

Giving Thanks to Those Who Serve



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

November, as you undoubtedly know, is a month in which Americans give thanks.

Naturally, what comes to mind is the holiday at the end of the month, when many gather with family and friends to count their blessings and enjoy a shared feast. I can think of many reasons to be thankful, including the fact that I am a member and employee of CECA, a business that exists to serve others.

However, there is another opportunity in the month to give thanks, and this one involves thanking others for making sacrifices on our behalf. This day falls on November 11, and it recognizes the men and women who have protected the freedoms we all enjoy.

This Veterans Day, I encourage you to thank the people you know—family members, friends or acquaintances—who have worn the uniform and served this country in the military. No matter the branch of service or the conflict, we all owe these people our gratitude for preserving and defending our great nation.

In honor of Veterans Day, I ask that you also join me in saluting all those who have served in the U.S. armed forces and those who continue to serve.

It is a debt that we cannot repay, but one that we can honor by sharing with them our thanks.



Join the directors and employees of CECA on Veterans Day in recognizing current and past members of the U.S. military and the sacrifices they have made to protect our freedoms.



Use Space Heaters Wisely

As the weather gets a little bit chillier—but perhaps not cold enough to run the central heat—space heaters in the rooms you use most might be all you need.

While most models are perfectly safe to operate, how you use them can mean the difference between a convenient appliance and a house fire. Here are a few simple precautions:

- ▶ If your space heater is old, check the cord for fraying or cracking and notice if it overheats.
- ▶ Consider replacing an older model with a new space heater. Most modern space heaters come with an automatic shutoff switch in case they tip over.
- ▶ Check the news and the Consumer Product Safety Commission's website, cpsc.gov, to keep up to date with recalls.
- ▶ Even if your model is rated for safety, keep it at least 3 feet away from combustible materials such as furniture, drapes and beds.
- ▶ It is preferable not to use an extension cord with a space heater; however, if necessary, choose a heavy-duty cord with least 14-gauge wire.
- ▶ Keep the heater's cord in plain sight. Tucked under a rug or behind furniture, cords can overheat or become damaged.
- ▶ To avoid overloading a circuit, don't plug two space heaters (or other high energy-use appliances) into the same outlet.

Opportunities for Students

It's that time of year again! Kids are back in school, Fall is in the air, and routines have pretty much been established. Football season is underway, school activities are in full swing, and memories are being made.

CECA wants to be a part of the lives in the students within our service territory. We do that by offering programs that will enrich and complement students' lives and futures. If you have a son or daughter, niece or nephew, grandson or granddaughter, neighbor, acquaintance, etc., who would be interested in any of the following programs, please contact the Member Service Department at 1-800-915-2533 or memberservices@ceca.coop.

Scholarships

Each year, CECA offers four \$1,000 Scholarships for Excellence, and two \$1,000 Operation Round Up Scholarships to students within the CECA territory. To qualify, the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) must reside on CECA lines. The student can be a graduating senior or a student currently enrolled in a qualifying institution of higher learning.

Youth Tour

CECA sends up to two students per year on a one-week, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Any student, sophomore and above, who attends one of the schools within the CECA service territory is eligible to apply.

Student Leadership Conference

Each school within the CECA territory is invited to send up to 10 of their most promising leaders in the junior class to this one-day Student Leadership Conference. Students are introduced to different aspects of leadership as well as methods that will propel them to greater leadership roles.

Ignite the Flight

Any student attending a school within the CECA service territory is eligible to attend this session designed to instruct students how to construct a portfolio to prepare them for a successful college or career future.

Texas Co-op Power's Co-op Teens Power Texas Contest

Any student whose parents or legal guardians reside on CECA lines is eligible to compete in this contest to create a multimedia video, photograph or story submission that focuses on "My Cooperative in My Community." First- and second-place winners will be selected in three categories: Best Video, Best Story, and Best Photo and Caption. Prizes totaling \$4,500 will be awarded to the best entries.

Schools in the CECA Service Territory

Albany	Cisco	Goldthwaite	Mullin
Baird	Comanche	Gorman	Priddy
Bangs	Cross Plains	Gustine	Ranger
Blanket	De Leon	Hamilton	Rising Star
Breckenridge	Early	May	Sidney
Brownwood	Eastland	Moran	Zephyr

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

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

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

Eastland Office: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., closed from noon to 1:15 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

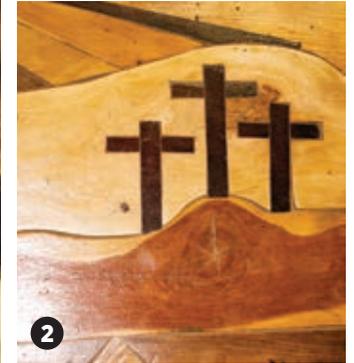
FIND US ON THE WEB

ceca.coop

A Love of Wood

BY SHIRLEY DUKES

Native Rising Star resident and woodworker Charles Morgan whittles away at building a cabin that shows off his craft. **1-2:** This American village and three crosses on the hill are built into the floor of the upstairs bedroom. **3:** The hand-carved elk hangs above the bed. **4:** The floor that appears to be a pathway leading through the home took weeks for Morgan to complete. Each log was cut an inch thick, then trimmed with a band saw. He then scribed them all onto a piece of paper, transferred it onto the wood, and cut out the pieces with a band saw. All pieces were then glued together before being placed into the floor. **5:** ‘The outside doesn’t look like much,’ Morgan says of his home, ‘but I’ll fix that up when I finish the inside.’



