

## Be Sure To Deliver All The Packages You Wrap



**MESSAGE FROM MANAGER ALAN LESLEY**

Every Thanksgiving, with family gathered 'round, we take turns sharing what we're thankful for. Some things seem trivial, some humorous, some deeply touching.

I always walk away from the table—slowly, from overindulging—and wonder why we only do this once a year. Are we really only appreciative when the calendar tells us we should be?

I suspect we let the hustle and bustle of day-to-day living get in the way of taking time to appreciate how



© 2010 PHOTOS.COM

blessed we are and letting the people responsible for those blessings know how much we appreciate them.

Like most of you, if asked what I'm grateful for, I'd say something like, "I'm grateful for family, friends, a comfort-

able bed to sleep in, good health and a home to shelter my family."

But, goodness, that's an awfully short list for someone who has so much.

I'm also fortunate to have a job that I love—being general manager of Comanche Electric Cooperative. While some days aren't easy, knowing that the work we do here at your electric cooperative makes our members' lives better is richly satisfying. Nowhere in the business world will you find a more dedicated and hardworking group of employees.

Our linemen literally risk life and limb every single day in their efforts to keep power flowing to each and every home and business on our system. Other employees provide critical behind-the-scenes support to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Working in this business, I learned quickly not to take a constant supply of electricity for granted and to be grateful when it is available. While it's never convenient to be without power, it does give us a moment to reflect on just how much we rely on this invisible servant. Sometimes it's a convenience we miss, like hot popcorn in 3 minutes from a microwave oven. Other times the absence of electricity can be life-threatening, such as when it's not available to power a breathing machine or other health-related equipment.

When the power does go out, I'm grateful we have skilled crews available 24/7 to fix the problem and understanding members who patiently await completion of the repairs.

William Arthur Ward is credited with saying, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

I'm going to do my best throughout the year to make sure every gift I wrap gets delivered.

I wish you and your family a richly blessed Thanksgiving.

## HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

*for Older Adults*

Last year, more than 1 million people 65 years and older were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with accidents at home. Since most of these episodes resulted from a lack of maintenance, walk through your home and use the following checklist to spot possible safety hazards. If you notice a potential problem, arrange for it to be fixed immediately.

**KITCHEN:** Make sure all appliances carry an Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) seal, which means the item was tested and found safe to use. Check electrical cords for fraying or cracking; stepstools for splitting or cracking; and throw rugs for tripping hazards like bumps and turned-up corners.

**LIVING ROOM:** Check rugs, electrical cords, lamps and other lighting. Inspect the fireplace and chimney for fire hazards, and make sure all passageways are clear.

**BATHROOM:** Make sure appliances are marked with a UL seal. Check the bathtub, shower, rugs and mats for slipping hazards and inspect cabinets for safe storage of medications.

**BEDROOMS:** Examine rugs and electrical and telephone cords. Make sure the area around the bed is clear of tripping hazards.

**GARAGE/WORKSHOP:** Make sure all power tools bear the UL mark. Inspect extension cords and cords on tools and lawn and garden equipment. Check for proper ventilation and make sure flammable liquids are stored properly.

**STAIRS:** Make sure there's proper lighting on and around stairways. Examine handrails and steps for possible defects or weaknesses, and test stair coverings for possible tripping hazards.

AT COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Conservation Matters

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## What Does ‘Green’ Really Mean?

Most people believe a “green” home is energy efficient—and it is. But that’s just one part of a three-prong “green” strategy that also involves water conservation and indoor air quality.

Still, energy efficiency is a good place to start if you want to make your home more environmentally friendly, healthier and cheaper to operate.

Here are some tips for being green:

**1. ENERGY EFFICIENCY.** Conduct an extensive energy audit of your home. There are a variety of online tools ([www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov) is a good place to start), or you can hire an energy specialist to do the audit for you. The audit should include checking your home for leaks—in air-conditioning ducts, windows, walls and the attic. If leaks are found, fix them before you



Use the online tools at [www.energysavers.gov](http://www.energysavers.gov) to do your own home energy audit.

invest in expensive new products like super-efficient windows or a new air-conditioning system. Even the most

efficient products won’t cut your energy bills if you install them in a house that’s leaking air.

