

# CEO CORNER



Ryan Bartlett,  
President / CEO

## We Love Our Community

With Valentine's Day approaching, we can't think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of Taylor Electric Cooperative.

We know that when our founders—members of the community, like you—helped bring electricity to rural Texas decades ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, we have been at the forefront of helping our area thrive. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure its continued success—because we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of our members. This focus on the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. Taylor EC knows that electricity and high speed, quality internet are critical needs for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Throughout the co-op's existence, our charitable programs and other outreach projects have fed hungry families, enabled those in need to keep their lights on, educated students and so much more—and we couldn't do any of this without you, our members.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower Taylor EC through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is constantly changing, fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. But one thing remains the same: By working together, I'm certain that we can continue to do good things for our community.



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## Stay Warm on the Coldest Days

**FEBRUARY CAN BE** one of the coldest months of the year. That doesn't mean you have to be cold all month, especially inside your own home.

Dressing in layers, wearing socks with your slippers and staying active are no-cost, no-tech ways to stay cozy indoors even if all you can see for miles is snow and ice. Also:

**Block drafts.** If your windows are old or made from a single pane of glass, it's time to upgrade. Energy-efficient glass—and windows with double panes—will go a long way toward keeping cold air from blowing into your house. They also could reduce the amount you spend on winter energy bills.

**Seal leaks.** Also great draft-blockers, weatherstripping and caulk can plug holes around windows and doors and wherever the inside of an outdoor wall is penetrated by a cable or phone line.

**Make the bed.** An electric blanket—one with an automatic shut-off and the mark of a recognized testing laboratory like UL—can keep you cozy at bedtime even when you turn the whole-house thermostat down to save energy overnight. ■



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE**

**Taylor EC's  
83rd Annual  
Meeting**

April 21, 2022

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## Taylor Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### CONTACT US

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

**Phone** (325) 793-8500

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

### 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

**24/7**

**Outage  
Hotline**

For information and  
to report outages,  
please call us.

**LOCAL**

(325) 793-8500

### 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

Payments credited immediately.

#### IN PERSON

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

**Merkel** 226 CR 287, Merkel 79536

**Abilene** 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

• Cash Saver, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene

• United Supermarket, 2160 Pine St., Abilene

• Check Express, 906 E. Broadway Ave.,  
Sweetwater

Payments credited next business day.

#### VISIT US ONLINE

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



Check us out at

[TexasCoopPower.com/taylor](http://TexasCoopPower.com/taylor)



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## Your Home's Outlets Aren't All-Powerful

**ARE YOUR ELECTRICAL** outlets overstuffed with power strips, extension cords and outlet splitters? That's not just an unsightly tripping hazard; it's a fire hazard.

Plugging more appliances, lights and electronics into a single outlet than its circuit is meant to handle causes the receptacle or cords to overheat and can potentially start an electrical fire. The Consumer Product Safety Commission attributes 3,500 fires each year to outlet issues.

Apart from the fire risk, overloading an electrical outlet can also damage appliances and cause power outages.

How do you know if you're pushing your outlet to the brink? Check for these common indicators of electrical hazards.

**Hot outlets.** If you can't touch a cord, plug or faceplate for more than five seconds without pulling your hand away, the outlet is overloaded.

**Discolored wall plates.** These can be a sign of excess heat in the wall.

**Burning odor.** If you notice a burning odor emanating from switches or outlets, call 911 and turn off the main breaker.

**Shocks.** Small shocks from touching appliances or outlets could point to danger.

**Tripped breakers and blown fuses.** If breakers repeatedly trip or fuses continue to blow after you replace them, the wiring cannot handle the outlet's load.

**Flickering lights.** Flickering, blinking or dimming lights could indicate an overloaded circuit.

**Wavering screens.** Similarly, if your computer or TV screen wavers when a large appliance is plugged in, it could mean the outlet is overstressed.

