

CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,
President / CEO

Powering the Difference

We have a saying in our industry “if you’ve seen one co-op, you’ve seen one co-op.” It means that each cooperative is individually unique. We may appear the same but, at our core, we are uniquely different because we cater to the individual needs of our members. At Taylor EC, our difference is in our mission to improve the quality of life for our members. We do so by focusing on three key areas: member service, community, and innovation.

Superior member service is comprised of quality people and member centric services. Our employees work diligently for our members and their passion for success is unmatched. They push Taylor EC to stay on the cusp of new technologies to meet the changing needs of our membership. They know the value of having a live person answering phones, working dispatch, and on standby 24 hours a day. We offer two office locations and multiple communication paths giving our members unparalleled

“Our mission to improve the quality of life for our members will always remain our driving force”

access to their co-op. We provide fiber internet, solar, and a

staff electrician as just a few of our member centric services. Our investment in the betterment of our membership does not end at the co-op door, but it continues into the communities we serve.

Taylor EC knows that the success of our cooperative is reflective of the success of our community. We invest time, money, and expertise to build the local economy and strengthen relationships with members. We do so through cooperative programs such as Operation Round-Up which support our volunteer fire departments. We provide scholarship opportunities for member students and help support local nonprofits through donations and volunteering. Showing care for our community is at

the heart of our cooperative spirit. In fact, it is the reason we are in business and it is why we choose to give back to member schools, deliver supplies to volunteer fire departments, and support countless non-profit organizations. It’s just who we are. Members serving members. We know that a strong community makes for a strong cooperative.

Superior member service and care for our community are certainly key factors of the co-op mission. But innovation has been a driving force in how we differentiate ourselves and provide for



our members since the co-op began. This continues with Taylor EC’s addition of Access Taylor fiber internet. The board’s foresight into a new industry and willingness to venture there, marks the strength of our co-op. We will continue to pursue new technologies that will improve our system, aid our services and which provide for our members.

At Taylor Electric Cooperative, our superior member service, concern for our community, and desire to continue to innovate, will continue to push the boundaries of what it means to be a cooperative. Our mission to improve the quality of life for our members will always remain our driving force and our mission. I’m so proud to share in this cooperative spirit alongside each of you.

SAVE THE DATE!



TAYLOR EC ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, April 16
Abilene Convention Center



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

Taylor Electric App

Available on your Apple or Android device

By Phone

(325) 793-8500

Payments credited immediately.

In Person

Office hours:

7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

Merkel location:

226 CR 287, Merkel 79536

Abilene location:

7966 Highway 83, Abilene 79602

Payments credited immediately.

