

How Can We Better Serve You in 2018?

It's amazing what we learn through listening and observing.



MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER ALAN LESLEY

IT'S A NEW YEAR—TIME TO PUT NEW IDEAS INTO ACTION. HERE AT Comanche Electric Cooperative, we're always trying to come up with new ways to satisfy our members' needs. We've found the best way to do that is by listening to your suggestions.

For example, many members asked for an easier way to monitor their accounts and pay bills. In response, we offer you our Customer Portal through our billing company, SEDC. Using the portal, you can check the status of your electric service, make payments, check your usage history and receive real-time updates on energy use. Our mobile app is also available for smartphone users. All of the same conveniences are now accessible by simply opening the app on your smartphone.

CECA always has offered 24-hour service for power quality issues, but we now also offer a live person on the phone—available 24/7—to answer questions, accept payments and handle power quality issues.

In addition to these services, we stay connected to you through our member services representatives who answer when you call or greet you when you visit our office. They help us offer the quality services you expect us to provide.

Another of our goals is to find more ways to help you control energy costs. That's why we communicate with you in these pages about ways we can work together to ease the burden on your wallet.

Listening improves understanding, builds trust, strengthens relationships and fosters cooperation. It's also crucial to collaboration and success. That's why our co-op employees still love face time with our members.

So how do we serve you better in 2018? The same way we strive to better serve our family, community and society each day: by listening. Whether it's in our offices, on the phone,

through social media or in our face-to-face meetings, we're ready to listen.

When you have questions about energy efficiency, electrical service or any of our products or services, just ask us. When we know what you want, we're in a better position to deliver successful results. So stop by and see us, give us a call or drop us a line. We're always glad to hear from you.



Local Teacher Awarded Non-Traditional Scholarship



Sara Bernal and her daughter, Alena

SARA BERNAL FROM BLANKET WAS unanimously chosen to receive the 2017–2018 Non-Traditional Scholarship. The \$1,000 scholarship is offered through the CECA Operation Round-Up program to members seeking to improve their lives and futures through continuing education.

Bernal is a first-grade ESL teacher at Northwest Elementary in the Brownwood Independent School District. She began as an aide more than 20 years ago and, after receiving her bachelor's degree, continued with the district as a full-time teacher. Last year, she had the opportunity to continue her education by starting work on a master's degree. Bernal and her husband, Albert, have had five children: Alex, Adrian, Alma, Alena and the late Andres.

Local Schools Receive Funding for Shattered Dreams Program



Dayna Prochaska and Asa Welker of Early ISD and Sheila Senkirik and Blake Bronniman of Brownwood ISD accept Operation Round-Up donations for their Shattered Dreams program. Shattered Dreams is an educational experience that reminds students of the dangers associated with drinking and/or texting while driving, and that too many young lives have already been lost and countless others severely impaired because of the tragic consequences of these actions.



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.com



facebook.com/CECA.coop

Classroom Grant Winners Announced



Four teachers from Comanche Electric Cooperative's service territory have been chosen to claim a share of \$5,500 for classroom projects. The four finalists were selected from a pool of 11 who applied. These grants provide resources to educators for innovative, hands-on classroom projects that would not otherwise be funded. Now in their second year, the grants will touch the lives of more than 1,500 students.



SARAH CHILDERS WITH DE LEON ISD RECEIVED A TOTAL OF \$2,500 for her project that uses Google Expeditions. The project will be a collaboration between five school districts: De Leon ISD, Gustine ISD, Sidney ISD, Gorman ISD and Zephyr ISD. The collaborators will share a Google Expeditions virtual reality kit, allowing students to take immersive, virtual journeys to distant places and enhancing classroom instruction at each campus.

Google Expeditions is a virtual reality program created by Google to provide students with the opportunity to visit any

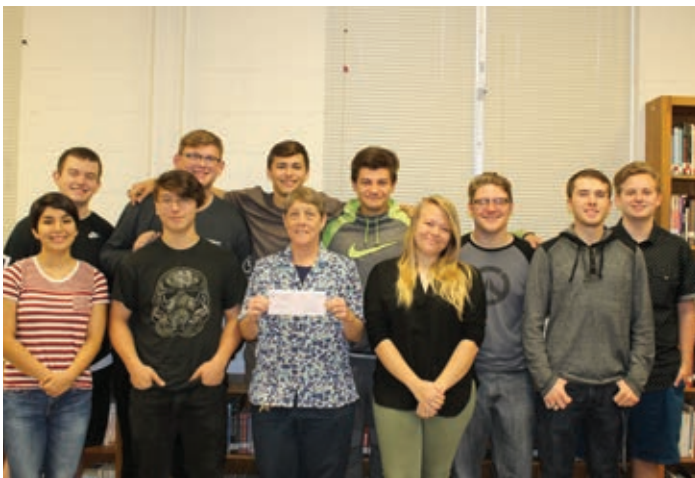
place, anywhere in the world, for educational purposes. Currently, Google provides over 700 expeditions as well as virtual reality college tours. There are even expeditions to the bottom of the ocean and to Mars! The kit can be applied to any subject taught in the classroom.

The Google Expeditions kit provides everything a teacher needs to make their virtual reality project a success. The kit will be monitored and maintained by De Leon ISD. The project is tentatively set to start at the beginning of this year. Each district will utilize the kit in four-week intervals.



