



Congratulations to Justin Garretson, left, and Jansen Tyner.



Navarro County EC Awards Grants to 9 Community Groups

NAVARRO COUNTY ELECTRIC Cooperative's Operation Round Up program awarded the following grants for the second quarter of 2020.

Organization/Agency	Grant Amount
Backpacks of Love	\$3,000
Ellis County Children's Theater	\$3,000
Frost Community Center	\$3,000
Waxahachie Little Pantry	\$3,000
Compassion Corsicana	\$3,000
Waxahachie Care	\$3,000
Navarro County Meals on Wheels	\$3,000
Navarro County Health Department	\$3,000
River of Life Food Pantry	\$3,000

Apprentices Advance Through Coursework

NAVARRO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE would like to congratulate Justin Garretson and Jansen Tyner on completing stages in the co-op's apprentice program. Garretson completed the Hot Line One training in May, and Tyner completed the groundman/apprentice training in June.

Garretson has demonstrated the safe and approved procedures to work on energized lines and how to use the proper cover to work safely in and around high voltages. Tyner has taken courses in basic electrical theory, pole climbing, hurt-man rescue and basic transformer connections.

The apprentice program is a five-year program that includes on-the-job and classroom training to prepare lineworkers for their part in providing reliable and affordable electrical service to the cooperatives' members.

POWER TIP

Save electricity and money on laundry day by washing clothes in cold water, doing full loads and air-drying clothes instead of using a clothes dryer.

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The terms energy efficiency and energy conservation have distinct meanings. Energy efficiency uses technology to reduce consumption while performing the same function. Energy conservation is behavior that results in the use of less energy.

Did You Know?

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Raise Your Thermostat, Lower Your Bill

Conserve electricity in hot weather and help reduce high energy bills.

Setting your thermostat to 78 (and a few degrees higher when you're away) will make a difference. Each degree you increase can save 3%-5%.

Save even more!

Turn off and unplug unused lights and appliances.

Close shades and blinds during the day to reduce heat loss.

Open them to save energy on cool evenings.

Change air conditioning filters.

A full freezer costs less to run than an empty one.

Navarro County EC encourages you to always use energy efficiently.

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Navarro County Electric Cooperative

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24/7

For information and to report outages, please call us.

Outage Hotline Numbers

LOCAL

(903) 874-7411

TOLL-FREE

1-800-771-9095

ABOUT NAVARRO COUNTY EC

NCEC owns and maintains more than 3,000 miles of line to provide electric service to more than 12,000 members in Ellis, Freestone, Hill, Limestone and Navarro counties.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Online at navarroec.com
- Through the SmartHub app
- By phone at 1-855-385-9975
(Phone payments are not accepted on the NCEC office line.)

TEXAS CO-OP POWER

NCEC provides *Texas Co-op Power* and TexasCoopPower.com to give you information about events, safety, special programs and other activities of your cooperative. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the co-op office.

VISIT US ONLINE

navarroec.com



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Choosing the Right Lightbulb

STANDING IN THE LIGHTING AISLE of a hardware store can be overwhelming because of the wide variety of lightbulbs and changes in lightbulb technology over the past several years.

The incandescent lightbulb was the go-to option for years, but now there are choices that are more energy efficient and better suited to specific tasks. Sometimes it can be hard to know where to start choosing the right bulb.

Standard light, can light, floodlight, globe light, candle light, tube light, vintage light, track light—the list of bulb types goes on and on. And it's not just the type of bulb up for consideration; there are also watts, lumens, light quality and temperature, and dimmability to think about.

Types

CFLs and LEDs are the energy-efficient bulbs of choice, and they last longer than traditional incandescents.

Watts and Lumens

Wattage refers to the amount of energy a lightbulb uses. Lumens refers to how much light the bulb gives off. A higher number of lumens per watt equates to more energy efficiency, so look for a high lumens-to-watts ratio.

If replacing an incandescent bulb, consider a low-watt LED equivalent. Some general guidelines are less than 60 watts (220–700 lumens) for ambient room lighting, 60–100 watts (700–1,300 lumens) for task lighting and 100-plus watts (1,300-plus lumens) for large-area lighting.

