

The Benefits of Co-op Member Engagement



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

MOST CONSUMERS WOULD NOT EQUATE active involvement in their electric company with helping their community. But Comanche Electric Cooperative is not an ordinary utility.

We're a co-op, and our business model is meant to serve the members and the community—not to make a hefty profit for investors five states away. Our customers are more than consumers; they are members of the co-op. Therein lies the difference.

Our core purpose and mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to our members. As a cooperative, we are motivated by service to the community rather than profits.

We depend on the guidance and perspective of our members and board to help set priorities for the co-op and guide governance decisions. At our annual membership meeting, we raise issues for voting consideration by the general membership. Our board of directors is composed of members who live and work in our service area because they are in a position to know where community investments are needed most.

Your electric co-op is controlled by members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. This is why we value your participation in our co-op events.

Comanche EC has numerous ongoing programs that benefit the community. In June, for example, we sent two local high school students to the nation's capital to meet with lawmakers, enabling young people to learn firsthand how our democracy works.



As an electric cooperative, we serve the members and the community. We value your input and participation in cooperative events.

We maintain a scholarship program, and in May we awarded six \$1,000 scholarships to area graduates. You will read in the following pages about the event we co-sponsored with a local school to raise awareness and money for pediatric cancer.

We recognize the vital role that our cooperative plays in energizing our local economy. But to continue to innovate and effectively serve the community, we rely on you, our members, to provide guidance. We cannot operate effectively and help our community thrive without you, and we value your perspective.

Contact our Member Services Department at 1-800-915-2533 or memberservices@ceca.coop if you have an idea to strengthen our partnership with your community.

Enjoy Water Wisely

AS THE WEATHER TURNS WARM, and we begin planning our annual Fourth of July picnics and parties, our thoughts turn to water. Hanging out at the pool or beach may sound like the perfect way to beat the heat and enjoy the holiday, but if you plan to engage in these activities, think safety!

Since 1990, there have been 60 electrocutions and nearly 50 serious electrical shocks involving electrical hazards in and around swimming pools in the U.S., reports the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Heed these pool and spa safety tips to swim safely and enjoy the water wisely.

- All outdoor electrical receptacles should be covered to keep them dry. This is especially important around pools, spas and summer water activities.
- Use a ground-fault circuit interrupter for electrical devices used outside to help prevent electrocutions and electric shock injuries. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available for \$12–\$30.
- Make sure all electrical equipment used for swimming pools (even the cleaning equipment) is grounded.
- Electrical devices and cords should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources such as pools and spas. When possible, use battery-operated electrical devices outside.
- Never handle electrical devices when you are wet—either from water activities or perspiration.
- Make sure there are no power lines over your swimming pool.
- Do not swim during a thunderstorm.
- To avoid electric shock drowning, have an electrician inspect and upgrade your pool, spa or hot tub to see that it's in accordance with applicable local codes and the National Electrical Code.



Happy
Independence
Day

CECA will be closed Tuesday, July 4.



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–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.

General Manager

Alan Lesley

Board of Directors

Randy Denning, District 1
Pete McDougal, District 2
Ruby Solomon, District 3
Monty Carlisle, District 4
Troy Stewart, District 5
Loren Stroebel, District 6
Phil Taylor, District 7

Report an Outage

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

Contact Us

CALL US

1-800-915-2533 toll-free

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.cecacoop



facebook.com/CECA.coop

CECA Awards \$6,000 in Scholarships

COMANCHE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS PROUD to award scholarships to six area high school graduates who plan to begin college this fall. These recipients were chosen from among more than 40 applicants within our seven-county service area. The contestants were asked to write an essay on this topic: “Why I chose my field of study, and why the scholarship should be awarded to me.”

Winners were chosen by independent judges outside the CECA service area to ensure an unbiased result. Students were evaluated on their essays, academic performance, community

involvement, extracurricular activities and financial need.

CECA is proud to take an active role in the communities we serve. In particular, we proudly support the academic endeavors of our local youths. CECA is able to offer scholarships through the use of unclaimed money from the state, designated to be used for a scholarship program, and through our Operation Round-Up program.

