

SHOWCASING THEIR SKILLS

Linemen, apprentices set to compete in July rodeo

A team of Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative line workers — journeymen and apprentices — will once again compete against their peers from across Texas in the 22nd annual Texas Lineman’s Rodeo on July 21 at Nolte Island Park near Seguin. The linemen will compete in a variety of timed events that mirror much of the work they do daily: climbing poles, repairing power lines and working on equipment. There is even an event involving a pole-top rescue of a mannequin the size and weight of an injured lineman.

Apprentices also take a written test, and there’s a competitive barbecue cook-off.

Bluebonnet plans to send one journeyman lineman team, eight apprentices, six judges, one barbecue team and numerous other volunteers. The competition takes place in a Guadalupe River-bottom field studded with non-energized utility poles.

The public is welcome to attend. Come cheer on Bluebonnet’s teams in person or keep track of their progress via Bluebonnet’s social media coverage throughout that day. For more information, visit tla.org.



Bluebonnet sends competitors every year to the Texas Lineman’s Rodeo, scheduled this year for July 21. *Joe Stafford photo*

Bluebonnet

Do hazards lurk in your laundry room?

When you think about laundry accidents, you’re likely to picture a stubborn stain. But real hazards lurk in your laundry room.

WATER HAZARDS

- We all know water and electricity don’t mix, so outlets in your laundry room should have ground-fault circuit interrupters. If your home doesn’t have these, have an electrician install them. Also, inspect hoses for cracks and replace them at the first sign of wear.
- Be sure to clean any spills quickly. Liquid laundry detergent and other cleaning fluids can be slippery. Don’t store cleaning products on top of the washer or dryer because vibrations can cause them to fall from shelves.

DRYERS

- The most important safety step in operating a dryer is to remove lint from the filter after every use and periodically inspect the outside vent to ensure it is clear of lint and other debris. Never operate the dryer without a lint filter. More than 20,000 house fires each year are caused by clothes dryers, most commonly due to lint buildup.
- Use rigid or flexible metal venting material to help maintain proper airflow and drying times. Plug the dryer directly into a safe wall outlet — do not use extension cords or adapters.

KEEP KIDS (AND PETS!) SAFE

□ Big machines, colorful detergent bottles and detergent pods that look like candy can be attractive to kids. Keep laundry products out of their reach. Close the laundry detergent container immediately after each use and put it away. In 2015, laundry packets were the third most common cause of unintentional poisoning in children under 5. Keep your pets safe, too — dryer sheets can be toxic to them.



New hours in July!

Do you need to speak to a Bluebonnet representative by phone at 800-842-7708? Or talk to someone in person at the drive-through or in a lobby at one of our five member service centers? The business hours for Bluebonnet’s member services will change starting July 2. The new hours will be 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

We have member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor. Find the addresses by clicking on “Contact Us” at the top of any page of our website, bluebonnet.coop.

CONTACT US

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 729
Bastrop, TX 78602

Member services: **800-842-7708**, email memberservices@bluebonnet.coop or visit one of our five member service centers in Bastrop, Brenham, Giddings, Lockhart and Manor.

Report outages: **800-949-4414**, bluebonnet.coop or our mobile app. Pay your bill any time online, on our mobile app or by calling member services at **800-842-7708**.

Magazine questions? Contact Lisa Ogle at **512-332-7968** or email lisa.ogle@bluebonnet.coop.

BOARD MEETING

Bluebonnet’s Board of Directors will meet at 9 a.m. June 19 at Bluebonnet’s Headquarters, 155 Electric Ave. (formerly 650 Texas Hwy. 21 East), Bastrop.