



Shafter Henley



Justin Garretson

Apprentices Advance in Lineworker Training Program

NAVARRO COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE would like to congratulate Shafter Henley and Justin Garretson on completing level II in the co-op's lineman apprenticeship program in September.

To complete this level, the apprentices attended classes on basic electrical theory, transformer connections and working on energized power lines using rubber gloves. They have worked on overhead and underground construction crews building new lines and services to members and on service buckets to maintain existing power lines. They also have met with members to troubleshoot electrical service problems and restore service.

The apprenticeship program takes five years to complete. Henley and Garretson will continue to learn through on-the-job and classroom training to eventually become linemen at NCEC, where they will do their part to provide reliable and affordable electrical service to the cooperative's members. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Veterans Day
Thursday,
November 11

Thanksgiving
Thursday,
November 25
Our offices will be closed November 25-26 in observance of the holiday.

Hanukkah
Begins Sunday,
November 28

DID YOU KNOW?

You can use baking soda to put out small kitchen fires. Never put water on a grease fire; it will only cause the flames to spread.

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POWER TIP

Avoid using your gaming console to stream videos and opt instead to watch shows through smart TV apps. A gaming console can use up to 10 times the electricity.

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Add Energy Efficiency to Your Thanksgiving Menu

IT TAKES A LOT of energy to cook all day and to host a house full of company for Thanksgiving. So while you're making your grocery list this holiday season, start a list of ways you and your family can cut down on energy use.

Some ideas:

Lower the thermostat. If you're cooking all day, your kitchen will get really hot. Some of that heat will spill into the rest of the house, so there's no need to keep the thermostat at its usual setting.

Don't turn your oven on until it's full. Cook several dishes at once. If their recommended cooking temps are within 25 degrees of each other in either direction, everything will cook as it should.

Identify dishes that you can cook in the microwave, which heats food faster than the oven and uses about a third of the electricity.

Run your dishwasher only when it's full. Using the dishwasher uses less energy and water than hand-washing.

Cool leftovers on the counter before putting them into the refrigerator. That will keep the fridge from having to work so hard to cool off hot food. But don't leave perishable food out for more than a few hours, after which it begins to spoil.

Use a slow cooker, toaster oven or warming plate to do the same job of cooking some dishes but with less electricity. The average toaster oven can use about half the energy of the average electric stove over the same cooking time.

Make sure your stovetop is in good condition. For your stovetop to function effectively, it's important that the metal reflectors under your electric burners stay clean.

Ensure your pots and pans are in good shape. If your pans have warped over time and don't sit flat on the burner, it may be time for some new ones that ensure heat transfers efficiently from the burner to the pan. ■

NCEC Awards Grants: Operation Round Up

Organization/Agency	Grants Approved
Common Ground Ministries	\$1,000
Daniel's Den	\$3,000
Frost Community Center	\$3,000
Hubbard Community Affairs	\$1,000
Kerens Veterans Memorial	\$3,000
Southern Oak VFD	\$1,000
Waxahachie Little Pantry	\$1,000
Waxahachie Senior Activity Center	\$3,000
Waxahachie Senior Citizens Center	\$2,500
Total granted	\$18,500



Navarro County Electric Cooperative

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24/7

**Outage
 Hotline
 Numbers**

For information and to report outages, please call us.

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

Lower Your Thermostat, Lower Your Bill

Conserve electricity and avoid higher winter energy bills. Setting the thermostat to 68 degrees when home—and lower when away—saves money.

Save even more!

Turn off and unplug unused lights and appliances.

Close shades and blinds at night to reduce heat loss.

Open them to capture solar heat on sunny days.

Avoid using electric space heaters.

Change furnace filters.

Weatherstrip or caulk around doors and windows.

Navarro County EC encourages you to always use energy efficiently.

ALEXSANDRANAKIC | ISTOCK.COM

Have a Flame-Free Thanksgiving

THANKSGIVING IS a prime day for kitchen fires, and the U.S. Fire Administration reports that more than 4,000 fires occur on the holiday.

Increased activity in cooking areas and a whole host of distractions can lead to the holiday going down in flames.

For a safe Thanksgiving, remember:

- ▶ Do not leave food cooking or the stove unsupervised.
- ▶ Make sure smoke alarms work.
- ▶ Don't leave candles burning unattended or burn them near flammable items. LED candles are a safe alternative.
- ▶ Follow all directions for using a deep fryer, including never putting a frozen or partially frozen turkey in hot oil, and never leave the fryer unattended.
- ▶ Keep matches, lighters and candles out of the reach of children.
- ▶ Make sure electrical cords to kitchen appliances such as toaster ovens, coffee makers and mixers stay dry and don't melt in contact with heat.
- ▶ Plug kitchen electrical appliances into outlets protected with ground-fault circuit interrupters. ■



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Beware of Contractor Scams

WITH MORE FOLKS working from home, more people are hiring contractors to complete house repairs. If you're improving your space and need some help, be diligent about checking out the people you allow onto your property.

Here are some telltale signs that a contractor isn't legit:

The contractor quotes you a price that's so low it seems like a steal. Be aware that the pandemic has caused a shortage of building materials, so home improvement jobs are likely to cost more—not less—than they did a couple of years ago.

The contractor says you don't need to sign a contract. That means that he doesn't have to sign one, either. Insist on a written estimate and a written guarantee that you will not be surprised by unapproved charges.

The contractor insists on payment upfront. If you pay in full before the work has even begun, you probably will never see that contractor again. It's customary and reasonable for the contractor to ask you for a deposit on the work, but it shouldn't be any more than one-quarter of the estimate.

The contractor accepts only cash or offers you a deep discount if you pay with cash. That contractor probably is not paying taxes and likely does not have insurance. Equally suspicious is a contractor who demands daily payments. That is an invitation to an unfinished job.

The contractor doesn't seem professional. For example, if the company name is not painted on the contractor's truck or if the business lacks a website, the person might not really have a business. Real contractors typically have their license number visible on their truck.

If the contractor quotes you an informal estimate without taking measurements or calculating the cost of materials and labor, they're probably not legit. ■

Weather Winter Storms Safely

WINTER STORMS can bring bitterly cold temperatures, high winds, and ice and snow. Such weather can cause hazardous road conditions, downed power lines and extended power outages. Safe Electricity has these tips for safely weathering winter storms.

If power lines go down because of a winter storm and the electricity goes out, first notify your electric cooperative. If you are using an alternative heating source during a power outage, know how to use it safely. Dress warmly, cover windows at night, close off unused rooms and place draft blocks at the bottoms of doors.

When the power is restored, there will be a power surge. To protect your circuits and appliances, switch off lights and unplug appliances. Leave one light switched on to signal that the power is back on.

Storms can down power lines, so venture outside only if absolutely necessary. Downed power lines could be submerged in snow and ice, making them difficult to see. Use caution and treat all downed and hanging lines as if they are energized. Stay away, warn others to stay away and immediately contact your co-op. ■



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