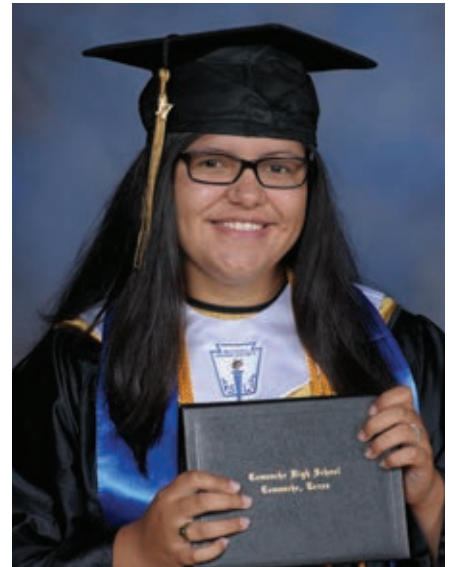
Thank you to all the students who participated in our 2017 scholarship contests. We wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors.



**Scholarship for Excellence
Cassandra Durden
Early ISD**



**Operation Round-Up
Hunter Ellis
Comanche ISD**



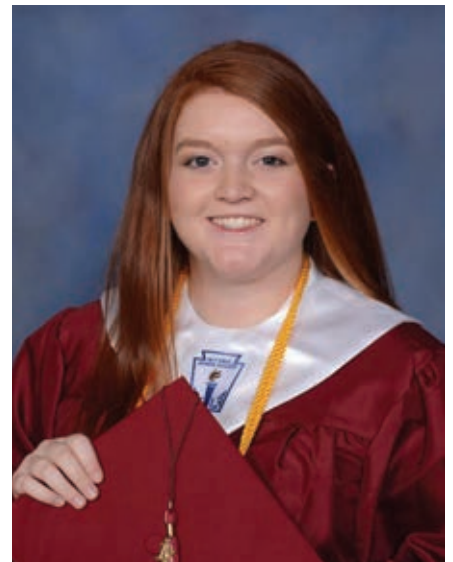
**Scholarship for Excellence
Angelica Evans
Comanche ISD**



**Scholarship for Excellence
Sierra Gordon
Zephyr ISD**



**Operation Round-Up
Madison Taylor
Dublin ISD**



**Scholarship for Excellence
Georgia Thomas
Zephyr ISD**

Efficiency Tips for Shops and Barns

AS THE WEATHER HEATS UP and we move outdoors to enjoy the sunshine, our thoughts begin to turn to those many outdoor projects we have been putting off. Why not add some energy efficiency measures to our outdoor sprucing up plans?

There are many benefits to ensuring that your shop or barn is energy efficient. Aside from saving energy, an efficient outdoor building can keep the environment around your structure healthy and safe, save money on your bills, keep your animals happier and healthier, and save you from costly structural repairs.

Planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- Location matters. If possible, carefully assess the area where you plan to build. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building might affect your neighbors.
- Start with a sustainable design plan. Such plans include the use of environmen-



tally preferable products, protect and conserve water, enhance indoor environmental quality, and optimize operational and maintenance practices, according to the U.S. General Services Administration.

- If you hire a contractor to help build your structure, consider looking for companies that specialize in “green” buildings and energy-efficient practices.
- Choose efficient building methods. Pole barns, for example, offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption.

If you're upgrading instead of building from the ground up, follow these tips to make energy-efficiency improvements to an existing structure:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED lightbulbs.
- Ensure that your existing structure has adequate insulation.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak, and in warmer climates, they create a natural cooling effect that can reduce temperatures 3–6 degrees in a metal building.
- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, inside a metal building, there is a 2-degree temperature increase for every 1-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it also will help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which will keep harmful bacteria and insects at bay.

Most importantly, with any project you attempt, be aware of power lines. Make sure all structures and trees are a minimum of 10 feet from any electric lines—farther if possible. Not adhering to this National Electrical Safety guideline could cost you time, safety and money in the long run. When in doubt, call CECA for the latest regulations to ensure your efficiency and safety!



Instead of cooking indoors, use the grill this summer and keep cooling costs down.