6: In this replica of the state of Texas, each county is made from a different type of wood. This particular work was done entirely with a band saw and took about three months to complete. **7:** The chuck wagon on the floor of the living area is the largest piece of floor art. Morgan took a photo of an actual wagon to use as a guide. **8:** The sinks in the two bathrooms are also hand-carved out of wood. **9:** This sink, along with the wood used in the ceiling, were carved from a burned tree Morgan salvaged from the Cross Plains fire. The sinks are treated with combined epoxy agent and are extremely durable once completed. **10:** ‘I’m just an old man playing,’ Morgan said.



11: A squirrel appears to be circling the end table. The bird pull handles on the cabinet next to the end table were also hand-carved by Morgan. **12:** The hand-carved ship on the other table was a project for the RA boys at the local church. This was the one Morgan used as an example to show the boys how their finished project should look. **13:** A raccoon pokes its head out of a hole in the stump used for a coffee table. **14:** The wagon-wheel-and-horse bench sits behind the coffee table. **15:** The butterfly bed was actually made for the daughter of one of his friends. But once finished, Morgan decided he had to keep it for himself and built another one for the little girl. The holes in the bedpost were made by carpenter beetles, prolific insects that love mesquite.



Ask Charles Morgan of Rising Star when he started working with wood, and he will honestly tell you he’s not sure, but it was some time as a kid. His grandfather whittled a lot and taught him the trade at an early age. He started small with projects such as match holders, and over the years his skill, as well as his love of the craft, grew into a full-fledged business when he began building homes and custom cabinets.

“I love wood,” said Morgan. “I love working with wood. I love the creation that comes from working wood.” His favorite wood is mesquite, and his love for this plentiful Texas variety is evident in his art. His biggest “art” project right now is his home. “It doesn’t look like much from the outside,” he said. “But I’ll take care of that once I’m finished with the inside.”

Morgan’s home is a small two-story log cabin that he has lovingly and painstakingly built from the ground up. While the outside looks simply like a log cabin, the inside contains a veritable plethora of surprises. The ceilings are covered in weathered tin removed from an old barn. The walls are mostly either tin or wood, but the floors, cabinetry and décor are the true artwork in his humble abode.

Each room has unique flooring. The living area downstairs has the shape of a wagon inlaid into it. Upstairs has the state of Texas, with each county in a different type of wood. Native American designs and three crosses grace the floor in the bedroom. Walkway areas appear to be a path leading into a new dimension. Morgan used 18 to 20 different woods for the floors. The walls are made mostly of mesquite, with the excep-



tion of one of the upstairs bathrooms where he used sycamore, and one wall behind his arrowheads is made from black walnut from Oklahoma. The staircase is made from pecan.

A stone fireplace with a handmade mesquite mantle provides a separation point between the dining room and kitchen. A Dutch oven sits on the hearth amid the ashes of a recent meal. Morgan cooks in his fireplace on occasion. He says his food is just so much better cooked in a cast-iron oven. Steaks cooked there will melt in your mouth, but it takes about two hours to cook them, so if he's especially hungry he has to use his modern conveniences!

The wooden countertops, custom-made by Morgan, bear the brands of family members and area residents. A hand-carved wooden bowl sits gracefully atop the bar area. Most of

the furniture in the home is handmade as well.

Morgan also does a lot of work for taxidermists. From "trees" to mount doves on, unique plaques for all types of mounting, to beautiful renditions of the state of Texas, he can do it all. But the shape of Texas is his favorite. "Something about the Texas design turns me on," said Morgan. "I like to make things in the shape of Texas. I'm a true Texan. I don't know why anyone would want to live anywhere else."

But wood is not Morgan's only claim to fame. He also paints and is a flint-knapper. His walls are adorned with his paintings, as well as plaques displaying his handmade arrowheads.

"I'm 75, and I'm still learning," said Morgan. "Everything I build is unique and different. I'm just an old man playing."

Notice of Capital Credit Allocations

Capital credits were recently allocated to accounts of members of Comanche Electric Cooperative for the year 2012.

After the end of the calendar year, cooperatives must determine what, if any, margins from operations were made during the year and allocate these margins to members' accounts.

Your cooperative's operating margin is any money left after all of its operating costs have been paid. Because members are owners of the cooperative, operating margins are allocated to their accounts as capital credits.

These capital credits will be returned to members in the future in the form of estate refunds or general refunds when doing so will not weaken the financial condition of the cooperative as determined by the board of directors.

In the meantime, the funds remain invested in the cooperative plant, credited to each member's account, even though the member may move away from Comanche Electric's lines.

