

# West Texas Kindness Helps Our Communities Thrive



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/CEO RYAN BARTLETT

**AS THE SAYING GOES, “I WASN’T BORN IN Texas, but I got here as soon as I could.”**

My family and I moved here four years ago in search of a new adventure. I sought to work for an organization that met my professional requirements while being in an area that would benefit my family. Being raised in the south east I knew that folks in Texas were always hardworking and kind hearted and the idea of working in Texas was appealing, so we made the move. After living here for only a few short months, we realized what an amazing area and what a wonderful group of people we had found.

One of the most evident strengths of our community lie with the success of our teachers and our schools. Taylor EC is proud to serve five area schools, which we also support through donations and volunteer work. We proudly serve ACHS, Hawley, Merkel, Trent and Wylie Schools.

Each year, Taylor EC has the honor of serving teachers from these member schools during their In-Service week. Taylor EC employees serve a hot meal, allowing for a well-deserved break during their day of planning. During our interactions with Faculty, we hear about projects being planned and witness their excitement for the upcoming school year. The amount of love and care teachers put into preparation is inspiring, and we are honored to help them kick off their school year on a good note. Students’ success is the direct result of teachers’ attention to and love for their jobs and pupils. Here at Taylor EC, we see the results of that dedication as we interact with students through our student programs.

Each year, Taylor EC awards scholarships to local students and sponsors participants on the Government-in-Action Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. Applicants are accomplished and talented students who are involved in their school and their community; volunteers, band members, choir members, athletes, FFA competitors and 4-H members. In May, we had the opportunity to host over 250 students from Merkel High School over a three-day period. The students learned about all

the different positions at Taylor EC and how experience, education and ambition are critical criteria when applying for a job. Their eyes were opened to the diverse opportunities, both professionals and skilled workers, right here at Taylor EC.

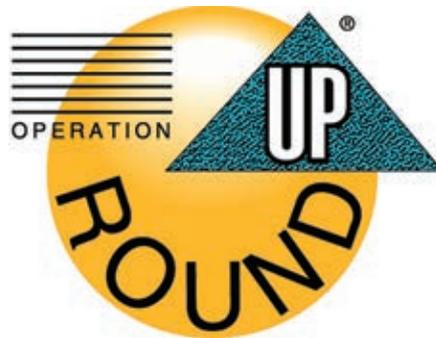
There is no doubt that the strong support of our local schools and a variety of school-related activities in our communities are creating an environment for strong student engagement—ultimately leading to stronger, healthier communities.

Another way Taylor EC is involved and supports the local community is through Operation Round-Up, a voluntary program. Operation Round-up facilitates financial contributions to local volunteer fire departments, directly impacting the communities we serve. The program is funded by rounding up members’ monthly bills to the nearest dollar. The annual average contribution by an individual member is small—about \$7—but the cooperative effort is large! Together, the Taylor EC membership has given over \$550,000 to local VFDs. Round-up funds help the fire departments that protect our members’ homes and property. These brave men and women never hesitate

to rush to aid during emergency situations—I am honored to facilitate Operation Round-up.

Concern for Community is one of the 7 cooperative principals. Hosting a teacher’s luncheon, assisting high school kids with life skills, and facilitating a fund for local volunteer fire departments are some of the ways Taylor EC fulfills this cooperative principal.

The humanity of the people in West Texas never ceases to amaze me. I am delighted to call this area home. I am raising my family here, and I have experienced firsthand Texas hospitality. I know that in our area, we support one another through both good and bad times, and we do what it takes to aid success in our communities. Taylor EC is honored to do our small part by leaving our community better than we found it. It is through this community relationship that Taylor EC, YOUR local provider, has continued to grow and thrive over the past 80 years.





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# Water, Water Everywhere— But Not Near Electricity

**DURING SUMMER MONTHS, YOU'RE LIKELY TO TAKE MORE SHOWERS THAN USUAL SINCE** there's more swimming, sports and yardwork going on. That makes it a good time to make sure your bathroom is a safe place.