Drop Box

Merkel office at front gate

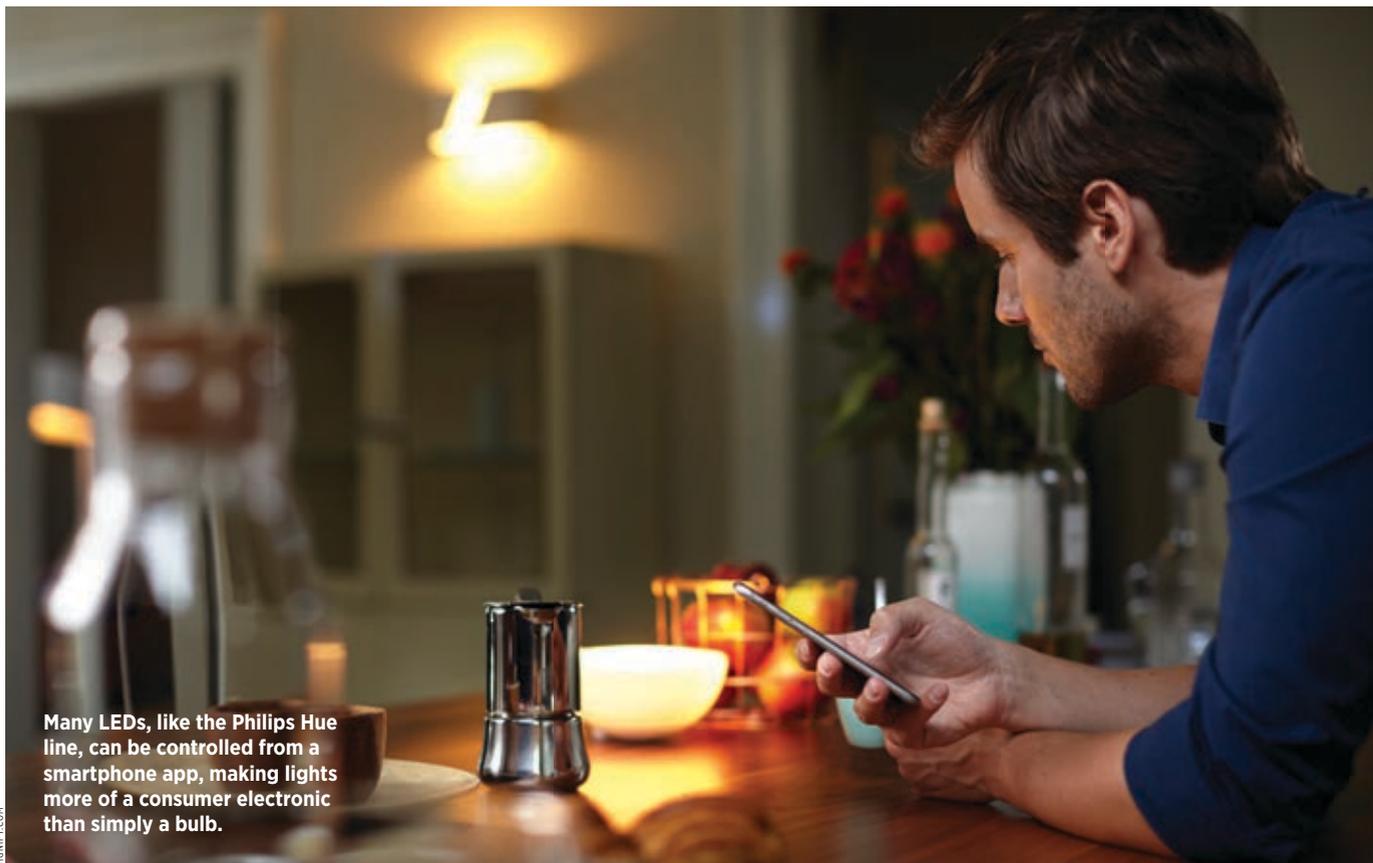
Abilene office next to first door on the left

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

Payments credited next business day.



Many LEDs, like the Philips Hue line, can be controlled from a smartphone app, making lights more of a consumer electronic than simply a bulb.

Look Into Programmable Lighting Options at Home

IN THE PAST, HOME LIGHTING CONTROLS WERE FAIRLY RUDIMENTARY. You flipped a switch on or off. Perhaps you had a dimmer switch. To turn lights on when you were on vacation, you plugged a lamp into a gadget with a dial, and it turned the lamp on and off. But today, consumers have more options than ever before.

The growing use of LED bulbs and the proliferation of smartphones and Wi-Fi have brought lighting options to a new level. In addition to using less energy, many LEDs can be controlled from a smartphone app.

When shopping for new LEDs, you essentially have two options. Less expensive LEDs still offer longer life, lower energy use and will work for most fixtures. However, consumers with older dimmer switches often find that they must replace switches to work with newer LEDs.

The second and more expensive option is a “connected” LED. These devices offer features like remote control of lights from a smartphone app or via voice control through an in-home speaker. They can also be connected to a home security

system or dimmed to enhance entertaining.

Connected LEDs require a central controller or hub, like Amazon’s Echo or Apple’s HomeKit products. The hub can control other smart devices and become the center of a smart home system.

Consumers can choose from a variety of manufacturers of connected LED bulbs. Some bulbs are compatible with different hubs or systems, but if you’re planning a major overhaul to your home lighting setup, it’s best to buy one brand and stick with it.

Smart lighting options aren’t necessarily about saving energy, but if they can help you remember to turn the lights off when you are not in a room, then energy savings can be achieved.

As technology continues to advance, more smart home products will become available with features that focus on home security and quality of life. If you’re interested in smart technologies for your home, research your options and understand how the system works with the other devices within your home.

Command, Control and Energy Savings for Co-op Members

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IS CHANGING THE WAY WE LIVE AND HAS THE POTENTIAL TO bring major changes to the way we use energy.

The number of Wi-Fi-enabled devices is projected to reach 75.44 billion worldwide by 2025, a fivefold increase in ten years. That pace keeps designers and manufacturers of consumer products looking for new ways to add value to their products with Wi-Fi-enabled features.