It is important that departing members keep the co-op informed of their current mailing addresses so that those members can receive capital credit refunds when they are paid.

Capital credits for 2012 were calculated by multiplying each member's bill by the multiplier below. For example: If your total annual residential bill from the cooperative (consisting of energy billing and power-cost adjustment) was \$500, simply multiply that amount by 0.11850209. The product is \$59.25.

In calculating your total bill, include any security light charge, but do not include any tax, service or miscellaneous charges.

If you have any questions concerning these calculations, please feel free to contact the co-op office.

This article is intended to serve as an official notice of allocation of capital credits for 2012.

Residential	0.11850209
General Service	0.15312006
Large Power	0.04810156
Commercial	0.20225832
Large Commercial-Substation	0.02697623
Large Commercial	0.13955966

Fall Back

Comanche Electric Cooperative reminds you to set clocks back an hour on Sunday, November 3, when Daylight Standard Time takes effect.

While you are "falling back," take this opportunity to change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



An electric blanket can keep you cozy, but you should never sleep on top of one or let the kids jump up and down on it.

Make the Change of Season Safely

As the leaves change to their beautiful autumn hues and the weather gets colder, keep in mind the following electrical safety tips for the change of season:

- ▶ Check to see if electric blankets are in good repair and certified by an independent testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories.
- ▶ Do not tuck your electric blanket under the mattress and don't put anything on top of the blanket. Do not allow pets to sleep on electric blankets.
- ▶ Check cold-weather tools, such as leaf blowers, to ensure that power cords are in good repair. Extension cords used with those tools need to be approved for outdoor use.
- ▶ Before you tackle fall tree trimming, be sure to look up and know exactly where overhead power lines are located so you can avoid them.
- ▶ If you have a fireplace, have the chimney cleaned before the start of the fire season.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International



Conservation **MATTERS**

Efficient Holiday Cooking

Control energy costs while preparing celebratory meals

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that cooking alone accounts for 4 percent of total home energy use, and this figure doesn't include the energy costs associated with refrigeration, water heating and dishwashing.

As holiday parties and meals gear up, keep these tips in mind to control energy costs:

Smart Oven Use

- ▶ Before the baking begins, clean the inside of your range, wiping accumulated grease and grime out of the oven and making sure the window is clean and clear so you can see what's cooking.
- ▶ Don't open the oven door to check on the progress of cooking food. Every time the door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, forcing it to use more energy to return to the proper cooking temperature. Use the oven light and the window to look at the dishes.
- ▶ For recipes that need to bake longer than an hour, preheating isn't necessary.
- ▶ If you use a ceramic or glass dish for baking, you can typically set your oven for 25 degrees less than the recipe directs. Because ceramic and glass hold heat better than metal pans, your dish will cook just as well at a lower temperature.



Stovetop Sense

- ▶ For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric stove burners stay dirt- and grime-free.
- ▶ Electric stovetops transmit heat to pans only by direct contact with burners. The less contact your pan has with the burner, the more energy the stovetop has to expend to heat the pan.
- ▶ If your pans have warped over time and don't sit flat on the burner, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update. To keep pans from warping, don't clean them while they are still hot. The temperature difference between the pan and wash water can deform the metal.

Think Small Appliances

- ▶ A slow cooker, microwave, toaster oven or warming plate can do the same job of cooking some dishes with less electricity. For example, the average toaster oven can use about half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time.

Information to help you estimate how much energy your own appliances use is available on EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Featured Businesses

Dollins Pecan Co., Inc. dba Durham Pecan Company

Dollins Pecan Co., dba Durham Pecan Co, offers the finest-quality pecans and pecan products, including a variety of pecan candies such as chocolate-covered pecans, cinnamon-glazed, honey-toasted glazed and pecan brittle.

We have been offering freshly shelled Texas pecans since 1928. We proudly offer more than 150 quality nuts, mixes, candies and gift items. Whether you choose our famous pecans, healthy almonds or delectable chocolates, you are sure to find the freshest in flavor. We can also make gift-giving fun and simple with our awesome gift baskets filled with the treats of your choice. Choose from gift containers, baskets and decorated tins. And be sure to check out our "Texas Pecan Cookbook." We have two locations in Comanche. Visit our website for business hours and directions to each individual store.

LOCATED: 111 N. Houston, Comanche and 7200 Highway 377, Comanche
PHONE: (325) 356-5291
HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
WEBSITE: durhams.com
EMAIL: sales@durhams.com
OFFER: 10 percent discount on all retail purchases.

Hendrick Medical Supply

Hendrick Medical Supply, an affiliate of Hendrick Health System, has been providing Durable Medical Equipment, oxygen and respiratory equipment and supplies for more than 55 years. Hendrick Medical Supply serves patients of all ages within Abilene and the surrounding communities in West and West-Central Texas, 24 hours a day.

LOCATED: 410 W. Commerce, Eastland
PHONE: (254) 629-8338, 1-800-588-8338
HOURS: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
EMAIL: jwhetstone@hendrickhealth.org
WEBSITE: hendrickmedicalsupply.com
OFFER: 15 percent discount on all retail purchases.