The bathroom is one of the few places in the home where electrical appliances and water have a great chance to meet—and a great chance to cause electrical shock or death. If you have kids, the bathroom can be a room of hazards, electrical or otherwise, waiting to happen.

But it doesn't have to be. **Try these tips to dampen the danger:**

- ▶ All power outlets in the bathroom should be equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters, which can sense when an electric current is improperly grounding and automatically shut down the power, potentially preventing a nasty shock.
- ▶ Use a bathmat with a nonskid bottom and use a nonslip mat or decals on the floor of the tub.
- ▶ Keep medications and vitamins in their original containers to avoid confusion, and always choose child-resistant caps. Keep medications and cleaning supplies locked away if there are small children in the home.
- ▶ Make a storage space under the counter and out of the way for hair dryers, curling irons and other electrical appliances that could be hazardous with water contact. Educate children on the dangers of mixing water and electricity.
- ▶ Never handle electrical appliances when your hands are wet or you are standing in water.
- ▶ Any exposed or frayed wiring in the bathroom—and anywhere else inside or outside your home—should be addressed and repaired immediately.
- ▶ Check the temperature of bathwater and turn the tap off before putting children in the tub. Tap water can instantly scald if it is too hot. Lower the temperature on your water heater to 120 degrees to guard against burns, but keep bathwater at 100 degrees or lower. Also, never leave children unattended during bath time.
- ▶ If you have toddlers, use toilet seat locks to prevent drowning.
- ▶ Use only electrical appliances and cords that bear the label of an independent testing laboratory, such as UL.



## Taylor Electric Cooperative

226 County Road 287 • P.O. Box 250  
Merkel, TX 79536

### PRESIDENT/CEO

Ryan Bartlett

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cecil Davis, Board Chairman, *Zone 1*  
Leland Robinson, Board Vice Chairman, *Zone 1*  
David McFall, Secretary-Treasurer, *Zone 2*  
Garland Carter, *Zone 2*  
Richard Petree, *At-Large*  
Kathryn Rainey, *Zone 3*  
Gay Simmons, *Zone 3*

## HANDY WAYS TO PAY YOUR BILL

### Online

[taylorelectric.com](http://taylorelectric.com)

### Taylor Electric App

Available on your Apple or Android device

### By Phone

(325) 793-8500

*Visa, Mastercard, checks accepted.*  
*Payments credited immediately.*

### In Person

**Main office hours:**

**7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Monday–Friday**

226 CR 287, off I-20, west of Abilene Wells  
Lane exit 274 between Tye and Merkel

**Abilene office hours:**

**7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Monday–Friday**

7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

*Visa, Mastercard, checks, cash and money  
orders accepted.*

*Payments credited immediately.*

### Drop Box

**Main office drop box at front gate: 24/7**

**Abilene office drop box (next to first  
door on the left): 24/7**

*Checks and money orders accepted.*

*Payments credited next business day.*

### Pay Stations

- **United Supermarket**, 521 S. Access Road, Clyde
- **Food Plaza #4**, 109 S.E. Fifth St., Cross Plains
- **Cash Saver**, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene
- **United Supermarket**, 2160 Pine St., Abilene
- **Check Express**, 906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

*Cash, checks, money orders and debit  
cards accepted.*

*Payments credited next business day.*



**DUNCAN BACON**  
Wylie High School



**TALYN EATON**  
Jim Ned High School



**MALONE GRAHAM**  
Jim Ned High School



**HADLEE HICKS**  
Hawley High School



**HANNAH KIRBY**  
Wylie High School



**DARCY MEIER**  
Merkel High School



**DAYLON MOORE**  
Wylie High School



**JENNA MOORE**  
Jim Ned High School



**GARIN WALTERS**  
Merkel High School



**BRIANA WESTBROOK**  
Wylie High School

# 2019 Taylor EC Scholarship Winners

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CONGRATULATES** our 2019 scholarship winners. These 10 students were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

Congratulations to each one of them as they begin school this fall.