**2. WATER CONSERVATION.** Invest in plumbing fixtures that make water savings automatic. If your toilets are the ancient models that swallow five gallons with every flush, buy low-water versions that use 1.6 gallons or less. Look for the new WaterSense designation for faucets, showerheads and lawn-watering fixtures, and be sure to fix any leaking faucets.

**3. AIR QUALITY.** Properly ventilating bathrooms and kitchens can help your whole family breathe easier. And choosing less-toxic versions of paints, carpets and other materials can go a long way toward improving your home’s indoor air quality.



## Keeping the Roads Clean

Employees of Comanche Electric Cooperative have launched the Texas Department of Transportation’s Adopt-a-Highway Program in the seven counties within our service district. This is a volunteer clean-up program to keep our roadsides clear of litter and debris. New roadside signs are being installed to mark the beginning and end of each of our two-mile stretches of road. We have committed to cleaning the roadside at least twice a year for the next two years. We are proud of the counties within our service district, and this is just one way for us to show our pride and say “thank you!” to the citizens whom we serve.

# Extension Cord Safety: Make Smart Connections

**D**uring the holiday season, families often string together extension cords without a second thought. Unfortunately, not all cords are created equal.

Just because an extension cord can reach an outlet across a room doesn't mean it's the right one for the task at hand. If a tool, appliance or holiday display draws more current than an extension cord can carry, it may cause the cord (and whatever is connected to it) to overheat and start a fire.

Cords come in many lengths and are marked with a size or gauge. The gauge is based on the American Wire Gauge (AWG) System, in which the larger the wire, the smaller the AWG number.

For example, a 12-gauge wire would be larger and could power larger wattage appliances than a 14-gauge wire. A cord, based on its gauge, can power appliances of a certain wattage only at specific distances. As the cord gets longer, the current-carrying capacity of the cord drops.



**Crimps or kinks—even in a heavy-duty cord—can cause a break in the protective coating and create a shock hazard.**

© ISTOCKPHOTO.COM/IMAGESBYBARBARA

Using the right cord for the job is only the first step in using extension cords safely. Follow these tips to ensure safe use and make smart connection decisions:

- Look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) symbol. The UL mark means that samples of the cord have been tested for safety hazards.

- Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors, as it could result in electric shock or trigger a fire. Extension cords that can be used outdoors will be clearly marked "Suitable for Use with Outdoor Appliances."

- Extension cords should not be placed underneath rugs or other heavy furniture; tacked in place to a wall or taped down; or used while coiled or bent. Match the length of the cord to your needs.

- Store all cords indoors when not in use. Outdoor conditions can deteriorate a cord over time.

- Unplug extension cords when not in use. The cord will continue conducting electricity until unplugged.

- On cords with more than one outlet, use the covers provided for unused openings. Children and pets face serious injury if they chew on unused cord outlets or stick sharp metal objects into the openings.

- Do not use extension cords that are cut or damaged. Touching even a single exposed strand of wire can result in an electric shock or burn.

- Never file or cut the plug blades or grounding pin of an extension cord or appliance to plug it into an old outlet.

- As a safety feature, extension cords and most appliances boast polarized plugs (one blade wider than the other). These special plugs are designed to prevent electric shock by properly aligning circuit conductors. If a plug does not fit, have a qualified electrician install a new outlet.

*Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.*



*May your Thanksgiving  
be rich in memories—  
old and new.*

**Happy Thanksgiving**  
from  
Comanche Electric Cooperative

*Our offices will be closed  
November 25 for the holiday.*

## WE WANT YOUR RECIPES!

**Do you have a favorite recipe  
you would be willing to share?**

Comanche Electric Cooperative would love to have your recipes for a members-only cookbook. You might even be featured on our website or newsletter! Send your submissions to Comanche Electric Cooperative, Attn: Shirley Dukes, P.O. Box 729, Comanche, TX 76442 or [sdukes@ceca.coop](mailto:sdukes@ceca.coop).



