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WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

September 2026

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

CELEBRATING FIBER ARTS

FROM LIGHT SWITCHES
TO LIFELONG HABITS

READER RECIPE CONTEST

KIDS AND CRITTERS



ELECTRICITY BRINGS EVERYDAY VALUE

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
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When it comes to electricity, we rarely think twice when we flip on a light switch, brew coffee in the morning, charge our phones, or adjust the thermostat. We simply expect the power to be there—and that's how it should be because you are a member of Taylor Electric Cooperative, and reliably powering your life is our mission.

We know that many families across our local communities are feeling the impact of rising costs for everyday expenses. Groceries, gasoline, insurance, and other necessities cost more than they did just a few years ago. And because of that, we understand that every household is carefully considering where each dollar goes.

That's why I think it's important to occasionally step back and consider the value electricity provides.

The average TEC residential electric bill is about \$180 a month—roughly \$6 a day. I often think about what that \$6 provides. It's about the cost of a specialty coffee, yet electricity powers nearly every moment of our daily lives, often without us giving it a second thought. In fact, many typical purchases cost more than a day's worth of electricity. A fast-food combo meal averages about \$9, and a single movie ticket can cost around \$13.

For about \$6 a day, your refrigerator keeps food fresh around the clock. Your heating and cooling system helps keep your family comfortable through the seasons. Lights brighten your home after sunset. Appliances make cooking and cleaning easier. Devices stay charged so you can work, learn, communicate and stay connected with loved ones. When you think about everything electricity makes possible, it's one of the greatest values in the average household budget.

A Little Cost. A Lot of Life.

For about \$180 a month, electricity powers hundreds of tasks that keep your home comfortable, connected and running smoothly—from brewing your morning coffee to keeping your family cool, safe and entertained.

- 720 hours of refrigeration
- 20+ loads of clean clothes
- 15+ home-cooked meals
- 90+ hours of lighting
- Numerous devices charged
- Hundreds of hours of cooling/heating
- Countless connections to work, school and entertainment

30 days of comfort



Even with electricity's exceptional value, we know every dollar matters. If you're looking for ways to lower your energy use, Taylor Electric Cooperative is here to help. Whether you need efficiency advice from our energy advisors, information about co-op rebates and efficiency programs, or answers to questions about your monthly bill, our team is always available.

Taylor Electric Cooperative is proud to be more than your electric provider. Because we're a cooperative, we're locally owned by you, the members we serve. That means every decision we make is guided by what's best for our community—not by outside shareholders.

Thank you for trusting us to power your home and your life. We're committed to providing everyday value for you and your family with reliable, affordable power—so you can make the most of every energy dollar.



SCHOOL BUS SAFETY TIPS

School buses are among the safest vehicles on the road — but the greatest risk comes when children are getting on or off the bus. **Whether you're a driver, parent or student, knowing these safety tips will help keep everyone safe.**

FOR DRIVERS:

- **Slow down:** Reduce speed in school zones and near bus stops.
- **Keep your distance:** Stay back at least 10 feet from a school bus — this is the most dangerous area for children.
- **Know the signals:**
 - Yellow flashing lights: bus is preparing to stop. Slow down.
 - Red flashing lights + stop arm: bus is loading/unloading — stop and wait until the bus moves again.
 - Never pass a stopped bus on an undivided road — it's illegal in most states.
- **Stay alert:** Watch for kids who may unexpectedly enter the road, especially near bus stops.
- **Respect the zone:** When flashers are blinking in a school zone, stop for pedestrians at crosswalks and take extra care to look for children near playgrounds, parks, and residential areas.

FOR PARENTS:

Teach your child to arrive at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early and how to play it SAFE:

- **Stay back at least 10 feet**, or five giant steps, from the curb.
- **Always wait for the bus to stop** and the driver to signal before boarding.
- **Face forward** and buckle up if seat belts are available.
- **Exit carefully**, look both ways and cross in front of the bus — never behind. Make eye contact with the driver before crossing.

As students head back to school, remember: **a moment of caution can prevent a lifetime of regret.**

Learn more at:



KLUSSENDORF AND WEGERER COMPLETE YLC JOURNEY

The 2026 Youth Leadership Conference was held at UW-Stout July 14–16, bringing together future leaders from electric cooperatives across Wisconsin. Among those attending were Max Klussendorf, son of Ryan and Cheri Klussendorf of Medford, and Laura Wegerer, daughter of Jamie and Karen Wegerer, also of Medford.

YLC is designed to develop leadership skills while giving students a strong understanding of the cooperative business model and the career opportunities electric cooperatives offer. Motivational speaker Craig Hillier returned for another year with his Breakthrough Leadership seminar. Other speakers included Hunter Gillet, who shared his inspiring story after surviving a plane crash and hypnotist Al Snyder.

Max and Laura spent the last year serving on the YLC Board. Following board elections at this year's event, their term was officially over as new student leaders were elected. During their year on the board, Max and Laura helped educate their peers about electric cooperatives, assisted in planning this year's Youth Leadership Conference, and represented Wisconsin on the 2026 NRECA Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Their leadership and dedication led the way for the newly elected board members as they take on their roles.



Max (top left) and Laura (top, second from left) pose with the outgoing and newly elected Youth Board members.



Laura and Max participate in the hypnotist session.