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Duncan Bacon</b>     | Wylie High School   |
| <b>Talyn Eaton</b>      | Jim Ned High School |
| <b>Malone Graham</b>    | Jim Ned High School |
| <b>Hadlee Hicks</b>     | Hawley High School  |
| <b>Hannah Kirby</b>     | Wylie High School   |
| <b>Darcy Meier</b>      | Merkel High School  |
| <b>Daylon Moore</b>     | Wylie High School   |
| <b>Jenna Moore</b>      | Jim Ned High School |
| <b>Garin Walters</b>    | Merkel High School  |
| <b>Briana Westbrook</b> | Wylie High School   |



# Be Efficient in the Kitchen With No-Bake Recipes

**COOKING IN THE SUMMER CAN BE UNBEARABLE, AND THE LAST THING YOU WANT TO DO** on the hottest, most humid days is turn on the oven to make dinner. Your air conditioner works extra hard during summer months to keep your home cool, so why not give it a break with easy, efficient no-bake recipes? The recipes below are meant to help you make a delicious meal for your family—without breaking a sweat! Stay cool, and happy cooking!

## Chicken Salad on Sourdough

- 2 cans (10 ounces each) chicken in water
- ½ cup low-fat sour cream
- ½ cup Greek yogurt
- 2 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons seasoned salt
- ½ cup sliced almonds
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- 8 slices sourdough bread
- ½ cup spinach leaves
- 1 large tomato, sliced (optional)

1. Combine chicken, sour cream, yogurt, celery, mustard, salt, almonds and cranberries in a large bowl and mix well.
  2. Top 4 slices of bread with chicken mixture and spinach leaves. Add sliced tomatoes if desired. Top with remaining bread and serve immediately.
- Serves 4.

## Juddi's Pimento Cheese

- 1 pound longhorn or mild or sharp cheddar cheese, grated
  - 6 ounces chopped pimiento
  - ½ cup minced onion
  - ½ cup chopped green olives
  - 3 teaspoons capers
  - ⅔ cup mayonnaise
- Use the following ingredients to your taste: hot sauce, fresh lime juice and minced pickled jalapeño peppers or other peppers.

1. Mix all ingredients and spread on bread to make sandwiches or use as a dip with crackers.
- Serves 4.

## Two-Ingredient Hummus

- 1 can (15 ounces) chickpeas or white beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 jar (6 ounces) marinated artichoke hearts, undrained
- Salt, to taste
- Olive oil, to taste
- Pita chips, for serving

1. Combine the chickpeas (or beans) and artichoke in a food processor and purée until smooth. Add salt and/or olive oil if needed to achieve desired taste.
  2. Serve with pita chips or flatbread. Leftovers can be stored in a refrigerator up to 3 days.
- Makes about 2½ cups.

## Broccoli Salad

- 4 cups chopped broccoli (florets only)
- ½ cup golden raisins
- ½ cup sunflower seeds
- 1 small onion, chopped
- ¼ cup bacon bits or pieces
- 2 tablespoons chopped red bell pepper
- ½ cup sugar
- ½ tablespoon apple cider vinegar or white wine vinegar
- ½ cup regular or fat-free mayonnaise

1. Mix broccoli, raisins, sunflower seeds, onion, bacon and bell pepper in a large bowl.
  2. In a small bowl, mix sugar, vinegar and mayonnaise, then pour over broccoli mixture and blend well.
- Serves 4-6.

## Lemon Truffles

- 2½ cups lemon cake mix
- 8 tablespoons (1 stick) butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- Zest of 1 large lemon

FOR LEMON CAKE MIX:

- 2¾ cups cake flour
- 1¾ cups sugar
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- Zest of 2 lemons

1. Combine the cake mix ingredients in a large bowl and stir gently to combine.
  2. Add the butter, lemon juice and lemon zest. Use your hands to combine until the flour is moist and flaky.
  3. Roll dough into 2-inch balls, roll in sugar and refrigerate 1 hour to set before serving.
- Makes about 3 dozen truffles.

# Electricity 101: The Flip of a Switch

*Have you ever wondered why they call it electricity?*

**IT'S NAMED AFTER THOSE TINY PARTICLES INSIDE ATOMS CALLED ELECTRONS, AND** that's the place to start in understanding how power plants make something that reliably lights your home with the flip of a switch.

