

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* December 2025 NEWS

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



REINDEER ACRES HOLIDAY CHEER TAKES FLIGHT

"NOT-FOR-PROFIT" MEANS "ALL FOR YOU"

WATER HEATER WOES

BEST OF KIDS AND CRITTERS



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: A HISTORY



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Long before electricity, people brightened the dark winter months with firelight — from the burning of the Yule log to candles placed around the home. The first recorded candlelit Christmas trees appeared in Germany in 1660 and eventually spread across Europe, reaching the United States later in the century.

While the glow of the candles was festive, it also posed a serious fire hazard, so the light could only be enjoyed for a short time.

A revolutionary spark

While Thomas Edison invented the incandescent light bulb in 1879, it was his colleague, Edward H. Johnson, who created the first electric Christmas tree lights in 1882. He hand-wired 80 colored bulbs around a revolving tree in his parlor, all powered by a generator.

Johnson's lights were ahead of their time, as electricity was not yet routinely available, and electric lights were considered expensive. President Grover Cleveland and his wife, First Lady Frances Cleveland, helped boost acceptance in the 1890s, when the White House Christmas tree was illuminated with colored bulbs to delight their young daughters.

The tradition of outdoor light displays, which we now associate with driving around to view beautifully lit homes and elaborate light shows, began in North America. This expansion was made possible by the development of safe outdoor Christmas light bulbs and light strings in the 1920s.

LEDs, smart displays, and sustainability

Christmas lights have come a long way. Today's LED lights shine brighter than ever, creating beautiful displays while using less energy — they're built to last.

Every holiday season, millions of light sets brighten homes across the country. From twinkling displays set to music to TV favorites like ABC's "The Great Christmas Light Fight," modern holiday lighting turns neighborhoods into dazzling

shows filled with festive "flip the switch" moments.

Year after year, Christmas lights continue to brighten our lives and homes. The evolution reflects our desire to bring light, warmth, and joy to the darkest winter days — with a mix of new technology and timeless tradition that makes holiday lights truly magical.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Make Sure Your Fireplace is Ready for Santa

To maximize your fireplace's efficiency, always keep the damper closed when the fireplace is not in use. An open damper is like an open window, allowing warm indoor air to escape and cold air to enter. Consider installing a fireplace insert, which improves heat output by circulating warm air into the room rather than letting it escape up the chimney. Also, burn only seasoned hardwood to ensure a hotter, cleaner burn. Regularly clean and inspect your chimney to maintain safe and efficient operation.

Source: energy.gov

HEY KIDS!

Decorate this picture for a chance to win a prize!

Please bring your completed picture in person and receive a treat. **A drawing of all entries will be held on Friday, December 12, 2025.** Pictures will be displayed at the co-op office. Age groups include: 1–3 years, 4–6 years, 7–9 years, and 10–12 years. All participants' parents must be current members of Taylor Electric.



Name _____ Age _____

Parents' Names _____ Acct. No. _____

All employees' and directors' families are ineligible.



Christmas Wish

29 YEARS OF SPREADING JOY DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The Christmas Wish Program is celebrating 29 years of granting wishes to and brightening the holidays for those in need during the Christmas season. Whether the need is financial, emotional, or physical, spreading holiday cheer and putting a smile on the faces of the families in our community has always been our mission.

In 2024, nearly 150 families were touched by the Christmas Wish program. In following with the cooperative principle “Concern for Community,” contributors to Christmas Wish have brought holiday cheer to those who were battling a serious illness, friends and neighbors who had lost loved ones throughout the year, and community members with disabilities.

The 29th annual Christmas Wish Program is brought to you by area Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including Dairyland Power Cooperative, Taylor Electric Cooperative, Clark Electric Cooperative, Price Electric

Cooperative, and Jump River Electric Cooperative. Also sponsoring are the Taylor County Association of Cooperatives, Royal Credit Union, Co-op Transport, River Country Co-op, Ag Country Farm Credit, Taylor Credit Union, The Medford Cooperative, Lakewood Credit Union, United Mutual Insurance, WIGM 1490 AM, and WKEB 99.3 FM Radio.

Wish Requests

Wish requests for area residents may be directed to WIGM/WKEB Radio; P.O. Box 59, Medford, WI 54451; phone, (715) 748-2566; fax, (715) 748-2752; or via the radio station’s website, www.k99wigm.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number as well as the name, address, and phone number of the individual you are making a wish for and the wish you would like granted. Requests are being taken now until December 17, 2025.



WINTER LOAD CONTROL SEASON BEGINS

Winter full load control/peak alert events will be split into morning and evening events from December through February. A review of winter electricity peaks revealed that 60% of peaks occur in the morning. To successfully reduce electricity needs during those times, enrolled dual fuel (electric heat) loads will be controlled in the mornings, beginning approximately at 7 a.m. with restoration by 11 a.m.

Enrolled dairy water heaters, grain dryers, and manual standby generators will remain in the traditional winter schedule of control beginning at 5 p.m. with restoration by 10 p.m.

Residential water heaters and other accounts enrolled by daily storage, and EV chargers will not be affected by the split control events and will be controlled during economic control events as in the past.

CAN YOU HELP US FIND THESE PEOPLE?

Taylor Electric Cooperative has capital credits for the following people, who we are unable to locate. If you know someone listed here, please have them contact our office at 715-678-2411 or 800-862-2407. In cases where the person is deceased, please have the family contact us with benefactor information. Any unclaimed checks will revert to

the Wisconsin Federated Youth Foundation, Inc., a charitable tax-exempt trust established by the Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association for educational purposes. Claims may be made at the cooperative office by the rightful owners by December 31, 2025.

Ashbeck, Aurelie for Margaret
Chotoff Deceased
Berndt, Frank Deceased
Blasel, Jeff
Bowen, Peter and Betty
Busse, Helen J. Deceased
Clarkson, Leora Deceased
Eckert, Ann for Dorothy Eckert
Deceased
Eggebrecht, Terry
Engen, Kenny

Fehlman, John and Georgia
Golz, Taylor
Hartman, Ginelle
Kalepp, James and Karen
Kieslich, Arlene J
Kloth, Maria
Lawrence, Patsy
Linzner, Michael F Deceased
Mabie, Sherri
Malo, Kevin and Marie
Miller, Dave

Miller, Robert and Jennifer
Moen, Elaine
Mueller, Irene Deceased
Nelson, Margaret S
Newbauer, Victoria
Patterson, John and Melissa
Pernsteiner, Herman Deceased
Pirkel, Robert Deceased
Rinehart, Corey and Tami
Schmidt, Cecila Deceased
Schwartz, Harlan & Tamara

Scimeca, Sam Deceased
Steevens, Evelyn Deceased
Stock, William T
Thompson, Elizabeth
Tom, Rose
Viegut, Jeremy and Heather A
Wicks, Devon & Jordan
Williams, Aaron
Wimmer, Daniel (Edmund
Wimmer Trust)

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

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Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor



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