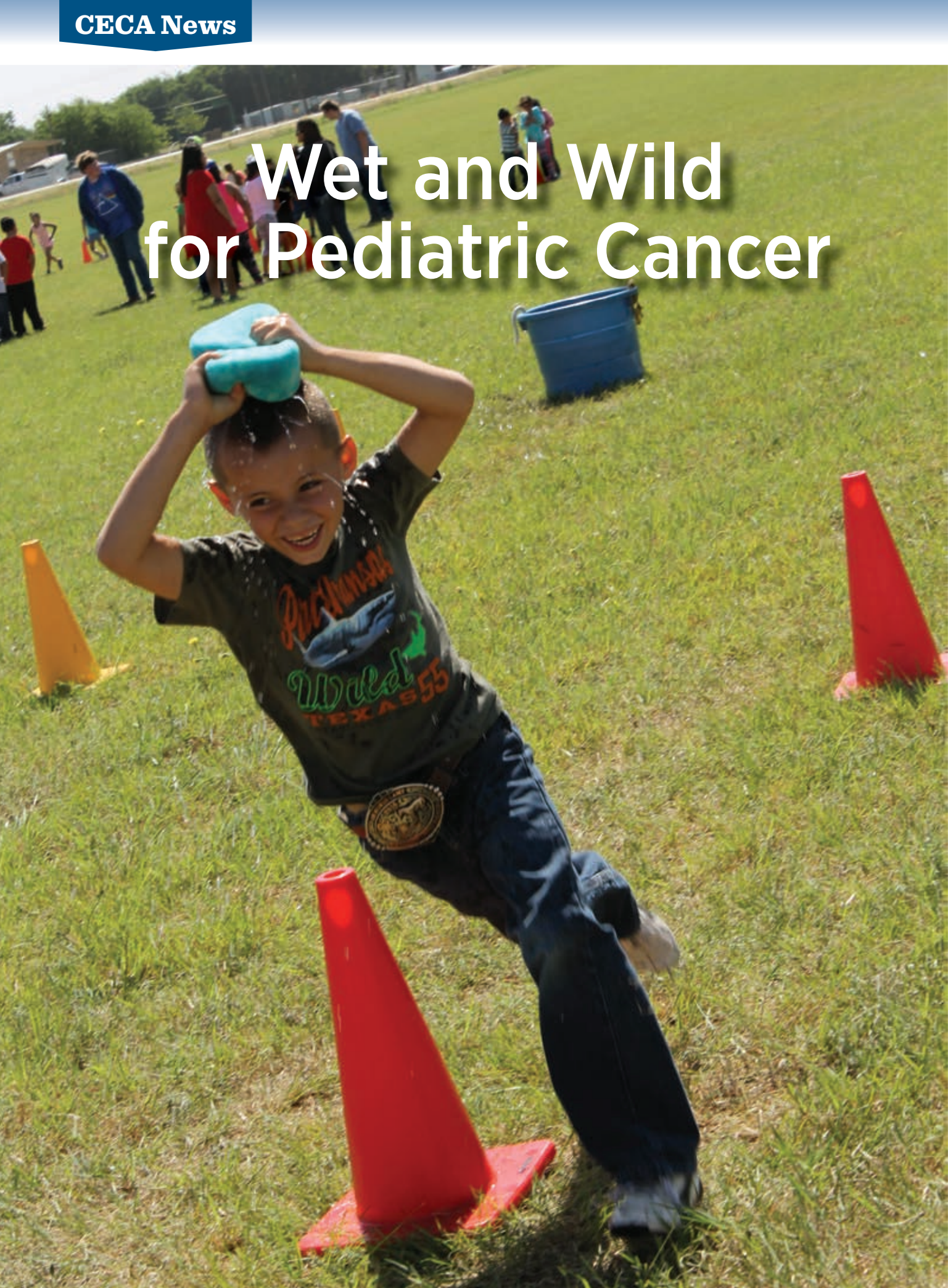
Keep-Cool Strategies for Summer

SAVING MONEY ON air-conditioning bills is more likely to happen if you have a plan.