# Comanche Electric Offers Variety of Youth Programs



## **Government-in-Action Youth Tour**

Each year, Comanche Electric Cooperative sends area students on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. These students join approximately 1,500 other students from electric cooperatives across the nation as they tour our nation's capital.

On the tour, students learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. They participate in National Youth Day, visit with their representatives in the House and Senate and explore the sights around Washington, D.C. A few of the many sites the students will see are: Washington National Cathedral, Arlington Cemetery, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Mount Vernon, Union Station, the Air and Space Museum and other Smithsonian Institution museums.

To qualify for the trip, the students must be sophomores, juniors or seniors attending one of the schools within Comanche Electric Cooperative's service area.

Deadline to apply for the trip is January 8, 2011.

**Flor Martinez of Mullin High School was the 2010 winner of the Government-in-Action Youth Tour contest.**



## **Scholarships**

Two deserving students will be awarded \$1,000 scholarships to further their education through Comanche Electric Cooperative's Scholarship For Excellence and the Operation Round Up Scholarship.

To qualify for the Scholarship for Excellence, the student must be claimed as a dependent of parents or legal guardians who are active CECA members residing within the cooperative's service area. He or she must maintain a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale and meet general entrance requirements at an accredited school. The applicant can be a graduating senior or a student currently enrolled in a college or university.

To qualify for the Operation Round Up Scholarship, the student must meet the above requirements AND have parents or legal guardians who participate in the Operation Round Up program.

Deadline to apply for these scholarships is February 5, 2011.

**Jeremy Phillips of the May community was the 2010 recipient of the Scholarship for Excellence.**

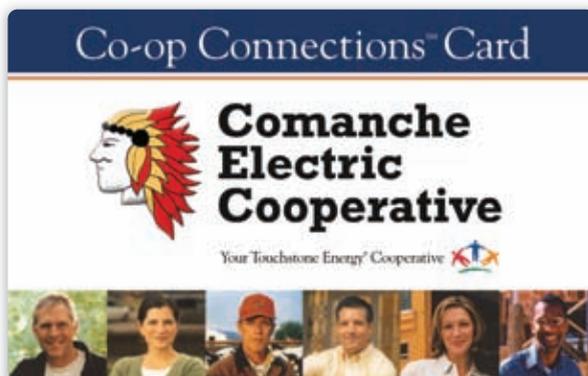


## **Co-op Teens Power Texas Video Contest**

Comanche Electric Cooperative and Texas Co-op Power magazine invite high school students residing in households served by an electric cooperative in Texas to compete for cash prizes—including a \$1,500 grand prize—by creating an original, short video about electricity. Complete details will be coming to these pages soon!

**For more information on any of these programs, please contact Shirley Dukes at 1-800-915-2533 or [sdukes@ceca.coop](mailto:sdukes@ceca.coop).**

# THIS:



# GETS YOU THIS:

**Air Temp Refrigeration.** 300 Main St., Brownwood 76803; (325) 643-3000, [www.airtemprefrigeration.com](http://www.airtemprefrigeration.com). Monday-Fridays 8 a.m.-5 p.m. with 24-hour emergency service. \$20 off any heating, air-conditioning, electrical or plumbing service. (Not valid with any other promotion.)

**Alphagraphics - North Central Texas.** 400 W. Main St., Eastland 76448; (254) 629-2071, [www.ag-nct.com](http://www.ag-nct.com). Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. 20 percent off first order total invoice.

**CJ's Diner.** 135 W. Grand Ave., Comanche 76442; (325) 356-5330. Monday-Friday 7 a.m.-9 p.m. 10 percent off on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

**Carstens Motor Co. Inc.** 601 W. Walker St., Breckenridge 76424; (254) 559-2266. Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. \$250 additional discount on any new/used vehicle purchase.

**G. Stewart Cleveland, O.D.** 602 Ave. E, Cisco 76437; (254) 442-3161. Monday-Wednesday 9 a.m.-noon and

1-5 p.m., Thursday 9-noon and 2-5 p.m., Closed Friday. \$5 off eye exam.

**Cool Clear Water LLC.** 900 Conrad Hilton Blvd., Cisco 76437; (254) 442-3131. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. 10 percent discount on any water bottle and/or crock.

