

# Give Thanks for the Comforts of Electricity



## MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT/CEO RYAN BARTLETT

**EVERY THANKSGIVING, WITH FAMILY GATHERED** around the table, we take turns sharing what we're thankful for. Some of these expressions of gratitude may seem trivial, while others may be humorous or deeply touching.

I always walk away from the table—slowly, after overindulging—and wonder why we do that only once a year. Are we really only appreciative when the calendar tells us we should be?



I suspect we let the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life get in the way of taking time to appreciate how blessed we are—and expressing to those responsible for those blessings how much we appreciate them.

Like most of you, when asked what I'm grateful for, I'll say something like, "I'm grateful for family, friends, a comfortable bed to sleep in, good health and a home to shelter my family."

But that's an awfully short list for someone who has so

much. I'm fortunate to have a job that I love—general manager of Taylor Electric Cooperative. While some days aren't easy, knowing that the work we do here at your electric cooperative makes our members' lives better is richly satisfying.

Nowhere in the business world will you find a more dedicated and hardworking group of employees. Our linemen risk life and limb every single day in their efforts to keep power flowing to each and every home and business on our system.

Other employees provide critical behind-the-scenes support to make sure everything runs smoothly.

Working in this business, I learned quickly not to take for granted a constant supply of electricity and to be grateful for the convenience and comfort it provides. While it's never convenient to be without power, it does give us a moment to reflect on just how much we rely on this invisible servant. Sometimes it's just a convenience we miss, like hot popcorn made in three minutes in a microwave. Other times, the absence of electricity could be life-threatening, such as when it's not available to power a breathing machine or other vital medical equipment.

When the power does go out, I'm grateful we have

skilled crews available 24/7 to fix the problem, as well as understanding members who patiently await repairs.

Author William Arthur Ward is credited with saying, "Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."

I'm going to do my best throughout the year to make sure every gift I wrap gets delivered.

I wish you and your family a richly blessed Thanksgiving.



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# Maybe It's Cold Outside

*A few simple tips to stave off high winter bills*

**WE NEVER REALLY KNOW WHAT FALL WEATHER WILL BRING, BUT YOU USUALLY CAN** count on a few sudden chilly spells that sometimes result in shockingly high electric bills. Observe the following practices to avoid being jolted out of your cozy holiday reverie by an unexpectedly steep bill.

**If you have a wood-burning fireplace, be sure the damper is closed while the fireplace is not in use.** Keep in mind that a wood-burning fireplace is generally an inefficient method for heating your home. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, fireplace drafts pull warm air up the chimney, inadvertently cooling other rooms. So if you use central heat while burning wood in a fireplace, it forces your heater to work harder to maintain a consistent temperature throughout the house. Since it provides lovely ambiance, consider reserving fireplace use for special occasions.

**Keep drapes and blinds open during the day to allow solar heat to warm your home all day for free.** Close them at dusk to seal warmth in.

**Rearrange furnishings to uncover any vents that may be blocked by sofas or rugs.** Remember that the closer you are to an exterior wall, especially one with windows, the colder it is. Freshen up your living space with a new seating arrangement that doubles as an energy saver by moving furniture away from the room's perimeter.

**Run ceiling fans clockwise to create an updraft that pulls cold air up and distributes warm air in the room more evenly,** preventing cold pockets from forming.

**Invest in a smart thermostat for your home's heating, ventilation and air conditioning system to further reduce power costs easily and conveniently.** Lowering your home's temperature 10–15 degrees for eight hours a day can shave an equivalent percentage off your electric bill.

**Lastly, use the popular low-tech solution employed effectively for generations: bundle up!** Wool socks, flannel pajamas, and a warm quilt or throw reduce the need for excessive home heating and go perfectly with a mug of hot cocoa.

Enhance your home's coziness and decrease energy inefficiency with these tips, regardless of any sudden swings in temperature Mother Nature may deal us.



## 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  
Kathy Rainey, Zone 3  
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## 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

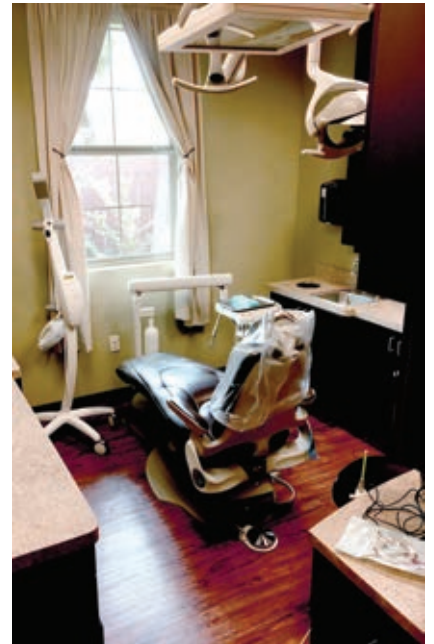
- United Supermarket, 521 S. Access Road, Clyde
- Food Plaza #4, 109 S.E. Fifth St., Cross Plains
- Cash Saver, 155 Sayles Blvd., Abilene
- United Supermarket, 2160 Pine St., Abilene
- Check Express, 906 E. Broadway Ave., Sweetwater

Cash, checks, money orders and debit cards accepted.