Plan a strategy for keeping your home cool this summer without breaking the bank. **Here are five tips:**

1. Get a qualified service technician to give the once-over to your central air-conditioning system and any window units you might have. A well-tuned air conditioner will operate in the most energy-efficient way.
2. Set your thermostat to 78 degrees while you're home and higher before you leave the house. If you have a programmable thermostat, it can set itself.
3. Turn ceiling fans on when you enter a room and off when you leave. A ceiling fan moves the air around so anyone in the room feels cooler. There's no benefit to running a fan when nobody is around.
4. Close your drapes or blinds to block the heat when it's sunny outside but leave them open on cloudy days to get some natural daylight into your rooms.
5. Avoid cooking inside on hot summer days. Instead, grill outdoors, serve cold dishes, order takeout or heat up food in the microwave.

Wet and Wild for Pediatric Cancer



BY SHIRLEY KIDD DUKES

FOR THE 600-PLUS ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

who attended Comanche ISD junior class' Field Day Fundraiser, it was a day full of games and water—and a chance to get out of class. For a child living with cancer, it was much more important.

The event was an opportunity for the Comanche junior class to raise money and awareness for pediatric cancer while carrying out the leadership activity they formulated at the CECA Student Leadership Conference.

It all started in October 2016, when Comanche ISD counselor Laura Hermes-meyer brought a group of 10 students to the Student Leadership Conference. During the course of the day, the students were challenged to formulate an activity that would help their school or community.

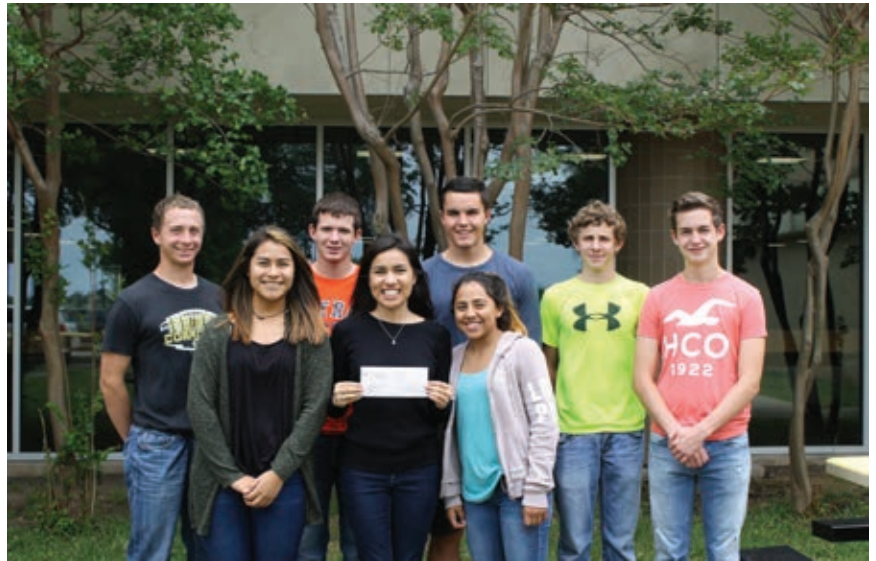
During football season, Comanche students were introduced to pediatric cancer awareness because of a Comanche student, now in fourth grade, who was diagnosed when he was 2 years old. The students felt that because they had started the year with pediatric cancer patients, they should end the year with a bang by continuing their support of those patients.

“There are so many children in the world diagnosed with cancer,” Annette Calderon said. “We should pay our respects to those unknown heroes.”

So this group of students, with a heart for pediatric cancer survivors, chose as their project raising money to benefit this worthy cause.

Planning for the event took most of the spring semester. The group first met with Curtis Stahnke, principal of Comanche Elementary School, to set a date for the event. They then began soliciting and organizing help from the rest of the junior class. One thing stressed at the conference is that a leader motivates others and involves them in a way that gets the job done. This group of students breathed life into that philosophy by engaging more than 50 other students from their class to participate and make the event a huge success. With the exception of only four students who were unable to attend that day, the entire junior class participated! What an awesome accomplishment for this small class!