**Curves.** 217 N. Houston St., Comanche 76442; (325) 356-5809. Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-7 p.m. No sign-up fee for new members.

**Dublin Heating, Air Conditioning and Electric.** 114 S. Patrick St., Dublin 76446; (254) 445-2984. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., closed Sunday and Wednesday. Service contract discount (\$45 service call plus 20 percent discount on all parts).

**Durham Pecan Co.** 111 N. Houston St., Comanche 76442; (325) 356-5291. [www.durhams.com](http://www.durhams.com). Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 10 percent off on all retail purchases.

**Eastland County Newspapers.** P.O. Box 29, Eastland 76448; (254) 629-1707. Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.

Half price on local (in-county) subscriptions.

**First Impression Window Cleaning.** P.O. Box 56, Comanche 76442; (325) 356-3480. Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 10 percent discount on residential window cleaning or power washing.

**Frames & Things, Inc.** 408 Center Ave., Brownwood 76801; (325) 646-8811. [www.framesandthingsbrownwoodtx.com](http://www.framesandthingsbrownwoodtx.com). Monday-Friday 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 10 percent discount on custom framing. (Not valid with any other discount offer.)

**Furniture Depot.** 114 S. Patrick St., Dublin 76446; (254) 445-2134. 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., closed Sunday and Wednesday. 10 percent discount on all purchases.

**H&H Handcrafts.** 407 E. Duncan Ave., Comanche 76442; (325) 356-5216. Monday-Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. 20 percent off all furniture, 15 percent off all yard art, 15 percent off all custom orders.

**Hardins BBQ.** 3300 E. I-20, Eastland 76448; (254) 629-1227. Wednesday-Saturday 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Buy any plate, get second half-off.

**Hendrick Medical Supply.** 969 E. Main St., Eastland 76448. 1-800-588-8338. Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., closed noon-1 p.m. 15 percent off retail purchases.

**Lemons Bar-B-Q.** 3202 Coggin Ave., Brownwood 76801; (325) 646-9655. Thursday-Saturday 11 a.m.-9 p.m. 10 percent off any dine-in ticket. (Not valid with any other special offers.)

**Linda Bingham Photographic Art.** 1102 E. Milton, Comanche 76442; (325) 356-7535. [www.lindabinghamphotography.com](http://www.lindabinghamphotography.com). Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

10 percent off art, 10 percent off session fee.

**Seal Tite Insulation.** 1551 CR 416, Comanche; (254) 967-5891. Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. 5 percent discount off gross amount of job.

**Silver Sensations.** Heartland Mall, Early 76801; (325) 998-4531. 10 percent discount.

**Special Spiritual Designs.** 1051 CR 240, Rising Star 76471; (254) 725-7235. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 10 percent discount on all pieces.

**Spring Crest Carpet & Drapery.** 609 S. Main St., Brownwood 76801; (325) 646-6793. Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday by appointment only. Free installation on 5 or more blinds or 10 percent off whole house of carpet.

**Sweet Stuff & Coffee.** 100 E. Williams., Breckenridge 76424; (254) 559-7050. [www.sweetstuffcandy.com](http://www.sweetstuffcandy.com). Summer: Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Winter: Also open Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 10 percent discount on purchases over \$25.

**Thomas-co Media.** 1809 Indian Creek Rd., Brownwood 76801; (325) 642-0214. [www.thomascomedia.com](http://www.thomascomedia.com). Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 15 percent discount on website design, 10 percent discount on marketing.

**Underwood's Bar-B-Q.** 404 W. Commerce St., Brownwood 76801; (325) 646-1776. [www.underwoodsbbq.com](http://www.underwoodsbbq.com). 11 a.m.-9 p.m., closed Wednesday. \$2 off any purchase of \$20 or more. Dine-in only.

**Wishes.** 203 W. Walker St., Breckenridge 76424; (254) 559-9700. Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Free gift with purchase.

**Your Co-op Connections Card gets you all these great discounts and much, much more ... all just for being a member of Comanche Electric Cooperative.**

**Check out the savings at [www.ceca.coop](http://www.ceca.coop).**