An LED bulb might be more expensive upfront, but it will save money in the long run because of its long life and energy efficiency.

Color and Temperature

The quality of light varies by lightbulb as well, and some thought should be given to color and temperature of the light. There are soft white lightbulbs for a warm, comfortable look; bright white lightbulbs for a cool, refreshing look; and daylight lightbulbs for an energizing, natural daylight look.

Choose a Star

As always, look for the Energy Star logo to ensure that you are buying the most energy-efficient bulb. ■

Fire Safety Helps Ensure Reliable Electricity

SUMMER FUN FOR Americans often means using fire outdoors—and that can lead to brushfires.

Brushfires can cause power outages.

If you're grilling on a charcoal grill or building a campfire, take extra care to extinguish it completely before leaving it unattended.

Along with other concerns, heat from brushfires can damage electrical lines and equipment, causing major power problems. Even smoke and ash can cause a high-voltage transmission line to trip, resulting in outages.

Summer dryness increases the chance of wildfires, but so do unsafe practices. When making a campfire, keep a bucket of water nearby. Surround the fire pit with rocks and clear away leaves and other flammable materials. Always douse the fire with water to ensure the damp ashes cannot relight.

Snuff the burning coals in your charcoal grill by placing the lid on the grill and closing its vents. Most grills have vents both on the lid and under the kettle. Leave it closed up for 48 hours.

Keep the power going and our community safe by practicing fire safety this summer. ■



ANDY CARTON | ISTOCK.COM



BRIAN BROWN | ISTOCK.COM

5 Home Energy Hogs

IF YOU'VE EVER COMPARED your electric bill with a neighbor's and found your bill to be notably higher, even though your homes are similar in size, you might be wondering why—and how you can lower your bill.

Although your homes may be similar, your families probably aren't, and you may have a hidden energy hog causing your bills to be higher. Here are five hogs to watch for.

1. Old Fridge or Freezer in the Garage

That second fridge or freezer may be costing more than you think. If the model was produced prior to 1990, it's likely using twice as much energy (or more!) than a newer Energy Star-rated model. If it's located in the garage, it may run constantly in the summer, which could lead to higher electric bills. It might be time to rethink that spare fridge that's out there holding beverages; instead, bring those drinks into the kitchen refrigerator and retire the spare.

2. Cooling or Heating an Uninsulated Area

Cooling or heating an uninsulated workshop or garage can be expensive. For example, if a homeowner heated an uninsulated shed to keep several half-empty buckets of paint from freezing, they're paying more to keep paint warm than the paint was even worth. Pet owners have been known to heat and cool an uninsulated garage to keep pets comfortable, not realizing that this might be costing more than heating their actual home. If you really want to heat or cool these types of spaces, they need to be well insulated and heated and cooled efficiently, perhaps with a ductless minisplit system.

3. Hot Tub

The average operating cost of a hot tub is \$250 per year. But that amount may be higher if your hot tub is an older, less efficient model or if you live in a colder climate. A smaller hot tub with better insulation, a cover and a pump that runs on a lower voltage will use less energy than other models. In the long run, getting a "good deal" on a used hot tub may cost more in energy bills than a newer, more efficient model.

4. Swimming Pool

If you have a swimming pool, consider installing a smaller, more efficient pump and reducing how often it runs. Putting it on a timer can be a convenient way to reduce operating time. You can also look at installing a larger filter and maximizing the flow of water through the pipes by making them larger and reducing how sharply the corners turn. These measures could cut your electric use for the pool pump by as much as 75%. Consult with a pool installation specialist to find the most efficient setup that will still keep your pool clean.

5. Pumps

If you live on acreage or a farm, you probably have several pumps, including irrigation, well, septic and sump. If you're like most of us, you use those pumps until they break down. Consider replacing the oldest and most used pumps over time with new, more efficient ones that are sized correctly for their task. Also make sure you're eliminating leaks in the water lines. ■