With the assistance of Fran Ferrell, an elementary physical education teacher, the students decided on the games for the day. Twelve activity stations were set up on the east lawn of the elementary building: soccer, hoppity ball, sponge relay, sack race, tug-of-war, water cup relay, obstacle course, football throw, sprint race, spoon zoom, jump rope and ring toss. Students were divided into groups and rotated around stations every 15 minutes. From this reporter's viewpoint, the water



CECA was honored to be a part of this worthwhile project, with a donation of \$500 from the Operation Round-Up program, and through the leadership practices of students from the CECA Student Leadership Conference. The 2017 CECA leadership team are, from left, back row: Joe Gilligan, Bronte Hermesmeyer, Caden Jones, Westin Abbey and Drew Hancock; and front row: Melannie Victoria, Annette Calderon and Arlene Aguinaga. Not pictured are Billy Scheller, Jilian Hufstutler and Wyatt Welch.



Approximately 50 students from the Comanche ISD junior class assisted in manning the many stations during the fundraising event. “I guess my favorite part about Field Day is seeing my class come together,” Caden Jones said. “It’s really great to see everybody work together for a good cause, raising money for pediatric cancer and mostly just having fun with the kids.”

games were the most popular, with students searching for ways to get wet!

“The high school students approached me several months ago about providing Field Day activities for our students,” Ferrell said. “They did a great job of planning the stations, adding a concession stand, gathering equipment and making the day fun for all of our elementary students. Annette Calderon, Drew Hancock and Caden Jones showed great leadership in planning and coordinating everything, and I would also like to thank Mrs. Hermesmeyer for her assistance. Our students had a fantastic time!”

“It took about, I think it was more like a month, setting up, making sure we had donations, people to donate—especially water was a big deal,” said Annette Calderon, a member of the CECA leadership team whose role was to visit local businesses, explain the project to them and request donations. “[Comanche National Bank] donated about 20 cases of water,

Dairy Queen about five, and it was just nice and humbling to see the community play a part in this. And CECA gave us a donation of \$500, and it was just amazing to see everybody say, 'Yes, we can do that. We can do anything for the kids,' she said. "I was so surprised. I know Comanche is a humbling community, but this touched my heart so much. Not only are they giving to the kids here, but also to the kids who are suffering from cancer. It's a wonderful gift to see how everyone is so nice and just seeing the kids laugh, and they're having fun and yelling. It is amazing!"

Assisting Calderon with solicitations for businesses was Jones, who reported, "My favorite part about Field Day is seeing my class come together—because it's really great to see everybody work together for a good cause and raising money for pediatric cancer. Seeing them mostly have fun with the

kids is what I'm really proud of. And the kids are all having fun, which is really great."

As with any event this size, it did not come without challenges. Weather was the biggest issue, with a rainstorm the night before the event was to take place. The event was moved to the next week, and once again, it rained the night before. However, the school administrators decided to go ahead with the project, and the day of the event turned out to be perfect, with sunshine and pleasant skies. The group raised approximately \$1,250 through local donations and another \$700 at the concession stand.

"While working on this project, the students refined their leadership and communication skills," Hermesmeier said. "They started with a vision, developed a plan and brought the plan to fruition. The students completed all parts of this project



from start to finish with very little guidance from adults. The junior class is made up of a motivated and enthusiastic group of students. I'm not sure who had more fun: the high school students or elementary kiddos!"

CECA is extremely proud of the hard work of all these

juniors. Thank you to the Comanche ISD staff and board of directors who allowed these students to spend a portion of their junior year organizing this event to benefit pediatric cancer. And thank you to the many businesses and individuals who donated money, items and time to make it the success it was.

Thank you to the following for your generous donations:

CECA
Danny Armstrong
Brookshire's
Comanche Appliance
Comanche Chief

Comanche Dental
Comanche National Bank
Dairy Queen
Ellis Tire
Garcia Tire

Jeff & Dawn Stewart
Los Juanes
Matt Daddy's
Pizza Pro
Rockin' J

Rustic Grace
Starbeau's
Texas Bank
Wonderful Things
Woodley & Dudley

