

Intertwined Celebrations

Give thanks for veterans this November—and always



**MESSAGE
FROM
MANAGER
ALAN
LESLEY**

Think it's very fitting that Veterans Day is celebrated in the same month as Thanksgiving. Is there anything greater for which to be thankful than the freedom we enjoy because of the tremendous sacrifices of those who served in our military?

Generations of Americans (and Texans) have signed on the dotted line and given years of their lives to ensure that you and I can live as we please. Sadly, in far too many cases, they have literally given their lives, never having the opportunity to enjoy that freedom as a veteran.

While we may disagree on the right or wrong of a particular conflict, all Americans can agree that serving in the military, whether at home or in the heat of battle abroad, is a sacrifice worth remembering, honoring and being thankful.

Let's not rush past November 11 in

our haste to celebrate Thanksgiving. Make time to say "thanks" to the many who have served.

Visit a local VFW post or VA hospital to shake a few hands, share some kind words and listen to a few stories. Make a donation to an organization that benefits veterans. It doesn't have to be much, and it doesn't even have to be money. Deliver magazines and snacks to a veterans group or donate clothing. Donations to or volunteering at an organization that assists the homeless can help improve the life of veterans, as many find themselves on the streets.

Why not set an extra plate (or two or 10) at your annual Thanksgiving get-together and include some local veterans who may not have family with whom to share the holidays?

If there are young people in your life, give them opportunities to develop an appreciation for the sacrifice veterans have made for them and always have a special place in their hearts for those who have served our country.

I know my list of "thanks" this year is going to be a little longer. As I share the holidays with family and friends, I'll be making time to thank those who helped assure I have so much for which to be thankful.



Unplug your computer when it's not in use to save about \$5 a month in energy costs.

Turning Off Isn't Enough: Unplug

If you leave your desktop computer plugged in when you're not using it, you'll pay around \$5.40 a month for the power it uses. Your printer costs you about the same—even when it's turned off. Your big-screen TV and microwave oven run about \$2 when they're plugged in but turned off. And phone chargers, cable TV converter boxes, modems and even power tools run up a tab if you leave them plugged in when they're not in use.

The electricity they use is called "phantom power," and it can add up to hundreds of dollars a year.

The reason: Any device with a timer or memory chip stays "live" when you turn it off so everything remains programmed correctly. Digital cameras, coffeemakers, cellphone chargers—all use phantom power unless you unplug them when you're finished using them.

So if you don't need to leave an electrical device plugged in while you're not using it, unplug it and save yourself some money.





Conservation MATTERS

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

Be an Energy Owl, Not a Turkey, This Thanksgiving

You can almost smell it, can't you? A golden brown, perfectly roasted turkey with stuffing. Mashed potatoes with gravy. Zesty cranberry sauce and green bean casserole. Pumpkin pie. Pecan pie. Cherry pie.

It's almost Thanksgiving, and that can mean a big jump in your electric usage. It can mean dishwasher load after dishwasher load of plates and an oven that's constantly on. It could mean your refrigerator door is often open as family members search for hidden goodies. More people in the house means your water heater may struggle to keep up with all the showers and laundry.

Yep, Turkey Day not only can be a strain on your beltline, it can be a strain on your electric bill. This holiday season, opt for these tips when you're cooking up your feast—you'll enjoy both a meal and a little energy savings.

Oven Tips

- Turkey is traditionally roasted for hours. Because it's a long, slow cook, there's no need to preheat your oven, even when the recipe suggests it. This also holds true for a holiday ham. In fact, unless you're baking breads or pastries, you may not need to preheat the oven at all.

- Don't open the oven door to peek inside. Instead, use the oven light and check the cooking status through the oven window. Opening the oven door lowers the temperature by as much as 25 degrees, increasing cooking time.

- As long as your oven is on, cook several items at the same time. Just

make sure you leave enough room between items for heat to circulate evenly.

- In an electric oven, you can turn the heat off several minutes before your food is fully cooked, as long as the door remains closed.

- If you use glass or ceramic pans, you can turn your oven temperature down by 25 degrees.

- If your oven has a self-cleaning feature, consider using it immediately after baking your meal to take advantage of the residual heat.

Stovetop Tips

- When cooking on top of your range, match the size of the pan to the burner. More heat will get to the pan, and less will be lost to surrounding air. A 6-inch pan on an 8-inch burner will waste more than 40 percent of the energy!

- Clean burners and reflectors provide better heating while saving energy.

Other Ways To Cook

- Fast and efficient microwaves use less energy than ovens, plus they don't heat up your kitchen.

- Slow cookers are perfect for busy families and can cook up a whole meal for about 17 cents worth of electricity.

- If you're baking or broiling small items, a toaster oven—a fraction of the size of a traditional range—is the ideal choice.

- Electric skillets can do everything a skillet on the stove can do, plus they can double as serving dishes.

- Be adventurous: Many Texans live where the climate is mild enough to

cook outdoors. Roast your turkey outside on the charcoal grill. If you haven't tried a deep-fried turkey yet, you're in for a treat. Just make sure you mind your county's burn ban status.

