



MESSAGE
FROM
GENERAL
MANAGER/
CEO

JILL SADBERRY

Our Heroes Wear Hard Hats

LINE WORK IS NOT A glamorous or easy profession. It takes years of specialized training and ongoing education and, just as important, a sense of service and commitment to your community. How else can you explain the willingness of lineworkers to leave the comfort of their homes to tackle a challenging job in difficult conditions, when most other folks are sheltering safely with their families?

This dedication and service is truly what sets our lineworkers apart. That's why Navarro County Electric Cooperative sets aside the second Monday in April—April 8 this year—to celebrate and recognize the men and women who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

We join other electric cooperatives across our state and nation in celebrating Lineworker Appreciation Day to recognize those workers' critical roles

**Our lineworkers
are heroes in
every sense
of the word.**

in providing our members with the power they depend on.

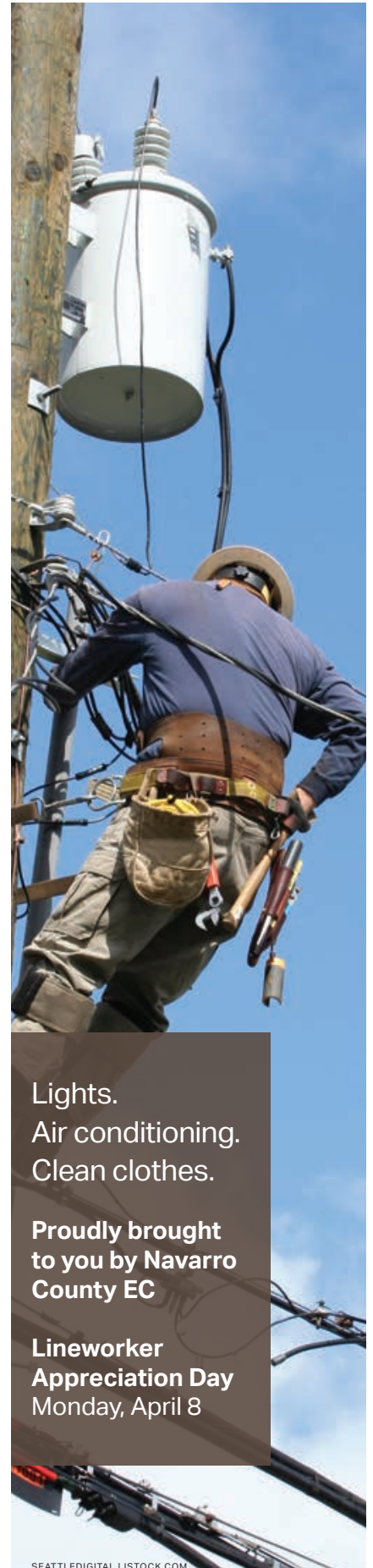
Every day, lineworkers face immense risks. Carrying heavy gear, they regularly scale 40-foot poles near

high-voltage power lines, often in the wake of Mother Nature's worst. It's no wonder their profession is among the most dangerous in the country.

Navarro County EC's lineworkers maintain thousands of miles of power lines, keeping the lights on for our members. Our lineworkers are heroes in every sense of the word. As the first responders of our workforce, we count on them to get us through some of our darkest hours, day or night.

We appreciate our dedicated lineworkers and are proud of their commitment to our members. They deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way.

On April 8, and any time you see a lineworker, we hope you'll take a moment to thank them for their service. ■



Lights.
Air conditioning.
Clean clothes.

Proudly brought
to you by Navarro
County EC

Lineworker
Appreciation Day
Monday, April 8

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Navarro County Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.
Cook Center at Navarro College in Corsicana

- ▶ Door prizes will be awarded at the end of the meeting.
- ▶ Look for full details in next month's issue of *Texas Co-op Power*.

Make plans to attend!

Spanish and sign language interpreters can be made available at the meeting by notifying the co-op by April 15.

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Navarro County Electric Cooperative

CONTACT US

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Jill Sadberry

Board of Directors

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Kent Sheffield, Vice President, District 1

George Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, District 6

Benny Melton, District 5

Julie Mraz, District 7

Gary Murphy, District 3

Bill Southard, District 4

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



Check us out at
TexasCoopPower.com/navarro



BEAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Get Your Home Ready for Summer

YOU STILL HAVE PLENTY of time before you need to blast the air conditioning at home during hot summer weather. In the meantime, use the spring season to do some maintenance that could help your AC run more efficiently and reliably this summer.

Here are some tips:

Replace air filters before you turn the air conditioner on for the first time. Then, replace them again about once a month until autumn. Clean air filters allow conditioned air to flow easily through your rooms. And they lower the amount of dust, dander and pollutants that get pushed into your indoor air.

