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WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* September 2019 NEWS

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TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy Partner



DEVELOPING YOUNG LEADERS

TEC student shines at Youth Leadership Congress



An area student will put his newly honed leadership skills to use by serving on the statewide electric cooperative Youth Board for the 2019–20 term.

Oliver Robisch, son of Matthew and Sara Robisch of Rib Lake, is one of six high school students representing electric co-ops across the state who were elected to the Youth Board at the annual WECA Youth Leadership Congress, held in July at UW-River Falls. As a Youth Board member, he will have an opportunity to participate in the national Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., in June, joining young co-op leaders

He will have the opportunity to participate in the national Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. in June...

from throughout the country to attend leadership training, learn about the legislative process, meet with elected representatives, and visit the many monuments and museums in the nation's capital.

Youth Board members also take an active role in planning the program for next year's Youth Leadership Congress—three days of interactive activities

and challenging sessions on leadership development, the cooperative form of business, careers in cooperatives, and other topics.

A highlight of this year's program was speaker Shelby Gruss, a Ph.D. student at Purdue University who has been paralyzed from the waist down since suffering a spinal cord injury from a snowboarding jump as a senior in high school in 2010. Now an accomplished wheelchair basketball competitor, Gruss delivered a message of persistence, following your



Oliver Robisch of Rib Lake was sponsored by Taylor Electric Cooperative at this year's Youth Leadership Congress.

dreams, and always trying even if it means failing sometimes.

Motivational speaker Craig Hillier was back at YLC by popular demand. Hillier's dynamic presentation of "Breakthrough Leadership" had students participating in a number of activities that required creative thinking and cooperation.

A new activity this year was a small-group project for which students created distribution systems. Students were tasked with building a model of substations and transmission lines to carry electricity on to individual consumers, with chaperones voting for the best finished piece.

Education was woven throughout the entertainment as well. At an etiquette dinner hosted by UW-River Falls Director of Career Services Melissa Wilson, students enjoyed a delicious banquet meal while learning the finer points of formal business dining.

Following the dinner, students were entertained by hypnotist Dr. Al Snyder. His performance, built around audience participation, was designed to not only bring some laughs, but also to deliver a positive message of self-esteem and self-confidence.

Youth Leadership Congress is open to teenagers whose families are members of Taylor Electric Cooperative. If you have a high-schooler in your household who is interested in this amazing experience, please watch this magazine next spring for information about the 2020 YLC, or contact Taylor Electric. Students can also contact their high school guidance counselors for more information.

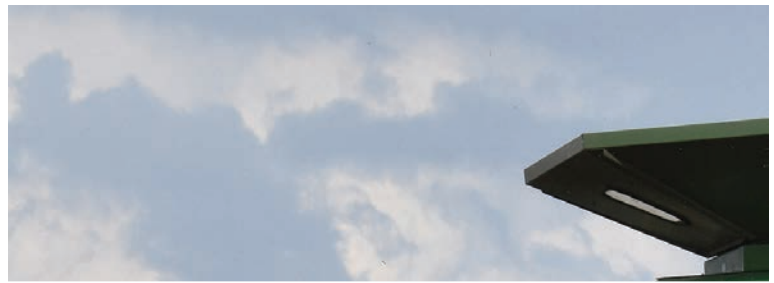
Dear Taylor Electric Cooperative:
Thank you for sponsoring me to attend a second year of WECA Youth Congress. It was an amazing experience that allowed me to learn about co-ops and improve my leadership skills. I'm excited to let you know that I not only ran for, but was elected to, the Youth Board. I'm honored to be representing Taylor County as a member of the Youth Board in next year's Youth Congress.
Sincerely, Oliver Robisch



CAN YOU HELP US?

These former members have capital credits owed to them. If you know any of these people, please contact Taylor Electric Cooperative at 715-678-2411 or 800-862-2407.