CASSI MILLICAN WITH HEARTLAND SPECIAL

Education Cooperative in Early received \$1,000 to obtain items for a sensory room for special programs and differently abled students. Students of all types, but especially those with developmental disabilities, can struggle in class because of overstimulation or understimulation, which can lead to reduced information retention, fewer skills acquired and behavioral issues in and out of the classroom. When students are allowed sensory time, it can improve many areas of their lives, including information retention and behavior.



CISCO HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER BETSY HERRON

received \$1,000 for her Java programming classes. This grant will enhance students' understanding of computer programming techniques and applications and allow them to apply their skills in robotics competitions. For these competitions, the students work as a team to design a robot to perform various tasks. To get their robot up to the tasks, the team must work hard not only leading up to the actual day of the event but also in the heat of the competition to adjust the programming and functionality of the robot. The grant will provide students with a superior platform to work on class material while also encouraging peer collaboration and teamwork.



THE FINAL GRANT WAS AWARDED TO PHILIP BEARD,

Comanche High School agricultural science teacher. His grant will help offset the purchase of a Miller Dialarc AC/DC welder, a machine used to develop students' confidence, pride and success as well as skills for future employment. The students' final assessment will be an American Welding Society destructive certification procedural test in shielded metal arc welding (SMAW). This type of project not only meets essential teaching and curriculum objectives but also supports the goal of offering industry-recognized certifications to secondary career and technology education students as outlined in House Bill 5 of Texas' 83rd Legislative Session.

Making it Happen

Local students learn about leadership and community service



BY SHIRLEY KIDD DUKES

“There are three types of baseball players: those who make it happen, those who watch it happen and those who wonder what happens.”
—Tommy Lasorda

WHEN LOCAL SCHOOLS ARE INVITED TO GATHER THEIR brightest leaders, you know the room will be filled with outstanding young people.

Such was the case when Comanche Electric Cooperative issued a call for applications for the 2017–2018 CECA Student Leadership Conference. Thirteen area schools answered the call, sending 89 students to the one-day event. The theme for the day was a quote by baseball great Tommy Lasorda, who said, “There are three types of baseball players: those who make it happen, those who watch it happen and those

who wonder what happens.” It was evident by the end of the day that this group of students would be the ones making it happen!

Reagan Grisham, a senior communications major at Howard Payne University, kicked off the morning when she spoke to the high schoolers about what it means to be a leader. Through four key points—stay humble, work hard, listen to others and don’t compare—Reagan gave a compelling account of leadership and leadership roles.

During the conference, students worked through four intense leadership activities, the first of which encouraged group participation and coordination as teams were tasked with assembling bicycles. Organizers made the construction process more complex by introducing rules and challenges to demonstrate to the students that nothing is as simple as it may first appear. Despite the obstacles, all teams were able to complete the challenge.

The next three activities required critical thinking and compromise as the students had to decide as groups how to solve three distinct problems. All of these activities were

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Lisa Stephens and Heather Thomas with Good Samaritan Ministries in Brownwood and Kerry Dudley with Santa's Helpers in Comanche were on hand to accept a donation of bicycles from the 10 leadership teams.



While assembling bicycles for local charities, the students were presented with a multitude of challenges, representing the obstacles we face in everyday life.

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COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS FOR EACH CHOSEN SCHOOL

Bangs

- ★ Game for Good Samaritans: School will accept donations from local hunters who have leftover processed meat. The frozen meat will be collected and donated to Good Samaritan Ministries.

Blanket

- ★ Community Cleanup

Comanche

- ★ Paint the windows in the businesses around the square with a Christmas theme and hang lights around poles and railings. Raise funds for a giant Christmas tree and have a tree lighting ceremony for the 2018 Christmas season.

Cross Plains

- ★ Make the city park more welcoming for community members and visitors by lighting up the park's trees year-round.

De Leon

- ★ Build a "Trail of Lights" in an effort to bring the town together.

Dublin

- ★ Restore several items in town, including the sign at the corner park, the shamrock and fire hydrants.

Early

- ★ Spring Flea: Host a large, communitywide flea market in the school parking lot. Sell parking spaces to vendors.

Goldthwaite

- ★ Student volunteers will decorate homes for the elderly at Christmas.

Gorman

- ★ Make Gorman Great Again: Give a facelift to the city park. Students will hold a contest with the school and community to decide on a new mural design. They will then repaint the mural, redraw the lines on the court, replace nets and backboard, and install motion-activated lights.

Mullin

- ★ Join forces with the School Health Advisory/Wellness Committee to implement a school and community garden and beautification project. The project aims to create and sustain a school garden that provides activities for all ages while growing and maintaining garden areas to beautify the school's common areas.

Priddy

- ★ Restore and beautify the rock wall in front of the school.

Rising Star

- ★ Operation Blue & Gold: Repaint the welcome sign.

Sidney

- ★ Give the old gym a facelift with banners of current players as well as alumni teams that have advanced to district finals or further in all sports. Students hope this effort will renew the enthusiasm of the community and alumni in school activities.

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intended to teach the students to work as a team and that compromise and tough choices are sometimes necessary.

At the close of the day, the students regrouped into their respective schools and were tasked with choosing an action program for their school or community and creating a detailed plan on how to carry it out. The project ideas were as excellent as they were varied. Each group of students thought long and hard about the needs of their communities before settling on a specific project. By the end, each group had chosen a project that was not only worthwhile but also achievable with the tools and resources available to them.



Reagan Grisham speaks to the students about what it means to be a leader.



Through a series of four activities, students practiced leadership while facing challenges and overcoming obstacles.



Statement of Nondiscrimination

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