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WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* July 2021 NEWS

SUMMERTIME *Blues*

of the Berry Best Kind

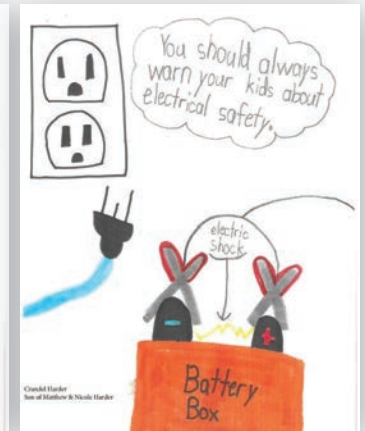


TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

ELECTRICAL SAFETY POSTER CONTEST



Congratulations to **Isabella Hraby**, daughter of Lyle and Beth Hraby, local winner of WECA's Electrical Safety Month poster contest. Isabella was chosen as the local winner through Taylor Electric Cooperative and received a \$25 gift card. Our top three choices were forwarded on to Madison, where they were judged on the state level for a chance to win a Chromebook, \$100 gift card, or \$75 gift card.



Rounding out our top three were **Braxton Cyborowski**, son of Mike and Connie Cyborowski, Medford; and **Crandel Harder**, son of Matthew and Nicole Harder, Medford. They each received a \$10 gift card. Congratulations to all!

Congratulations

The following students each won a \$500 Taylor Electric Cooperative Scholarship



Emma Wegerer is the daughter of Jamie and Karen Wegerer, Medford. In the fall she will be attending UW-Stevens Point to become a high school history teacher. In her free time, she runs a roadside flower stand with her sisters. She enjoys learning how to manage money and has even started a retirement account. Emma loves to travel as well as plan trips and backpacking adventures. She also enjoys hunting and fishing with her dad, downhill skiing with her mom, and snowboarding with her sisters. Emma also shoots with the Medford Rifle Club.



Morgan Hawkey is the daughter of Dean and Lesa Hawkey. She will be attending Northcentral Technical College to pursue an associate's degree in small business entrepreneurship. Her future goals are to open a pet grooming business and to obtain a professional dog trainer certification through the Council for Professional Dog Trainers®. Some of her hobbies include showing beef cattle, working with animals, four-wheeling, snowmobiling, bargain shopping, volleyball, fishing, camping, and kayaking.



Ava Decker is the daughter of Scott and Michelle Decker. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, majoring in psychology. Some of her hobbies and interests include playing volleyball, painting/art, listening to music, thrifting, and fashion.

No photos or information available for the following scholarship recipients:

- Montana Albrecht** – Athens High School
- Tahtankka Damm** – Medford Area Senior High School
- Ryan Patrick** – Rib Lake High School



SUMMER SHIFT: **Small Steps for Savings**

When members save energy, they tend to save money. However, there is always something in our homes using electricity—whether to cool the home, turn on the lights, or run appliances. While using electricity is inevitable, HOW members choose to use it can be impactful.

The goal of the Summer Shift program is to shift non-essential electricity use to before 11 a.m. or after 7 p.m., June through August. These are times when electricity use is not at its peak and, therefore, not as expensive. So, how does Summer Shift work?

If members shift their electricity use, they may not necessarily save energy. They could use the same amount of electricity, but at a different time of the day. That is still beneficial because it means the cooperative's wholesale power provider—Dairyland Power Cooperative—did not have to purchase as much power when electricity costs were more expensive. When the cooperative saves, so do members.

The price of electricity purchased on the grid is always changing, based

on the need for electricity balanced with available generation resources. As need—or demand—rises during the day, the price of electricity increases as more generation resources (power plants, solar arrays, etc.) are needed to power homes, businesses, and other buildings or devices. When temperatures cool and things quiet down for the night, electricity demand drops as do prices for electricity.

Dairyland must ensure it has enough generation resources to cover all the electricity needs of its 24 member cooperatives, including Taylor Electric Cooperative, plus an additional reserve in case demand spikes above expectations. This means investments in additional resources to cover the needs of all members. If Taylor Electric Cooperative members—along with members of Dairyland's 23 other cooperatives—shift their electricity use to different times of the day, the overall “peak” is reduced.

When a member chooses to shift their electricity use, it helps spread out electricity use throughout the day. The less electricity cooperative members

use when prices are at their highest, the more stable Taylor Electric can keep our retail rates. The more members who choose to participate, the more impactful these savings become.