Refrigerator Tips

- Most refrigerators and freezers get a real workout at Thanksgiving. If you've already invested in Energy Star-rated versions, good for you, but they still remain one of the largest energy consumers in your house.

- Keep the doors closed as much as possible. However, leaving the door open as long as you need is better than opening and closing it several times in a row.

- It's easy to keep your fridge and freezer full at Thanksgiving. It's also more energy efficient. The mass amount of cold items inside will help your fridge recover each time the door is opened and shut. However, don't cram it so full that the cold air can't circulate.

Dishwasher Tips

- One simple and fun way to save energy at holiday time is to gather everyone in the kitchen and wash and dry dishes by hand. Don't keep the hot water flowing at a steady stream: You'll waste more energy than you'll save.

- Always opt for a full load of dishes. If you must rinse your dishes before loading them in the washer, use cold water so your water heater doesn't have to work as hard. And, don't forget to use the energy-saving cycle.



May High School Students Explore Science

What do you do with all that wool you have lying around after you shear your lambs? For May High School Counselor Danny Allen, the answer was simple: “You enter a science contest.”

During the 2010-11 school year, Allen received an e-mail from Siemens encouraging participation in its We Can Change the World Challenge. The challenge encourages student teams to “identify an environmental issue that has local, national and global implications and to provide a viable, replicable solution.” Teams consisting of two to four students, under the leadership of a teacher or mentor, were encouraged to formulate an experiment concerning an environmental problem that affects their neighborhood and carry out their experiment in their community.

Allen had received the invitation to participate from Siemens, so the opportunity was already sitting in the back of his mind when a group of students at a career-day event were asked where their interests lie.

High school junior Dusty Yoder expressed an interest in architecture, specifically green architecture. Allen saw his chance to get his students involved and spoke to Yoder about the project. Yoder enlisted the help of friend Samuel Garcia, and the two boys, with the aid of their counselor, took on the project.

“We had recently finished shearing lambs, and the wool was still in the ag building,” Allen said. “The wool was clean, but not good for much, so I spoke to the ag teacher and suggested we hang on to it. I had a project in mind.” With Allen as their sponsor and mentor, and with the approval and assistance of ag teacher John Rhine, the boys assembled their project comparing fiberglass insulation to wool insulation.

Using two sheets of plywood and 2-by-4 studs, the boys built a replica wall with fiberglass insulation on one side, and the wool in the other side. They included a Plexiglas window where they installed thermometers for ease of viewing.

Working with a set of variables, the boys did several basic tests to measure fire resistance, water-damage resistance and insulation factors inside the wall. They originally tried to use the wall as an exterior wall by installing it

in the bay door of the ag department and comparing the outside temperature to the inside wall temperature. However, Allen became concerned that due to the type of indoor heating they used, the heat affecting each side of the wall was not controlled enough for a fair and accurate comparison.

They then painted the back of the wall a dark color to enhance its ability to absorb sunlight, sealed the Plexiglas, and conducted the experiment again, outside in direct sunlight. They thought this provided a more controlled environment as each side was exposed to

tant added to meet code.

For water resistance, a cup of water was poured on the fiberglass batting, and on the wool-filled wall space. The results were that water pooled “as if pouring water in a saucer” on the fiberglass, yet flowed through the wool side as gravity dictated. They concluded that water posed less of a threat to damage on the wool side than it did on the fiberglass side.

The results of the insulating factor of wool inside the wall were very similar to that of the fiberglass. They concluded however, that more testing



Thermometers, mounted behind Plexiglas windows for easy viewing, were used to compare the insulation factor of wool to that of fiberglass.

the same amount of sunlight.

To measure fire resistance, a sample of wool and a similar amount of fiberglass were lowered toward a torch. The distance between the torch flame and sample at its point of ignition was measured.

The results of the test showed the fiberglass was able to get closer to the flame before it ignited. Both were self-extinguishing. Their conclusion was that raw wool should have its oil removed before use, and a flame retar-

needed to be done in a more controlled environment.

CECA is dedicated to providing quality service at an affordable cost to its members, while sustaining the environment we live in. Projects such as this show the dedication of our young people to our environment.

We salute these young men, their counselor and teacher who supported them, and the school board and faculty who gave them the freedom and resources to pursue such a project.

THIS:



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Air Temp Refrigeration. 300 Main St., Brownwood 76803; (325) 643-3000, www.airtemprefrigeration.com. Mondays-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. 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 a.m.-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. 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. 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. Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 10 percent off art, 10 percent off session fee.

Riley Studio. 805 N. Page, Comanche, TX 76442; (325) 356-3199, www.rileystudio.com, rileystudio@verizon.net. Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekends

and evenings by appointment only. Sitting fee waived, \$25 value.

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 five or more blinds or 10 percent off whole-house carpeting.

Sweet Stuff & Coffee. 100 E. Williams, Breckenridge 76424; (254) 559-7050, 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 Road, Brownwood 76801; (325) 642-0214, 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. 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.