As artificial intelligence devices create opportunities for home automation, consumers will play larger roles in deciding how and when systems in their home are controlled.

Smart thermostats have been around for a while, and models that interconnect with home automation systems, like Amazon's Echo and Google Home, get a lot of



attention. Apps developed for those products are also available for Android and iOS devices.

As the energy sources we use to generate power evolve and management of the electric grid becomes more agile and sophisticated, the true potential of energy load control provides opportunities for more savings through wholesale power supply. That's challenging electric co-ops to find additional ways to strengthen partnerships with members who are interested in actively managing their energy

use. Two-way, real-time communications and artificial intelligence offer opportunities to learn consumer preferences and how best to reduce energy during peak demand periods.

It seems like virtual (or "voice") assistants and smartphone apps are able to manage more and more aspects of our homes with each passing day, and while many may not work seamlessly, they are likely to continue to improve.

With this ever-expanding technology, your heating, ventilating and air conditioning system can learn your schedule and regulate heating and cooling for your comfort based upon when you are home. Instead of maintaining a steady supply of hot water when no one is home to use it, water could be heated during periods when demand is lowest and electricity costs less, and then boosted to ideal temperatures to meet specific needs like bathing, laundry and washing dishes.

New induction stovetops, energy-efficient convection ovens and some countertop appliances offer more opportunities for efficiency in the kitchen—and the common trait of these efficient products is that they are all electric.

Nominating Committee To Meet February 18

Candidate applications due February 3 at 5:30 p.m.

TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S

Nominating Committee will meet February 18 at 10 a.m. to elect candidates for the 2020 board of directors ballot.

Committee members, who each represent a respective zone within Taylor EC's service territory, will screen and interview applicants to be placed on the ballot. Voting for the director seats will take place at the 81st annual meeting.

If you or someone you know is interested in running for a seat on the board of directors, contact Taylor EC for eligibility information and to obtain an application.

Applications are due by 5:30 p.m. February 3. Completed applications can be mailed to Taylor EC at P.O. Box 250, Merkel, TX 79536, or dropped off at the Merkel or Abilene office.

Nominating Committee Members

Zone 1—Taylor County

Craig Bessent, Chairman, (325) 692-5937
Colleen Richards, (325) 692-7122

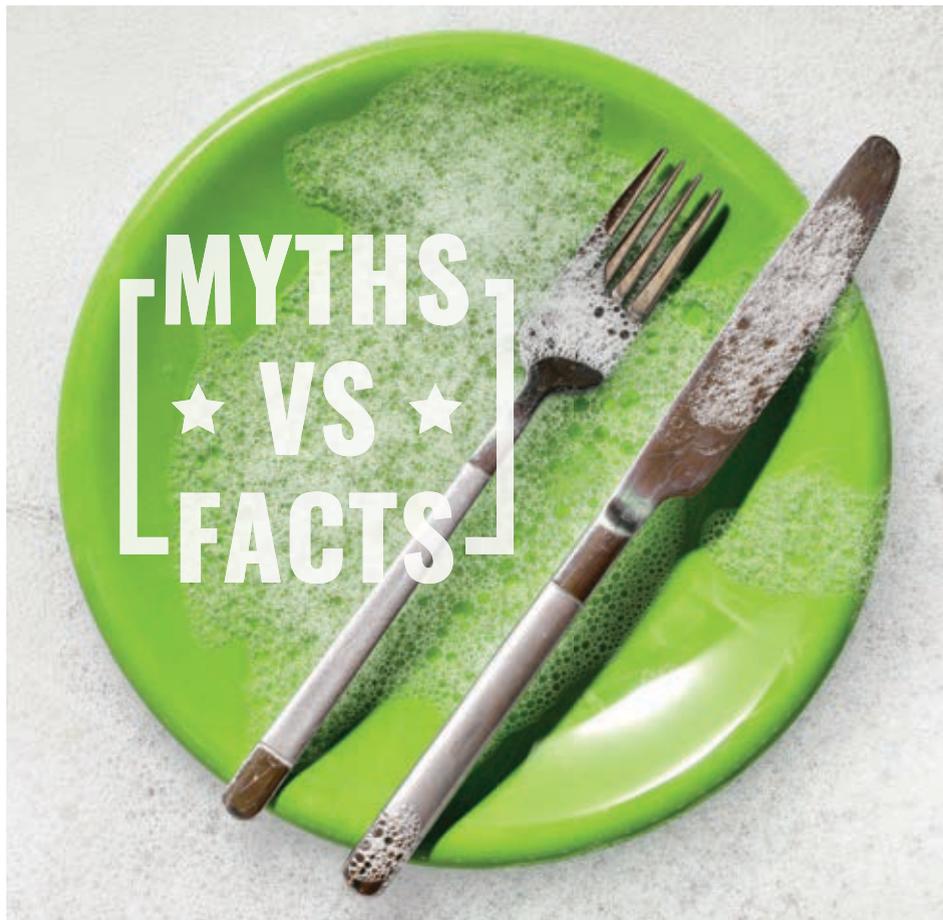
Zone 2—Callahan, Jones, Eastland, Shackelford counties