Getting all those electrons to march together inside a wire has been described as one of civilization's greatest and most complex engineering feats.

Just about all electricity starts with the same scientific phenomenon: Spinning a magnet inside a coil of wires generates electricity. That's why, deep inside most power plants, are large turbines turned by different means—the pull of gravity on water at a hydroelectric dam; the rising heat from burning coal or natural gas at a fossil fuel station; atomic energy at a nuclear power plant; or wind turning the blades of a wind turbine. One exception is solar energy, which uses materials that produce electricity when they're activated by sunlight.

Every one of those power plants is incredibly complicated—think about what you would do if you were handed a lump of coal and were told to make it run your refrigerator.

Most large generating plants need large banks of transformers to boost the voltage of the electricity for the trip of hundreds of miles through wires held up by tall transmission towers. As it nears your neighborhood, the voltage is reduced at one of those fenced-in complexes of wires and transformers called a substation. Lower voltage makes the electricity appropriate for home energy use. As the electricity gets closer to your home or business, the

voltage is reduced again with smaller transformers, which you can typically see mounted on a nearby utility pole or inside a ground-level green box.

Beyond these basics, all that flowing electricity needs to be coordinated so it gets to the right house just as it's needed. That's where Taylor Electric Cooperative comes in. With safety a top priority, our line crews take care of our distribution lines that bring the power to your home. These highly trained teams perform routine maintenance to keep the lines in good order and respond quickly to restore power when storms or other factors cause an outage.

When you think about it, that's a lot of power in the simple flip of a switch!



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## Help Neighbors Keep Cool

**IT'S HARD ENOUGH TO ENDURE THE** summer heat when you're healthy, fit and have an air-conditioned home. But not everyone is as prepared as you may be.

Keep an eye on your neighbors and others who might need help getting through the hottest summer days, which can put people at risk for heat-related illnesses and can exacerbate existing medical conditions.

Doctors recommend that you spend the hottest part of a sweltering summer day indoors enjoying the air conditioning.

But for those whose homes don't have air conditioning or who can't afford to turn it on, the risk is acute. That's especially true for the elderly and ill, who could be at risk for heatstroke or even death.

**If you know someone whose house might get too hot to handle this summer:**

- ▶ Call them or stop by to check on them every day.
- ▶ Arrange a phone tree so others can help check on neighbors who live alone when you're not able to.
- ▶ Encourage neighbors or family members to use air conditioners during the hottest part of the day or spend it in an air-conditioned public place, like a mall or library.
- ▶ If you find someone in medical distress because of the heat, call 911.
- ▶ Show your neighbors you care enough to check in. You could save someone's life.



# Stay Back and Stay Safe

**WORKING WITH ELECTRICITY CAN BE A DANGEROUS JOB, ESPECIALLY** for lineworkers. In fact, *USA Today* lists line repairers and installers among the most dangerous jobs in the U.S. That's why, at Taylor Electric Cooperative, safety is our No. 1 priority. This is not an empty slogan: Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but more important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance—and your help!

## Distractions Can Be Deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineworker is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews—and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property.

You will recognize Taylor EC employees by their uniforms and the co-op's logo on our service trucks. You may also recognize our lineworkers because they live right here in our community.

## Slow Down and Move Over

In addition to giving lineworkers space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. One work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes, on average, across the U.S., and 70 of those each day result in injuries. There is one fatality each week from these accidents. The lineworkers' focus is on the work at hand, not on the road, so we need you to watch out for them.

Also, never text and drive—around work crews or at any other time. That message can wait, and the momentary distraction can change lives forever.

## Keep Poles Clear and Safe

Nails, staples and other attachments to utility poles not only get in lineworkers' way when they are trying to climb poles, but these foreign objects can also damage the workers' safety gear, exposing them to possible shock or electrocution. Never post signs or attach anything to utility poles.

Guy wires may occasionally be inconveniently located, but please leave them alone. The wires provide support for poles, and removing or modifying them can weaken the system, causing poles, power lines and possibly lineworkers to come crashing to the ground.

Taylor EC's employees are looking out for you. Help them stay safe by returning the favor.