



# Coastlines

2020/1

*Florence Line Foreman Jeff outlines next steps at a job site for Lineman Apprentice Michael, a graduate of Marshfield High School in Coos Bay.*

*Lineman Apprentice Guy, a graduate of Taft High in Lincoln City, made us proud at an international lineman competition. His high scores in a variety of skills tests earned two major awards.*

*Tree Trimmer Trainee Talon (front), a graduate of North Bend High School, practices safe chainsaw techniques directed by a journeyman tree trimmer.*

## Careers Without College

***Our apprenticeships lead to lifelong opportunities for candidates who want highly technical and challenging careers***

The Baby Boomer generation is one of the largest in U.S. history. The youngest boomers today are 55, the oldest 73. Many of Central Lincoln's workers were, or are, boomers, and as they retire, finding qualified replacements has been challenging, particularly in "the trades" — line workers, meter shop, wiremen, tree trimmers. So, we "grow our own," as General Manager Randy Grove likes to call our apprentice programs.

Central Lincoln has offered apprenticeships for decades, and these days we have several. An internal Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) oversees our program and apprentices, receiving monthly reports from foremen and journeymen overseeing the apprentices. This mentoring ensures trainees are doing quality work, and confirms they've put in the hours and months required to be approved at each "step," or level, in an apprenticeship.

For example, linemen apprentices must be approved at various steps to work on overhead lines, underground lines, and energized lines, and successfully complete classes in algebra,

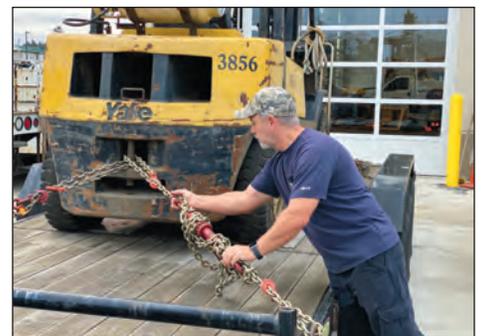
geometry, transformer theory, capacitors, and regulators. Many of our apprentices complete four months of linemen school before coming to work at Central Lincoln; this improves their chances of getting a coveted apprenticeship when one becomes available.

We often send lineman apprentices to "lineman rodeo" skill competitions to see how our training and education programs stack up against other utilities' programs. We are thrilled to share that at the recent International Lineman Rodeo, our Lineman Apprentice Guy won second place among apprentices from rural electric utilities, and placed 20<sup>th</sup> in 'Best of the Best Apprentices' out of 321 competitors! Rodeo competition skill tests range from speed climbing utility poles (with a raw egg in competitors' mouths to ensure smooth climbing), to written tests, knot tying, and more.

How does this benefit our customers? Line work is one of the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. Highly skilled and trained workers get the job done safely and quickly, clearing hazards and getting power back on quicker.



*Before graduating from Newport High School, Lineman Apprentice Cody wanted to work for an electric utility, completing lineman school before coming to Central Lincoln. Here, he gathers supplies to take to a work site.*



*Joe was foreman of our technical Communications crew, but wanting a new challenge, he applied for and was awarded a wireman apprenticeship. Wiremen build, maintain, and repair substations, and work on circuit breakers, and transformers. Joe's lived on the Central Coast for nearly 13 years.*



## State Rebates Help Customers Plug In and Drive Electric

In Hawaii's much sunnier climate, Dean and Annie used 100% off-grid solar electricity, and installed solar panels for other families. Now retired near Waldport, they watch their finances carefully. They liked the thought of driving an electric car fueled by Central Lincoln's 97% carbon-free power, but believed electric cars were too expensive. Then they learned about Oregon's "Charge Ahead" rebate.

The Charge Ahead rebate is up to \$2,500 for low or moderate income Oregonians to help with the lease or purchase of a new or used electric car. As an example, a two-person household in Florence could make up to \$65,400 a year and still receive the rebate. (To see if you qualify, go to [deq.state.or.us/ocvrp](http://deq.state.or.us/ocvrp)) All-electric cars as well as plug-in gasoline-electric hybrids are eligible. Charge Ahead rebates aren't income tax credits or refunds—those qualifying for these rebates will receive checks mailed to them.

Annie and Dean found out they were eligible for a Charge Ahead rebate. They then carefully researched used electric cars online, and the Chevy Spark looked like the best choice. Once they met and talked with the Winchester Bay owners of a used Spark, and sat in it to see if it was a good fit, they were ready to head to Portland where several Sparks were for sale: "We got one!" Dean wrote. "We are really looking forward to a clean drive."

Like all electric cars sold today, Annie and Dean's Spark came with a 120V charging cord—so they can charge their car from the nearest outlet. "We'll save almost \$1,000 a year in gas, plus savings on maintenance driving an electric car over a gas-powered car," Annie says enthusiastically. "And the electric Spark is so fun to drive!"

*Electric Chevy Sparks get 4.31 miles to the kilowatt hour (kWh), and Central Lincoln's residential electricity rate is 7.74¢ per kWh. Annie and Dean drive about 700 miles a month, so it's anticipated their electric bill will increase just \$12.57 each month to fuel their Spark.*

*Buying a new all-electric vehicle in Oregon may also qualify for an additional \$2,500 rebate for a total of \$5,000. Go to [tinyurl.com/oregonev](http://tinyurl.com/oregonev) for more details.*



Dean (above) and his wife Annie will receive a \$2,500 Oregon rebate to help make their pre-owned 100% Chevy Spark more affordable.

## New Deposit Policy Helps Customers Build Good Credit; Prepaid Offers Easy Bill Management

Central Lincoln used to require a letter of credit, or a deposit, to open new residential accounts. And that didn't seem very customer-friendly to our Customer Services Director Mark Freeman: "I felt like we were starting new customer relationships with a lack of trust and that didn't feel right," he says. "I knew there was a better way."

New residential customers are no longer being asked for a deposit when they open an account with us, and as long as they keep their accounts current, no deposit will be required. For customers who fall behind and get disconnected, a deposit will then be required, or, that customer can pay what's due, and sign up for Prepaid, starting with a \$10 payment. Prepaid customers aren't required to pay a deposit, and are not charged if disconnected for non-payment. They pay for their electricity in advance, making payments of \$5 or more whenever needed using the SmartHub app, SmartHub online, by using our Pay By Phone service, or making a payment by check or in person at one of our offices. *Prepaid customers must be signed up for SmartHub, and have email access. To sign up or for more information about Prepaid, call us at 877-265-3211.*

**Call us** toll free at 1-877-265-3211 to report an outage, pay your bill, speak to a customer service representative and more. *Your call will be answered by the first customer service representative available in Florence, Newport or Reedsport.*

**Pay By Phone:** 1-844-239-0076

**Report an Outage:** 1-877-265-3211

**Energy Efficiency Programs:** 1-888-883-9879

**Office Hours:** Mondays-Fridays, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Florence: 966 Highway 101

Newport: 2129 N. Coast Highway

Reedsport: 440 Fir Avenue (Reedsport is closed 12-1 p.m.)

**Website:** [clpud.org](http://clpud.org)

**Email:** [info@clpud.org](mailto:info@clpud.org)

Outage info, energy-saving tips, and latest news:

 [www.twitter.com/CLPUD](https://www.twitter.com/CLPUD)

 [Central Lincoln PUD](https://www.facebook.com/CentralLincolnPUD)



*Our mission is to ensure our communities have access to reliable and affordable energy products and services.*