STORM SAFETY TIPS: HOW TO PREPARE AND STAY SAFE

It is easy to become complacent about the weather, but severe weather claims hundreds of lives each year. September is National Preparedness Month and we want to remind you how to stay safe.

From tornadoes and floods to lightning, high winds, extreme heat and cold, severe weather can cause destruction and power outages. Many people end up in dangerous situations because they think they can outrun or outsmart a storm, extreme temperatures or other hazardous conditions. Being prepared with supplies, a plan, and safety knowledge can help protect you and your family.

Watch vs. warning

When severe weather is approaching, many people turn on the TV, check a weather app or go online for updates. It is important to know the difference between a watch and a warning.

A watch means conditions are favorable for severe weather, such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado. Stay alert, monitor conditions, and take precautionary steps, such as unplugging electronics and checking your emergency kit.

A warning means severe weather is occurring, is imminent, or is indicated by radar. Take shelter immediately in the safest part of the building, such as a basement or an interior room on the lowest floor, away from windows.

Follow these tips to stay safe

- Install a weather app and enable severe weather alerts.
- Remember that a warning means it is time to act.
- Have an evacuation plan for hazards such as floods or wildfires.
- Establish a family communication plan, including each person's responsibilities and a meeting place in case you are separated.
- Keep emergency kits stocked and up to date. Include a first-aid kit, portable phone charger, flashlights, batteries, food, water and enough supplies to last at least three days.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a generator.
- Use a generator only outdoors in an open area, never in a garage, carport, or other enclosed space.
- Keep portable generators at least 20 feet from doors, windows, and vents.

Know how to keep others safe

Storms can be unpredictable and can damage the power grid. Severe weather may also make utility equipment harder to access. During and after major weather events, line crews may be out restoring power and making repairs.

Everyone should do their part to help keep lineworkers and utility crews safe

Slow down and move over in work zones.

- Do not distract crews while they work.
- Direct service questions to your utility.
- Check your utility's social media channels or text alerts for outage updates if available.
- Never plug a generator into a wall outlet. Doing so can cause backfeed, which sends electricity from your home back onto power lines.

Stay alert during cleanup

- If the power is out, stay indoors unless you must leave to remain safe.
- Be alert for downed power lines that may be hidden by ice, snow, standing water, or storm debris.
- Never approach a downed power line. Call 911, then keep others away.
- Do not trim trees or branches within 10 feet of an overhead power line.

Power outages, downed lines, and generator misuse can create serious risks during and after severe weather. To learn more about keeping loved ones safe, visit SafeElectricity.org.

A Storm is Always Ready

ARE YOU?



When Mother Nature threatens a severe storm, be ready by having an emergency kit on hand.

YOUR KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:



Bottles of water
Nonperishable food
Portable phone charger

Flashlights
Batteries
Can opener



First-aid supplies
Hand sanitizer
Prescriptions

Pain reliever
Warm clothing
Blankets



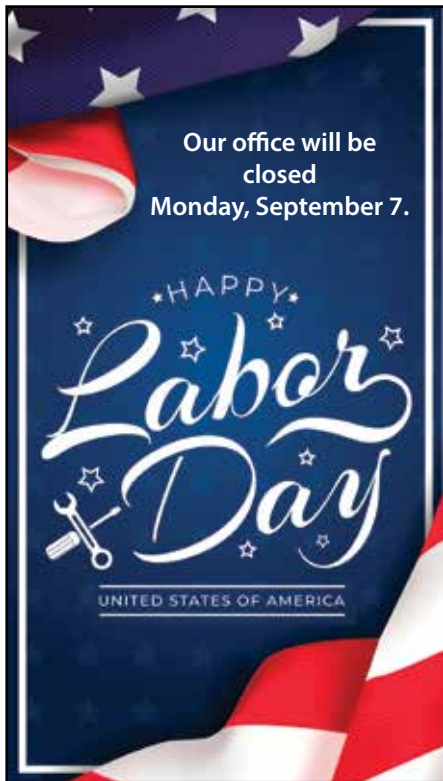
Battery-operated radio
Toys, books and games
Important documents

Money
Baby supplies
Pet supplies

Once your kit is assembled, check it a few times a year to make sure batteries are fresh and that no one has borrowed a necessary item.

Learn more at:





ROUTINE INSPECTIONS HELP KEEP THE POWER ON

In early August, Karcz Utility Services of Seymour, Wis., completed inspections of Taylor Electric Cooperative's ground-mounted underground and overhead equipment and performed any necessary maintenance to help ensure it remains in safe, reliable operating condition.

This equipment included the green metal transformers and junction boxes located in or near members' yards as well as poles. Inspections were completed in parts of the townships of Browning, Deer Creek, Goodrich and Greenwood.

These photos highlight the importance of routine equipment inspections and maintenance. Damage caused by weather, wildlife, or human activity can lead to power outages if left undetected. Routine inspections help identify potential problems early, allowing crews to make repairs before they affect electric service.



Before



After

Top: Overgrown vegetation concealed this transformer, limiting visibility and access. Bottom: After vegetation was cleared, the transformer was fully accessible for inspection and any necessary maintenance.



Before



After

Left: Years of exposure to the elements can cause transformer paint to fade and protective coatings to deteriorate. Right: The repainted transformer ready for years of continued service.

Wildlife can sometimes find its way inside electrical equipment, where they can chew on wires, causing power outages and creating safety hazards. A possum (left) and a skunk (right) were found alive inside equipment during routine inspections and removed safely.



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