



## ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE **NEWS**

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### Like us on Facebook

On Facebook, search for “Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.” and like our page for continued updates, energy efficiency tips, cooperative news and outage updates.



### FROM THE MANAGER

## This Magazine Cost-Effectively Fulfills Several Cooperative Principles

What's delivered to your home each month, provides something for everyone in your household and costs less than a cup of regular (not a fancy frappé or lavish mocha) coffee at McDonald's? *Kansas Country Living!* The monthly magazine is the most cost-effective way to share important business information with our consumer-members along with interesting features about this great state and the communities in which we live, work and play.

As a consumer and a member of Rolling Hills Electric, you are entitled to know and understand how your cooperative operates. Cooperative Principle No. 2, Democratic Member Control, means our consumer-members participate in setting policies and making decisions for the electric co-op. It's Rolling Hills Electric's responsibility to keep you informed of the co-op's business in a timely, and hopefully interesting, manner so when it's time to vote on issues and for representation on the board of directors you will have

the knowledge to make informed decisions. By doing so, we fulfill Cooperative Principle No. 5—educate our members about their electric cooperative so they may effectively contribute to its development.

So, for less than the cost of a decent cup of coffee, Rolling Hills Electric keeps you abreast of annual meeting details, legislative issues potentially affecting our rural way of life, cooperative youth programs, and outage and construction activities. Through the magazine we introduce you to co-op employees—your neighbors—who work to maintain safe and reliable electricity and bring you safe electricity tips for around the farm and home, plus ways to use electricity wisely. By law, some of this information must be

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**Doug Jackson**

## HAPPY LABOR DAY

Hats off to our staff! In observance of Labor Day, our office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2.



# ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR

McHenry  
Explores  
Nation's  
Capital,  
Witnesses  
Government  
in Action

**RACHEL MCHENRY** was among 36 Kansas high school students to witness “government in action” first-hand during the 2019 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Rolling Hills Electric sponsored McHenry on this trip that took place June 13-20.

The students began their experience in Topeka with State Representatives Steven Johnson and Dr. Brenda Dietrich speaking at the opening banquet before leading the students on a private tour of the State Capitol.

While still in Kansas, the group was treated to bucket truck rides, a safety demonstration and a co-op career fair by the employees at FreeState Electric Cooperative in Topeka.

The students then traveled to Washington, D.C., where they joined more than 1,800 high school students from 43 states. The students experienced government in action through meetings

with their senators and congressional representatives, including Sen. Pat Roberts and U.S. Reps. Ron Estes, Roger Marshall, M.D., and Steve Watkins. They toured the U.S. Capitol, The White House, Smithsonian museums, Arlington National Cemetery, the Holocaust Memorial Museum and various memorials. New to the Youth Tour schedule this year was the National Law Enforcement Museum.

“Meeting and talking to the different people in various businesses really inspired me, especially being on Capitol Hill and speaking with people who worked there,” McHenry said.

Youth Tour participants were also able to attend the musical “Hello, Dolly!” at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

During the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Youth Day program, keynote speaker Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist and two-time world wheelchair basketball champion, shared his inspiring message, “Just because you can’t stand up doesn’t mean you can’t stand out!”

“Rolling Hills is proud to support our local student leaders through the Youth Tour program,” said Manager Doug Jackson.



Far left: Rachel McHenry poses at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Left: McHenry (far right) and friends enjoy a spot of tea at the National Cathedral.

## Building a New Grain Bin on Your Farm? Remember Grain Bins Have Clearance Requirements

To stay safe, many farming tasks require looking up and around for power lines. Be sure to do so when operating large equipment with antennas or when using long implements, for example.

Another safety issue to keep in mind is grain bin and power line location. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with very specific requirements. The code does so to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery coming in contact with a live electrical line.

If you plan to build a new grain bin or remodel around an area that already has one, contact Rolling Hills Electric at 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line. Placing a grain bin too close to a power line is extremely dangerous, and will most likely need to be relocated due to one or more code violations—usually at the owner's expense.

The NESC specifies both horizontal and vertical distance requirements so

don't leave a bin's location to chance. For example, a 30-foot high grain bin must be at least 93 feet from a power line, and all bins must have an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the bin's filling port. There are also distance requirements for non-loading sides of bins. In addition, changes to the ground (landscaping, filling) and drainage work can affect clearance heights.

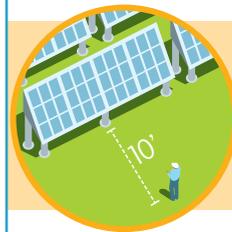
Remember, calling us before installing a new grain bin or making changes around an existing one is free. Moving one is costly, it interrupts your farming schedule and is more than just a hassle.

