

RECIPES

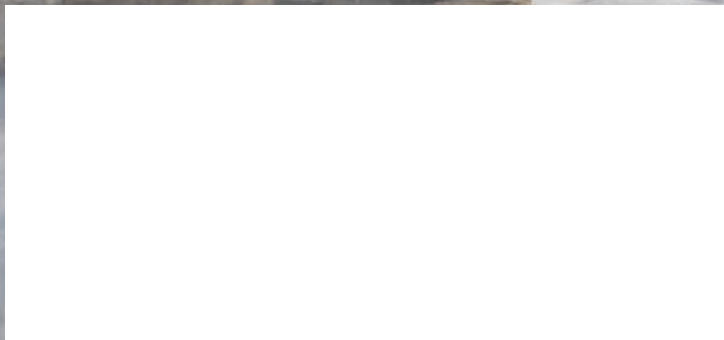
EVENTS

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Since 1940


# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* July 2019 NEWS

## CIRCLES OF *Serenity*



TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Cooperation among Cooperatives

Taylor Electric recently received this thank-you note from Freeborn Mower Cooperative Services in Minnesota for helping to restore power after a severe mid-April ice and snow storm caused extreme damage to Freeborn Mower's distribution system, at one point leaving nearly 10,000 of the co-op's members out of power. Freeborn Mower called for help through ROPE (Restoration of Power in an Emergency), a mutual aid system among electric cooperatives. Taylor Electric was among 24 electric co-ops that answered the call for help, sending four line workers to Minnesota to help replace more than 750 poles and restore power to nearly half of Freeborn Mower's members.



MY CO-OP

## FIREWORKS SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:

- ★ Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- ★ Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- ★ Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks including sparklers which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- ★ Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- ★ Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.

**Taylor Electric's office will be closed Thursday and Friday, July 4 & 5.**





# CONGRATULATIONS

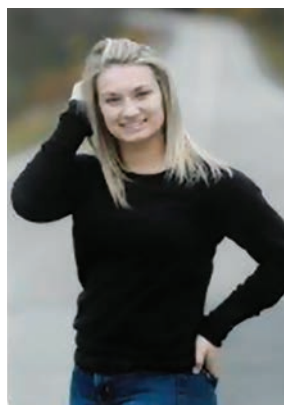
## 2019 Scholarship Recipients



Students on this page each received a Taylor Electric Cooperative \$500 Scholarship. Students on the facing page each received a Taylor Electric Board of Directors \$200 Scholarship.



**Sierra Johnson** is the daughter of Doug and Kristi Brandner, Medford, and Mike Johnson. She will be going to North Central Technical College this fall for nursing. She has always had a passion for helping others when they most need it. She enjoys being the smiling face that helps people through tough times. Her hobbies and interests are camping, kayaking, music, and spending time with her family.



**Sarah Brandt** is the daughter of Steve and Suzy Brandt, Medford. She will be attending UW-La Crosse in the fall to work on pre-pharmacy courses with hopes of becoming a pharmacist. Her hobbies and interests include camping, fishing, gardening, four-wheeling, snowmobiling, and hunting. She also enjoys swimming, skating, softball, and running. Sarah likes to spend time outside in nature as it helps clear her mind.

**Erin Elsner** is the daughter of Evan and Amy Elsner, Medford. She plans to attend North Central Technical College in Wausau, majoring in agricultural business. Her hobbies include working with her show cattle, going to cattle shows, playing sports, and hanging out with her family and friends. Some of her interests are playing with her dogs, helping her uncle with his calves, hunting, swimming, and doing pretty much anything outdoors.



**McKayla Braun** is the daughter of Joel and Angela Braun, Athens. She will be attending Marian University-Fond du Lac in the fall. She enjoys spending time with friends and family in her free time. She also likes spending time on the water during the summer. She likes to read, listen to music, and play many outdoor games with friends.



**Reece Kellnhofer** is the son of Jeff and Lainie Kellnhofer, Dorchester. He will be attending UW-Marshfield/Stevens Point in the fall where he plans to complete his general studies. He will then transfer to UW-Madison where he intends to study pre-med. Reece enjoys playing sports, fishing, hunting, and spending time with his family and friends.



**Joseph R. Slattery** is the son of Jay and Lisa Slattery, Rib Lake. He will be attending University Wisconsin-Stevens Point for wildlife ecology management. He participated in track and field, drama club, and is attending Crex Meadows Youth Conservation Camp for a third time as a junior counselor.



**McKenzie Waldhart** is the daughter of Scott and Lori Waldhart, Medford. She will be attending NTC-Wausau and has been accepted in the nursing program. Her dream has always been to be a nurse, and she recently decided she would like to be an OB nurse. Her hobbies and interests are spending time with her family; her dog, Arie; and being outdoors. She enjoys playing

volleyball, swimming, hunting, fishing, and pretty much anything in the beautiful Wisconsin scenery.



