

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* September 2025 NEWS

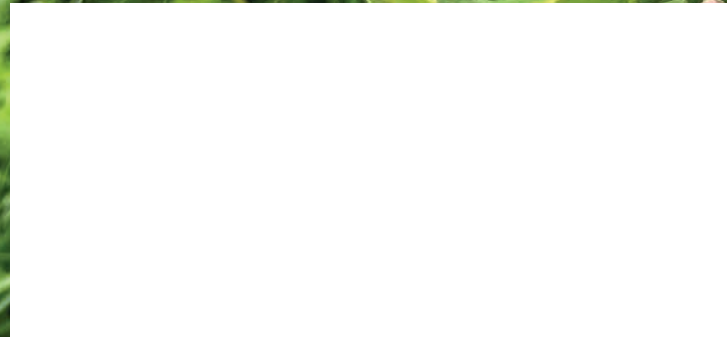
TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy Partner

POLLINATOR PATH WITH A PURPOSE

WHAT SETS CO-OPS APART
FROM OTHER POWER PROVIDERS

PIE FOR DINNER

KIDS AND CRITTERS





THE POWER OF PREPARATION



With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water, and supplies to last at least a few days.

September is National Preparedness Month and we want to remind members about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, a first-aid kit, a battery-powered radio and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

Caring for vulnerable family members

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't

live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication, and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

Keeping four-legged family members safe

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress, especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up-to-date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications, and other supplies).

At Taylor Electric, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

Practice Storm Safety

- Have a plan in place and make a storm kit.
- Listen to local alerts and know where to shelter.
- Stay off the roads if trees and power lines are down.

TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM TAYLOR ELECTRIC ELECTED TO YOUTH BOARD



Laura Wegerer (left) and Max Klussendorf (right) were newly elected to the 2025 YLC Board.

The 2025 Youth Leadership Congress was held at UW-Stout, Menomonie, WI, July 15-17, 2025. Future leaders from electric cooperatives across the state were in attendance, including Owen and Max Klussendorf, sons of Taylor Electric's Secretary/Treasurer Cheri Klussendorf and her husband, Ryan, of Medford. Also in attendance was Laura Wegerer, daughter of Jamie and Karen Wegerer, also of Medford.

YLC is aimed at building leadership skills while ensuring attendees leave with a solid understanding of what electric cooperatives are and the potential career opportunities they offer. They also have the opportunity to enter WECA's essay contest for scholarship funds.

YLC Board Elections are also a main event. Teens threw their hat in the ring in the hopes of securing one of six coveted seats on the board. They each delivered an energetic speech with their own creative influence, demonstrating their personality, co-op knowledge, and leadership skills. In 2024,

Owen Klussendorf was elected to the YLC board and spent the last year learning about electric cooperatives, traveling, and planning this year's conference. This year, we are excited to announce that his brother, Max, was also elected to the YLC board along with Laura Wegerer. They will be involved with many activities throughout the coming year.

Max and Laura will work to educate peers about electric cooperatives and will be invited to travel to the nation's capital next summer for the 2026 NRECA Youth Tour. They will also be instrumental in planning the 2026 Youth Leadership Congress. One board member will be selected to represent Wisconsin at NRECA's 2026 PowerXchange in Atlanta in March.

Max had this to say about YLC: "I really thought it would be this boring thing my mom made me do, but it was so much fun. The speakers didn't just talk to us—they spoke into me. They helped me discover who I am, who I want to be, and showed me how to be a faucet, pouring life into others, not a drain that takes away from others.

The etiquette dinner was truly eye-opening, as we learned how to eat properly at a dinner event. The hypnotist was a great time. Who would have thought I would get up in front of 100 people and belt out Miley Cyrus tunes? This was an all-around great event that I would definitely recommend to others!"

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of "shoulder months," which refer to the transitional periods between peak heating and cooling seasons. During the fall, these milder weeks typically occur between September and November. Shoulder months offer a great opportunity to reduce home energy consumption as the need for extensive heating or cooling is reduced. Look for simple ways to boost indoor comfort without running your heating and cooling system. Use ceiling fans and open windows on breezy days to ventilate your home. On cooler days, add a layer of clothing and avoid running the heat.



Left: The newly elected 2025 Youth Board. Right: Laura Wegerer with brothers Max (center) and Owen (right) Klussendorf.



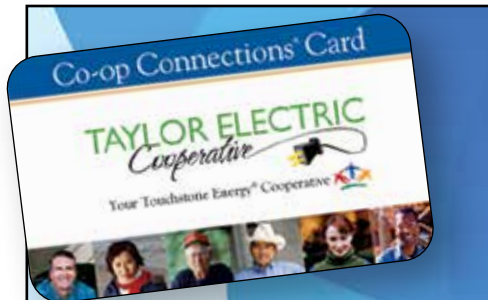
TEACHING ELECTRICAL SAFETY AT HUEY'S HIDEAWAY

On Tuesday, August 5, Taylor Electric Leadman Justin Fuchs and Lineman Tim Habermeyer visited Huey's Hideaway Children's Museum in Medford.

They put on a live safety demonstration and taught the children about the dangers of coming into contact with live electric wires. The kids asked a lot of great questions and had the chance to try on the linemen's safety gear.



Left: Lineman Tim Habermeyer (left) and Leadman Justin Fuchs (kneeling) demonstrated the dangers of contact with electricity during a hotline demonstration. Right: Lineman Tim Habermeyer helped a student try on the safety gear.



If you own an area business and would like **free advertising**, join Taylor Electric's Co-op Connections.

Call today 715-678-2411 for details.



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:



We're trying something new this year!

Join us Saturday, October 11, from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Centennial Community Center in Stetsonville, Wisconsin, to kick off October Co-op Month. The kids will enjoy a petting zoo, face painting, treats, and more! Lunch will be served. As always, Packer calendars will be given away, as well as electric bill credits to the lucky winners.

FAMILY FUN =
OCTOBER CO-OP MONTH &
TAYLOR ELECTRIC

Saturday, October 11

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Centennial Community Center,
Stetsonville, WI**



FREE Family Fun for All Members!

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451

715-678-2411 • 800-862-2407

email: taylrec@taylorellectric.org

website: www.taylorellectric.org

Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor

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