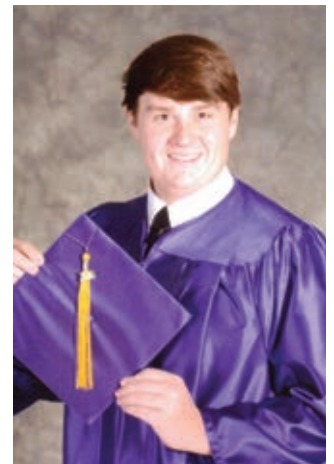
Kailei Gaines is a senior at Comanche High School and the daughter of Doug and Jodi Gaines. Gaines will attend Texas A&M University where she will major in pre-pharmacy and chemistry.



Damyon Sneed is a senior at Cisco High School and the son of Joe and Tabitha Francks. Sneed will attend Texas A&M University where he will major in mechanical engineering.



Wyatt Welch is a senior at Comanche High School and the son of Jeana Welch. Welch will attend Texas A&M University at Galveston where he will major in environmental science.



Allan Piri currently attends West Texas A&M University where he is majoring in sports and exercise sciences. Piri is the son of Andrew and Laura Piri of Blanket.

Home Is Where Our Heart Is

THE DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC

Cooperative want to see our community succeed. Why? Because we live here, too. We're local people working for local good. That's the essence of Cooperative Principle No. 7, Concern for Community.

First and foremost, we strengthen our community by doing what we do best: providing reliable electricity at a reasonable cost. We are a dynamic part of our community. As the area grows, so does our distribution system.

At Comanche EC, we pursue policies and projects that are good for the community because what's good for our community is good for our cooperative.

We have strong roots in this community. Comanche EC has been in business here for 80 years. Part of the benefit of this stability is the assurance that we are not going anywhere. Our business began here, and we won't pull up stakes to pursue greener pastures elsewhere.

We pay our employees fair wages, which helps strengthen the economy when they spend that money here. And by providing well-paying jobs, we keep our towns healthy because employees and their families don't have to move away to make a living. The more people we have here paying taxes and patronizing local businesses, the more vibrant our community will be. Strengthening our local economy makes sound business sense.

But the benefits to the community aren't just financial. We open doors for our young people with scholarship programs and the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. We teach children safety through programs in schools and online. We help our members save money and reduce their environmental impact by recommending energy efficiency measures. We strengthen the community by supporting local charities. We help our members and neighbors in need by contributing to efforts like food drives and Relay For Life.

The co-op is made up of people who care. Our employees go out of their way to better their communities. They coach youth sports teams, serve on school committees and participate in church activities. They are co-op members like you, and like you, they want to make their hometowns stronger.

Remember—when it comes to Comanche EC, our community is where our hearts are.



Working Side by Side

Comanche Electric Cooperative is a Touchstone Energy cooperative, working side by side with member-owners to make decisions locally that best serve your area. That's the way we've always done it and the way we'll always do it.

Comanche Electric Cooperative
Your source of power. And information.