Payments credited next business day.



# Family Care



**MORRIS DENTAL ASSOCIATES PRIDES ITSELF ON FAMILY-FOCUSED** dental care for all ages. The office sits at the entrance to a residential neighborhood in Abilene and looks much like a home: Dormer windows frame the roofline and a small front porch welcomes patients. Dr. Amy Morris opened the family dentistry practice in 2009 after spending seven years as a dentist at Fort Hood.

From an early age, Morris knew she wanted to be a dentist. “I was in seventh grade with braces,” she says. “I walked into the office, and I don’t know if it was divine intervention, but the Lord said, ‘Yes, this is where you are supposed to be.’” Morris doesn’t have any other dentists in her family and didn’t go to the dentist much growing up. “So, I think I must have been led here,” she says.

Morris Dental Associates’ focus on customer care is evident from the moment patients are welcomed through the front door into the living room-style waiting area. It continues throughout the office and into private exam rooms with ceiling-mounted televisions to entertain patients during exams and massage-capable dental chairs.

“I don’t want anyone to feel like they are just a number or we are just running people in and out,” Morris says. “Some days are busy, but we always try to make sure we have quality contact.” The practice offers 15 services, including sedation dentistry, dentures, orthodontics, whitening and

pediatric care.

The familycentric office always is trying to find new technology to improve patient care. Their most recent addition is a Solea dental laser. The Solea laser allows dentists to perform procedures with limited or no anesthesia, bleeding, sutures or pain. “The office is really excited to have a new laser,” Morris says. “We are the only office in town to have this laser. It is exciting for our patients, especially young children, who are afraid of shots before even beginning the needed procedure.”

Morris Dental Associates also has added tongue and lip-tie care to its services. Tongue and lip-ties in babies can cause acid reflux and latching problems. The office is now equipped to aid families in treating this issue. “Moms are telling us they have a whole new baby the next day after the procedure,” Morris says. “It is so exciting to help them, and it is a game-changer for moms and babies.”

Morris graduated salutatorian from Wylie High School and went on to graduate summa cum laude from Angelo State University with a degree in biology. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio with a doctor of dental surgery degree. Morris maintains memberships with the American Dental Association, Texas Dental Association and International Association of Orthodontics. She is the proud mother of two boys and enjoys spending time in Abilene with her extended family.





## Want To Save Energy? Use Less Hot Water

**WATER HEATING IS THE SECOND-LARGEST ENERGY EXPENSE IN YOUR HOME, SO IF YOU use less hot water, you'll save energy.**

Here are three ways to save hot water around your house.

**Washing clothes.** Your clothes don't really get any cleaner if you wash them in hot water instead of cold. In fact, the kind of laundry detergent you use is more important than water temperature in determining how clean your clothes get.

Ninety percent of the energy your washing machine uses goes to heating water. So you can save up to \$40 a year just by selecting the cold cycle instead of warm or hot.

**Washing dishes.** Your dishwasher needs to use hot water to dissolve the dishwashing detergent and to get grime off of your dishes. However, you can save hot water by placing your dirty plates, cups, glasses and silverware in the dishwasher right after use, without rinsing them first.

Most modern dishwashers do a good job of cleaning even dried-on gunk from dishes, so there's no need to waste hot water on washing them by hand before you load them into the machine.

Another way to save is by choosing a short cycle. The less time your dishwasher runs, the less hot water it will use.

**Bathing.** Low-flow showerheads save water—hot and cold. Replacing your old showerhead could save more than 40 percent of the water you use for bathing.

Paying attention to how much water you're wasting in the shower can save precious resources as well. If you turn on the water to let it get warm—but then brush your teeth and shave at the sink before hopping in the shower—you're letting gallons of heated water run down the drain unused. You're wasting water, too, when you leave the sink's faucet running while you brush your teeth or shave.



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## Veterans Day November 11

We salute all veterans who have served to help preserve our freedom.



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## Happy Thanksgiving

We wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving. In observance of the holiday, our offices will be closed Thursday–Friday, November 22–23.



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## Daylight Saving Time

Ends November 4 at 2 a.m.  
Set your clocks back one hour.