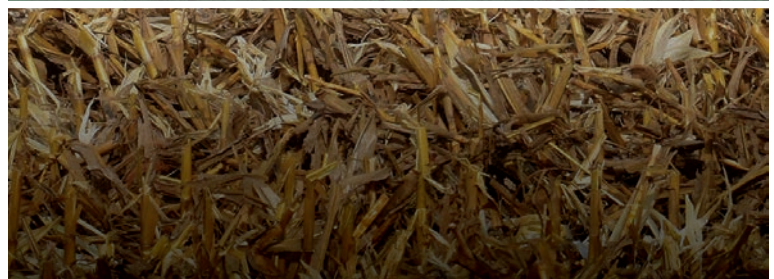
Abel, Judith	Konig, Michael
Adams, Dale	Kopper, Tammy M
Albert Estate, Ed	Kreb, Keith H
All Season Storage	Krueger, Lori
Angelich Estate, Lorna	Larson, Charles
Area Leasing Corp	Larson, Doug
AT&T Building Operations	Lucey, James
Bauman, Charles	Lukaszewicz, Anna
Benson, John	Mackie, Helen
Bergstrom, Todd	Marquardt, Nancy
Bernitt Estate, William Jr	Marsh, Fred
Brandt, William W	Martelli, Frank
Brede, Jeffrey and Miller, Sharon K	Marvin, Brian M
Brewer, James W	Maslanka, Mary
Bruesewitz, Sherry	Matteson, Jerry
Budreau, Brian	McCluskey, Roger
Burch, John P	Mercer, Phillip
Busch, Rick and Mary	Mey-Kosbab, Cindy
Carr, Nancy	Milbauer, Jim
Carr, Shannon	Miller, Randall
Carr, Shawn	Mims, William
Clover, Christine	Mueller, Gerald
Cullen, Julie	Olson, Michael
Cushing, David E	Paczowski, Edward
Decoster, Tom	Palmer, Ray and Angie
Degrad, Steve	Parson, Mark
Department of The Air Force	Paulson, Sara
Devoty, Amie	Peneau, Leon
Devries, David	Pozorski, David
Emens, David	Puckett, Steve
Esau, Charles	Quiring, Brent
Fahrner, Janice	Rasmussen, Catherine
Fechhelm, Joseph	Rasner, Walter
FHA	Revord Estate, Josephine
Fitzgerald, Kathleen M & Patrick	c/o Revord, Roseann
Hegarty	Ricker, Harvey
Frazier, Jerry	Rindt, Douglas L
Frederickson, Eugene	Rohloff, Steve
Furseth, Andrew	Rousch, Richard
Ginsing, Sherburne	Rydborg, Douglas
Grauman, Michael	Scheuneman, James
Gruhlke Estate, Dorothy	Schuetz Estate, Charles
Gustum, Kirk	Schwenke, Ardres
Hanson, Bruce and Caroline	Seubert, Mary
Harper, Duane	Spreen, Bryan W
Hart, Irvin & Linda	Steffen Estate, Richard
Hauser, Scott	Swarey, Enos
Hein, Dawn	Thieme, Kim
Herbig, Joseph	Thomas, Everett
Hildebrand, Charles M	Thomas, Frank
Hutman, Keith	Verdone, Robert
Illmann, Judith	Verdone, Todd
Jardine, Neil	Wagner, William
Joles, Judy	Weinke, Sheryl
Jump River Realty	Westrich, Mary Est
Kafka, Koltin	White, Kathy
Kenny, Tom	Windle, Geraldine
Klaver, Jeff	



HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

Source: Safe Electricity



SMARTHUB® TIPS FOR SUMMER

Get the 411 on Your Electric Usage

Are you taking advantage of the energy management tools available in SmartHub? They are one of the many services Taylor Electric Cooperative offers to help members conserve energy for lower energy bills.

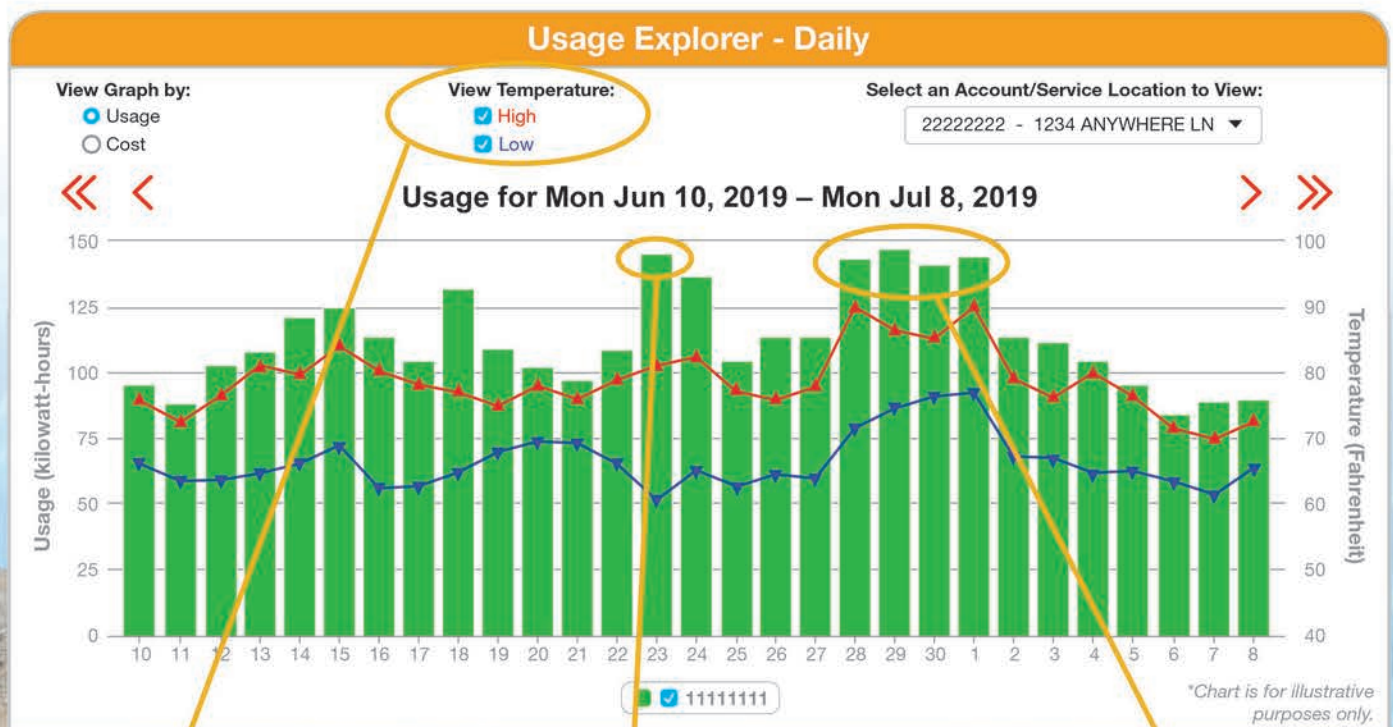
In addition to using SmartHub to pay bills, you can also use it to access Usage Explorer, which allows you to monitor your home's energy usages within two days of using it. This way, you can see how much