Tips:

- Set your thermostat to 78 degrees (or a level that is comfortable for the home, but a few degrees higher than normal). Closing curtains and shades will help the home feel cooler, longer. A ceiling fan or table fan throughout the afternoon will help circulate air.
- Set up a schedule for your smart thermostat and smart lighting options, ensuring a minimal amount of energy is used between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Charge electric vehicles overnight.
- Set the water heater to 120 degrees.
- Washing dishes in an ENERGY STAR dishwasher instead of by hand can save a home \$111 per year.
- Open the dishwasher after the wash cycle to let dishes air dry.

Contact your trusted energy advisor to learn more!

TAKE COVER WHEN A STORM IS BREWING

Sometimes a storm pops up or changes direction without any warning, while other times it is forecast days in advance and follows its predicted course. In either case, knowing what to do right before, during, and after a storm can help to keep you safe.

WHEN A STORM HITS

When stormy winds blow, follow these weather-related reminders from FEMA and the Red Cross:

- Never seek shelter under an isolated tree, tower, or utility pole, since lightning tends to strike tall objects.
- Immediately vacate elevated areas such as hills and mountain ridges and peaks.
- Get away from ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water.
- Stay away from objects that conduct electricity, including wires and fences (and golf clubs! Approximately 5 percent of annual lightning deaths and injuries in the United States happen on golf courses, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.)
- Never lie flat on the ground.
- Pick a safe place in your home, away from windows and doors, for family members to gather during a thunderstorm.
- Know the difference between a watch and a warning for extreme weather such as a tornado or severe thunderstorm. A watch means that the weather is possible in and near the area. A warning means that severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. A warning is more serious than a watch and means that there is imminent danger to life and property.

AFTER THE STORM

Once the storm is over, follow these safety tips from Safe Electricity:

- Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. Never touch (or use) electrical appliances, cords, wires, or switches while you are wet or standing in water.
- After a storm, a downed power line could be covered by standing water or debris. Never go near a downed line and warn others to stay away. If you see a downed line, call 9-1-1, and a crew will be dispatched to de-energize the power and address the problem safely.
- The same safety know-how applies to a downed power line you might encounter while driving or after an auto accident. In either case, do not get out. Instead, call 9-1-1 to report the downed line (pull over first if you are driving). If you must exit your vehicle after an accident because of

a fire or smoke, make a solid, clean jump out, landing with both feet together. Then make solid hops with your feet together, hopping as far away as you can.

- If your home has been damaged by a flood, turn off the power to your house if it is safe to do so. (Do not turn power off at the breaker box while standing in water or in damp conditions.)
- If the wiring, electrical system, or appliances have been damaged by water, have your home inspected by an electrician; also, have appliances serviced by a qualified technician before using them.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR AFTER A STORM

When the skies clear and the birds sing, know that the storm's fury could have created **electrical hazards that you may or may not be able to see**. Conditions in which stray electricity could energize the area, a person or objects include:

DOWNED POWER LINES

- On the ground.
- Under storm debris.
- Draped over or touching a metal fence.
- Covered by standing water.
- Across or by the road.
- Hidden in tree branches.

OTHER POSSIBLE DAMAGE

- Drooping or sagging lines (never try to move one).
- Split or broken utility poles.
- Damage to a padmount transformer (green box).
- Lightning strike to a substation transformer.
- Damaged or unstable guy wires.

NEVER GO NEAR downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment to assess damage or clean up the area.

STAY AWAY and call 9-1-1 to report damage.

Power lines and other electrical equipment **do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized**.

—SafeElectricity



MORE SAVINGS, MORE FIREWORKS.



Membership has its advantages!

Present your Co-op Connections card at any of the local businesses listed below for discounts and other specials!

Advance Auto Parts, Medford

10% discount on purchases up to \$200.

Broadway Theater, Medford

Purchase any size popcorn and get a matching size soda for free.

Glass to Go, Inc., Medford

5% off in-shop windshield replacement. Buy one Rain-X Wiper Blade, get second blade ½ off.

Jack's Auto Repair LLC, Stetsonville

10% off exhaust repairs over \$50, 10% off any brake-related parts and labor.

Life's High Points Photography, Medford

15% discount

Medford Health Mart Pharmacy, Medford

20% off any Health Mart labe.

Meyer Auto Body, Medford

5% discount on any body repair over \$500. Up to a \$100 value.