**Elizabeth Noland** is the daughter of Patricia Noland, Rib Lake. This fall she will be attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and working towards a major in biology with a minor in neuroscience. She also hopes to earn a minor in Spanish. Her goal in life is to help those with mental illnesses in any way possible because of certain life events that have opened her eyes to the drastic effects of depression and

anxiety. In her free time, she enjoys watching movies, hanging out with friends and family, and being on the lake.



**Hailey Willner** is the daughter of Mark and Lori Willner, Medford. In college, she is planning to pursue a bachelor's degree in cell and molecular biology and a master's degree in genetics, possibly furthering her education even more with a doctorate. She hopes to

become a genetic counselor or geneticist and help initiate research for genetic diseases, working towards better understandings and possible cures. Her hobbies and interests include dancing, being with friends and family, playing with her dogs, activities in the sun, and shopping.

**Caden Decker** is the son of Scott and Michelle Decker, Abbotsford. He will be attending UW-Stevens Point this fall, majoring in fisheries and water resources. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and all sports.



**Meredith Seidel** is the daughter of Rob and Carrie Seidel, Medford. She will be attending Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas, for elementary education. Her hobbies include volleyball, hockey and soccer. She enjoys being outdoors and spending time with family and friends.



**Joshua Fredrikson** is the son of Phillip and Amy Fredrikson, Medford. He will be attending Northcentral Technical College (NTC) this upcoming fall for his general studies and then he will be transfer to UW-Eau Claire to pursue becoming a high school history teacher. After college, he hopes to

come back to the Medford community. Some of his interests/hobbies include playing sports, running, fishing, and spending time with family and friends.



**Avery Apfelbeck** is the daughter of Jeff and Angela Apfelbeck, Medford. In the fall she will be attending UW-Madison to pursue a major in athletic training. She then hopes to be admitted to the physical therapy program. She enjoys swimming, horseback riding, curling, and is on the rifle team. Her favorite hobby is visiting the nursing home with her rabbits.



## Options for Upgrading to a Smarter Home

Don't have the budget to make all the devices in your home smart and interconnected? Consider these stand-alone items that could help you save money on your utility bill:

- **Smart thermostats** usually cost in the \$200 to \$300 range. With an estimated cost savings of around 10 percent on energy costs, this smart device could pay for itself in just a year or two depending on where you live and your indoor comfort preferences.
- **Smart plugs** allow you to plug in an appliance and track its energy use. Seeing how much energy your old garage refrigerator uses may motivate you to give it the old heave-ho. These plugs cost around \$30 to \$50 and they also allow you to control a smart appliance or gadget remotely.
- For a little more money, higher-end **energy-monitoring devices** give real-time feedback on energy consumption and track your energy stats; these typically cost between \$200 and \$300 but can make a real difference in your energy bills if you make adjustments based on feedback.
- **Smart lighting** allows you to take advantage of higher tech motion sensors and dimmers, which means using less energy.
- **Smart bulbs** help save money because they are internet-capable LED bulbs that allow lighting to be controlled remotely.

**D**epending on your age, your techie factor or perhaps your interests, you may or may not be excited at the prospect of installing smart devices in your home. Becoming more and more a part of our vocabulary, having a “smart home” or even a semi-smart one can help make the many tasks we do each day less time consuming and more fun.

So what, exactly, are smart homes? They are houses that boast a number of interconnected devices and home appliances that perform certain actions or functions. Smart-home performance is often more efficient than the owner-operated kind, which could save money. Other high-tech, smarty-pants devices won't save much on your utility bills but can increase your home's cool factor.

Smart home automation allows you to program a variety of items ranging from a smart thermostat, lights, window blinds and even an automatic pet-feeding bowl (now if only smart automation could do dishes and make lunch ...).

If all your devices are interconnected, you can orchestrate them from one place on your tablet or cell phone. And if you have voice-assisted technology, you can just use your words, and presto! — the coffee maker starts or your lights turn on or off.

In many upper-end markets, buyers can consider a new home that is already smart. For the rest of us, it can cost in the thousands to upgrade our entire home with multiple smart devices. If your house has not yet arrived on the smart scene, there are ways to increase your home's “smartness.”

Examples include smart thermostats, gizmos that track energy use such as individual smart plugs or whole-house monitoring trackers (so that you can improve your energy “fitness”), and smart lighting that includes motion sensors and phone app controls.

Smart appliances and devices can save money because in many cases they allow you to use less energy. They're also convenient, fun to use and can give you peace of mind. In short, some may be worth it in the long run.

And a new home that's certified smart or even super intelligent? We can all dream, can't we?

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

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