energy you're using and find ways to use less. You can also get an idea of how much your next bill will be.

After logging into your account, you'll find the Usage Explorer under the My Usage tab. If you turn on the View Temperature option, you'll see what the weather was like, by your zip code, for any billing period. It's one of the best ways to see the effect the summer weather has on your electric usage. This is especially

helpful considering nearly 50 percent of the typical home's energy bill is due to heating and cooling costs.

It's easy to sign up for SmartHub. Just go to www.taylorlectric.org and click on the link. All you need is your electric account number, your last name, zip code, and an email address. Or, you can download the TEC version of the SmartHub app to your smartphone or tablet from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.



Tip: Analyze your usage by selecting the *View Temperature* feature. It shows the daily highs (red) and lows (blue) along with your daily energy usage. This allows you to see the correlation between high temps and higher usage.

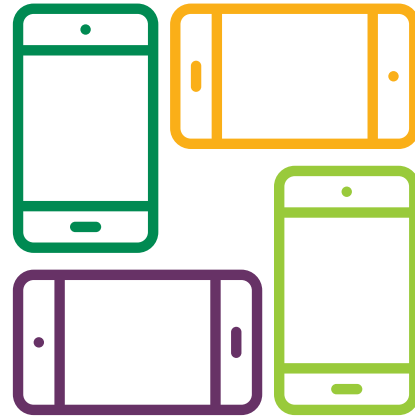
It's only natural for usage to go up when it's really hot outside. The greater the difference between the outside temperature and your thermostat setting, the longer and harder your AC system will work to make up the difference—and the more it will cost. For example, when it's 102 degrees outside and your thermostat is set to 78 degrees, that's a 24 degree difference. If you lower the setting to 72 degrees, the difference is increased by another 6 degrees.

Tip: For every degree you raise your thermostat in the summer or lower it in the winter, you can save about 4 to 6 percent on your cooling and heating costs.

The number of hours that temperatures are high outside, and the number of consecutive days they stay high, affect energy consumption—it will take your AC longer to cool down your home after baking in the sun all day. When evenings remain warm, it takes even longer. Plus, your family may be using more electricity as they spend more time inside watching TV and playing video games...and maybe cranking down the AC.



FOUR TIPS FOR BETTER SMARTPHONE IMAGES



You don't have to be a professional to take quality photos. Embrace your inner photographer by following these four tips for better smartphone images!



Clean the camera lens.

Your phone goes with you everywhere, collecting dirt and dust and leaving a cloudy layer that can ruin the quality of your photos. Wipe down the lens before you snap a picture. Use a soft handkerchief when possible, but a shirt sleeve works too!



Adjust the camera focus.

Smartphones automatically focus on the foreground, but that may not include your intended subject. The best way to correct this is by manually setting your camera's focus.

Tap the portion of the screen you want in focus. This results in a square or circle icon appearing over your intended subject, producing a sharper image.



Get closer.

This may seem obvious, but the closer you can get to your subject, the better. Avoid zooming in, which leads to blurry, pixelated images. That said, keep safety in mind when you're taking pictures in potentially hazardous situations.



Use natural light.

Natural light is your friend! It's beautiful, free, everywhere and constant. Natural light also lets you be more creative when playing with shadows and silhouettes.

Avoid using the flash when possible. Flash can overexpose or wash out the image colors. You can always adjust the brightness with your camera's exposure tool.



Bonus Tip: Take photos during the golden hours, the time just after sunrise or before sunset. Photographers know this is the best time to take photos because of the softer and warmer lighting the sun provides.

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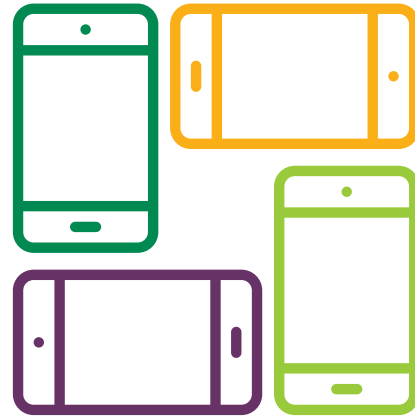


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