**High-wattage appliances.** Never connect a high-wattage appliance, such as a refrigerator, dryer or space heater, to an extension cord.

Any of these signs could mean your home's wiring can't keep up with the energy demands of your large appliances and electronics. If you suspect electrical outlet overload in the house, call an electrical contractor immediately to inspect and fix the issue. The contractor can also install additional outlets and suggest ways to prevent them from overloading in the future.

Here are some crucial steps homeowners should take to avoid overloading an outlet:

- ▶ Avoid plugging too many appliances into a single outlet.
- ▶ Limit the use of extension cords.
- ▶ Upgrade the home's electrical system and add more outlets.
- ▶ Know the correct amperage of the system's fuses and circuit breakers. ■

# Have a Plan for Potential Power Outages

**WINTER CAN BRING** beautiful days for brisk walks and snow angels. Winter's fury can also produce icy roads, subfreezing wind chills and power outages.

Unfortunately, heavy snow and accumulating ice can easily bring tree limbs down on power lines, cutting off power to homes and businesses.

Planning can make riding out a prolonged power outage much safer and a little more comfortable. How long it takes for your power to be restored depends on several factors: the extent of the storm's destruction, the number of outages in your area and when it becomes safe for co-op personnel to get to the affected areas.

Take steps to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a winter storm long before one is forecast. A good way to start is to put an emergency kit together. **Taylor Electric Cooperative suggests starting with these items.**

**Water:** Stock up on bottled water for consumption. The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends storing at least 1 gallon per person per day.

**Food:** Have enough food, including nonperishable packaged or canned foods, juices, special foods for infants or the elderly, and snack foods, for three to seven days.

**Utensils:** Be sure you have a manual can opener, paper plates and plastic utensils.

**Layers and added warmth:** Gather blankets, pillows and warm clothing.

**Medicine and other items:** Include a first-aid kit, common over-the-counter drugs, prescriptions and any essential medical equipment.

**A phone charger:** Keep a fully charged power pack on hand.

Also gather:

- ▶ Toiletries, hygiene items and moist towelettes.
- ▶ A flashlight and extra batteries.
- ▶ A battery-operated radio or a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio.
- ▶ A list of emergency phone numbers.
- ▶ Toys, books and games.
- ▶ Pet food and other pet care items.
- ▶ Supplies for alternate heating methods, such as a fireplace or wood-burning stove.

**Make sure your heating system is in proper working order and observe these safety tips:**

- ▶ Never use a portable generator indoors, in a garage, or anywhere near windows or doors because they emit deadly carbon monoxide.
- ▶ Never plug a portable generator into a wall outlet. Doing so can create deadly backfeeding, which occurs when electricity travels from the generator through the power lines.
- ▶ Monitor the temperature in your home. Infants and older people are more susceptible to the cold.
- ▶ Avoid going outside. Downed power lines could be hidden in snow and ice, making them difficult to identify. Assume all downed and hanging lines are energized and deadly. ■



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## Nominating Committee To Meet February 15

Candidate applications due February 1 at 5:30 p.m.

**TAYLOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S** nominating committee will meet February 15 at 10 a.m. to select candidates for the board of directors.

Each committee member represents a zone within Taylor EC's service territory and will screen and interview applicants to be placed on the ballot. Voting for the director seats will take place at the 83rd annual meeting April 21. ■

### Taylor EC Nominating Committee

#### Zone 1—Taylor County

Craig Bessent, Chairman,

(325) 692-5937

Colleen Richards, (325) 829-7228

#### Zone 2—Callahan, Eastland, Jones and Shackelford counties

Tom Edd Johnson, (806) 928-8872

Ashley Thompson, (325) 529-6643

Dee Vinson, (325) 668-6096

#### Zone 3—Coke, Fisher and Nolan counties

Terry Locklar, (325) 320-6349

Jesse Mulanax, (325) 235-4278

Mary Ussery, (325) 798-3645