Even if you are not getting a new grain bin or making changes around an existing one, remember to always maintain adequate clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin or when moving machinery or farming equipment anywhere on your farm.

Contact with a power line could be deadly. For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

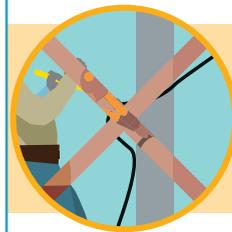
## SAFETY NEAR SOLAR

Like any other source of electricity, solar panels can pose potential hazards. Keep these safety tips in mind when you're near solar panels.



Stay at least 10 feet from the installation.

Never walk on solar panels.



Never cut any wiring to the solar panels.

Never touch broken or damaged solar panels.



### SAFETY NOTE:

**If your machinery or vehicle does come in contact with a power line, do not get out of the cab. Call 911 and the dispatched utility will de-energize the power so that you can safely exit your tractor or vehicle.**

## Learn More About SmartHub



### What is SmartHub?

SmartHub is a tool that provides convenient account access on your computer, tablet or mobile device.

- ▶ Make payments, access payment history, print statements and sign up for automated payment.
- ▶ View daily, monthly and average energy use.
- ▶ Update account information. Set text or email notifications for energy use or account and billing information.

### How do I Sign Up for SmartHub?

If you already use E-Bill, you can log into SmartHub using the same e-mail and password you have always used.

Are you a new user? Sign up for SmartHub at [HTTPS://WWW.ROLLINGHILLS.SMARTHUB.COOP](https://www.rollinghills.smarthub.coop) or go to [WWW.ROLLINGHILLS.COOP](http://www.rollinghills.coop) and click the SmartHub button in the upper right corner of the screen. To get started you will be required to enter your account number, last name or business and email address.

### Where do I Find the SmartHub App Download for my Smartphone?

The SmartHub app is available for iOS and Android users. Install the SmartHub app on your mobile device.

Still have questions? Call the office weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572.

# Paymentus Ends August 23

Rolling Hills Electric has offered Paymentus as a convenience to our consumer-members for the past several years. This service will end effective Aug. 23. Paymentus has been good for both consumer-members and Rolling Hills over the years but it is time to change to SmartHub to further improve our service.

If you would like assistance getting your account setup on SmartHub or want to make a payment over the phone, please call our office at 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572 during regular business hours.

## SmartHub Portal Offers Many Features

Several months ago, Rolling Hills began offering SmartHub to our members and we have seen tremendous growth in its usage. SmartHub has no fee and accepts payments up to \$500 per transaction.

SmartHub is a safe and secure portal that ties in with our billing system and offers many features. The member can access his or her account history, daily kilowatt-hours consumed, pay by the SmartHub app on iPhone or Android phone or tablet from anywhere, compare monthly usages and see if he or she is part of a reported outage. Also, the payment posts to your Rolling Hills Electric account immediately.

You may register your account online by going to the Rolling Hills Electric website at [www.rollinghills.coop](http://www.rollinghills.coop). The SmartHub button is in the upper right portion of the screen. A SmartHub screen will appear. If you are not already registered, click on “New User” and complete the registration with your billing account number, email address and a password.

If you would like assistance getting your account setup on SmartHub or want to make a payment over the phone, please call our office at 785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572 during regular business hours.

## This Magazine Cost-Effectively Fulfills Several Cooperative Principles Continued from page 16A ▶

received by members and verified, and the magazine fulfills that requirement in the most cost-effective way possible.

Rolling Hills Electric is one of 24 Kansas electric cooperatives providing *Kansas Country Living* to their consumer-members. By combining forces with other electric co-ops, the cost to produce our local co-op pages and the magazine make it our main communication vehicle of choice to get substantive information to you, which relates directly to Cooperative Principle No. 6—Cooperation Among Cooperatives.

Our social media channels—Facebook and website—enhance what we provide in *Kansas Country Living* and offer immediate response for outages and

other time-sensitive announcements. All of these communication channels work together to meet all of our consumer-members where they choose to access their information.

This month, more than 131,000 magazines will be mailed to electric cooperative consumer-members in Kansas, including those representing us in Washington, D.C. and at the Kansas Statehouse. By keeping our policymakers informed of rural and cooperative issues, we help fulfill Cooperative Principle No. 7—Concern for Community, which arguably is the most important of the Seven Cooperative Principles as we all work for the sustainability of our communities.