Tom Edd Johnson, (806) 928-8872
Ashley Thompson, (325) 529-6643
Dee Vinson, (325) 537-9323

Zone 3—Coke, Fisher, Nolan counties

Terry Locklar, (325) 320-6349
Jesse Mulanax, (325) 235-4278
Mary Ussery, (325) 798-3645

Somebody Told Me ...



WE ALL HAVE A “SOMEBODY” IN OUR LIVES WHO IS THE SOURCE of a wealth of information—some true and some not so reliable. “Somebody” has spread a lot of myths about saving energy, and we’d like to set the record straight.

Myth: Leaving a light on uses less energy than turning it off and on several times.

Even though a higher level of current is needed to turn on a light, this higher level is only used for a fraction of a second. When a light is kept on, it uses a lower level of power but for much longer. Leaving a light on for longer than a few seconds uses more energy than turning it off and back on as needed.

Myth: Appliances don’t use energy when they are turned off.

Thanks to standby power settings, most appliances constantly use energy to be ready for immediate usage. These “energy vampires” cannot be turned completely off without unplugging the device altogether.

Myth: Closing air registers saves energy.

Forced-air heating systems are designed to operate with all of the registers open. The blower won’t perform as well with registers closed and can create whistling in the ducts. In some

cases, duct systems have so many leaks that closing a register won’t force more warm air into other rooms—it will force more air out of the leaks.

Myth: Washing dishes by hand rather than running them through the dishwasher can save energy.

Hand-washing a load of dishes requires a lot of hot water and therefore a lot of energy. Today, most dishwashers have energy-efficient settings that typically allow you to run a load of dishes using less water and less energy than washing by hand.

Myth: Electronic chargers don’t use energy if plugged in and disconnected from the device.

Most chargers use power while plugged in but not connected to their device. If your charger feels warm to the touch, it is most likely using power. It is best to just assume that all of your chargers waste energy when left plugged in, so unplug them when they are not being used.

Myth: Most heat is lost through windows.

While heat can be lost through windows, window heat loss is only a small percentage of the total heat loss in most homes. Typically, walls account for much more heat loss because of their large surface area. It’s best to consider insulating walls before upgrading windows.

Myth: Replacing windows is always a good investment.

New windows can increase security and comfort, but they’ll take 20–30 years to pay for themselves. Replacing single-pane windows with double-pane low-e windows will save energy and money, but in a house with 20 windows, it’ll take you almost 24 years to recoup the cost of the new windows. That being said, if you plan to stay in your home and the existing windows are drafty and in disrepair, it’s probably a good idea to replace them.

Myth: Sleep mode is just fine for computers overnight.

Your computer continues to draw quite a lot of power in sleep mode so that the computer can be ready to pop back on at a moment’s notice. It is best to shut your computer down all the way overnight or when you are planning on not using it for a while.

WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.

PRIMARY WIRES

Primary wires carry 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation. That voltage is 60 times higher than the voltage that runs through your home's electrical outlets!

SURGE ARRESTORS

These protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

NEUTRAL WIRE

The neutral wire acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to the ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

SECONDARY SERVICE DROP

Carries 120/240 volts of electricity to consumers' homes. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer and a bare "neutral" wire that's connected to the ground wire on the pole.

GROUND WIRE

The ground wire connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

INSULATORS

Insulators prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

TELEPHONE, CABLE TV AND FIBER WIRES

These are typically the lowest wires on the pole.



NEVER NAIL POSTERS OR OTHER ITEMS TO UTILITY POLES. THESE CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD FOR LINEWORKERS.