Meyer Lumber, Dorchester

5% discount on discountable items, excluding all sale and clearance items (cash sales only). Cannot be used in conjunction with any other discounts/promotions. Card must be presented at each purchase.

Meyer Tire and Service, Medford

\$5 off any passenger or light truck tire—not good in conjunction with any other coupons or offers.

Napa Auto Parts, Medford

10% discount on cash & carry items (excludes engines, engine kits, transmissions, oil labor, and sale items).

Northwoods Embroidery, Medford

Free digitizing on embroidery. Free set up on first color of screen printing.

River Country Cooperative

Athens, Dorchester, Greenwood, Hamburg, Owen
10% discount on all dog and cat food.

Ron's Auto Body Repair, Medford

10% off for anyone 55 or older on labor.

Schierl Tire & Service Center, Medford

\$5 off an oil change. \$10 off parts for service repairs.

Stetsonville Lumber, Stetsonville

5% off single purchase over \$500—not good in conjunction with other coupons or offers.

Stetsonville Oil Company, Stetsonville

\$5 off oil lube filter service.

Strama's Self-Serve, Medford

Buy one ice cream (cone or dish) and get the second ½ price.

Subway, Medford & Colby

50¢ off any sub or salad.

Tallman Landscaping

5% off labor on projects over \$1,000—free estimates.

Taylor Credit Union, Medford and Abbotsford

Free rental for one year on 3"x5"x22 1/2" safe deposit box—new rentals only. Requires existing savings account or initial savings account with \$5 balance. Limit one per family.

Wanke Builders, Medford

Free foundation waterproofing on your new home purchase.

Willow Cottage Pet Grooming, Medford

\$5 off full groom service.

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

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715-678-2411 • 800-862-2407
email: taylrec@tayloelectric.org
website: www.tayloelectric.org

Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Where can I get a COVID vaccination?

Clark County

Clark County Health Department
517 Court Street, Room 105
Neillsville, WI 54456
(715) 743-5105
<https://www.clarkcounty.wi.gov/vaccine-information>

Transportation Services for Elderly and Disabled

Abby Vans Inc
(715) 743-3364
<https://www.abbyvans.com/>

Aging & Disability Resource Center of Clark County
(715) 743-5166
(866) 743-5144
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/consumer/clark.htm>

MTM, Inc.
(866) 907-1493
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nemt/index.htm>

Lincoln County

Lincoln County Health Department
607 N Sales St
Merrill, WI
(715) 536-0307
<https://co.lincoln.wi.us/health/page/how-get-covid-19-vaccine>

Transportation Services for Elderly and Disabled

Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin
(serving Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon and Wood Counties)
(888) 486-9545
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/consumer/central.htm>

MTM, Inc.
(866) 907-1493
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nemt/index.htm>

Marathon County

Marathon County Health Department
1000 Lake View Dr Ste 100
Wausau, WI
(715) 261-1000
<https://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/HealthDepartment/COVID19/VaccineInformation.aspx>

Transportation Services for Elderly and Disabled

Metro Ride
(715) 842-9287
<https://www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/MetroRide.aspx>

Aging and Disability Resource Center of Central Wisconsin
(serving Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon and Wood Counties)
(888) 486-9545
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/consumer/central.htm>

MTM, Inc.
(866) 907-1493
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nemt/index.htm>

Questions about the vaccine? Call the Wisconsin Department of Health Services TOLL-FREE COVID vaccination hotline at 844-684-1064. And remember, COVID vaccinations are FREE!

Taylor County

Taylor County Health Department
845 E Broadway Medford
Medford, WI
(715) 965-8830
<https://www.co.taylor.wi.us>

Transportation Services for Elderly and Disabled

Aging and Disability Resource Center of the Northwoods (serving Forest County, Taylor County, Forest County Potawatomi Community)
(800) 699-6704
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/consumer/northwoods.htm#overlay-context=adrc/index.htm>

MTM, Inc.
(866) 907-1493
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/nemt/index.htm>

I got vaccinated because...

I want my kids to be able to return to a more normal school experience in the fall. They were troopers about remote classes and hybrid school weeks, but they need the kind of hands-on learning that can only come from consistent, face-to-face time with their teachers and friends in a real classroom. Vaccinations mean there's less of a chance another outbreak will kick in another round of remote schooling. Also, I need to stay healthy to keep up with them.



—Dana Kelroy, editor of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News*



Wisconsin COVID-19 Vaccine Info