Move lamps away from thermostats. Electronics and lamps give off heat when they're turned on, which can fool your AC into "thinking" the room is warmer than it is.

Seal leaks. If you felt cold drafts coming inside during the winter, find the sources of the leaks and caulk them. Look around ducts, cables and wires on the indoor side of exterior walls. Those same leaks will let cool, conditioned air escape during the summer.

Switch the direction of your ceiling fan blades. For warm weather, the blades should rotate counterclockwise.

Schedule an inspection. A qualified HVAC pro can spot problems with your AC system before they cause a malfunction and make sure your equipment is maintained and ready for warm weather.

Change out any old lightbulbs for LEDs. The latest lighting technology makes these the most energy-efficient choice, and bulbs come in various tones to suit your home's needs.

Check your insulation. If your home is older, it might not have the recommended amount or optimal type of insulation.

Clean air vents. Vents covered in hair and dust won't circulate air as efficiently as clean ones. ■

Smoked Potato Salad

12 medium red potatoes, scrubbed and pierced
¼ cup thinly sliced green onions
¼ cup red wine vinegar
¼ cup olive oil
3 tablespoons whole-grain mustard
¼ cup mayonnaise, or more if desired
Salt and pepper to taste

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Bake potatoes 45 minutes. While the potatoes bake, prepare your smoker.
2. Smoke potatoes 1 hour in low heat (250 degrees or less). When finished, remove from smoker and dice into 1-inch chunks, or larger as desired.
3. Combine remaining ingredients in a large bowl and whisk to combine. Fold in the potatoes (mixing gently so they hold their shape). Adjust seasonings as desired and serve immediately or refrigerate for up to 3–4 days. For the best texture and flavor, take the salad out of the fridge 30 minutes before serving.

SERVES 6–8

TCP Find this and more delicious recipes online at [TexasCoopPower.com](https://www.texascooppower.com).

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Clearing the Path to Reliability

WE LOVE OUR TREES—they're majestic, beautiful and good for the soul. But we also know that our members depend on us to deliver reliable power to their homes and businesses. That's why Navarro County Electric Cooperative strives to balance maintaining the beautiful surroundings we all cherish with ensuring reliable electricity.

You might not realize it, but there are several benefits to regular tree trimming.

Reliability

Keeping power lines clear of vegetation improves service reliability. After all, we've seen the whims of Mother Nature during severe weather events with fallen tree limbs taking down power lines and poles. While many factors can impact power disruptions, about half of all outages can be attributed to trees. This is why you sometimes see Navarro County EC crews or contractors out in the community trimming trees near power lines.

U.S. electric utilities are required to trim trees that grow too close to power lines. Scheduled trimming throughout the year keeps lines clear, and that helps us be more prepared for severe weather events.

Safety

Trees growing near power lines can be dangerous, and we care about your safety and that of our lineworkers. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members'

yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. If children can reach those trees, they can potentially climb into a danger zone. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor such as a wet tree.

Any tree or branch that falls across a power line creates a potentially dangerous situation. A proactive approach lowers the chance of fallen trees during severe weather events and makes it easier to restore power.

Affordability

As a co-op, Navarro County EC always strives to keep costs down for our members. If trees and other vegetation are left unchecked, they can become overgrown and expensive to correct. A strategic vegetation management program helps keep costs down for everyone.

When it comes to vegetation management, there are ways you can help too. When planting trees, make sure they're a safe distance away from overhead power lines. Medium-height trees (40 feet or smaller) should be planted at least 25 feet from power lines. Taller trees (more than 40 feet) should be planted at least 50 feet from lines.

You should also practice safe planting near padmounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 feet from the transformer door and 4 feet from all sides. Remember to contact 811 before you begin any project that requires digging.

Additionally, if you spot an overgrown tree or branch that's dangerously close to overhead lines, please let us know by contacting Navarro County EC.

We have deep roots in our community, and we love our beautiful surroundings. Vegetation management requires a balanced approach and is a crucial tool in ensuring service reliability. ■



Did You Know You're a Business Owner?

EVERY CONSUMER WHO buys electricity from an electric cooperative is a part owner of the electric cooperative. That makes you a business owner!

The cooperative business model revolves around consumer ownership. You may have heard of food co-ops, which are owned by the shoppers. The same is true of electric co-ops, whose consumers are considered members and owners.

As evidence, look at your cooperative's board of directors. Board members are member-owners just like you. They advise the staff and approve important policies, which means the consumers have a say when it comes to business strategies and anything that could affect the membership.

You can vote during the annual election of board members. You also can attend your cooperative's annual meeting to keep up to date on the business of the utility you own.

So get involved. Exercise your right to vote. Attend meetings when you're invited.

It's your right as a consumer-member. ■



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