



ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NEWS

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Contact Us

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Beloit, KS 67420
785-534-1601 or 800-530-5572

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

Rolling Hills Returns \$509,000 in Capital Credits to Members



Doug Jackson

How familiar are you with the “cooperative difference” and what that entails?

One of the many differences a cooperative offers its consumer-mem-

bers is the return of capital credits, which your board of trustees recently approved. Consumer-members who received service from Smoky Hill Electric, Jewell-Mitchell Electric or NCK Electric during 1989, 1990 and 1991 in addition to retired capital credits from Kansas Electric Power Cooperative (KEPCo), our generation and transmission (G&T) for a portion of 1996, will receive a “patronage refund” credit on the December electricity bill. If the consumer-member no longer has an active account, a check will be mailed to the last known address on file.

The cooperative pays back its margins, or the money left after bills are paid, by retiring capital credits to members. Rolling Hills Electric is a not-for-profit utility owned by the consumer-members who receive or

have received electricity from us. The cooperative relies on its consumer-members to cover the operating costs on a day-to-day basis.

The third cooperative principle, Members’ Economic Participation, refers to the money Rolling Hills Electric needs to cover the operating costs, which comes directly from the members paying their monthly electric bill.

“Patronage” is the money you pay for your bill each month. Each year, the board allocates the margins to your capital credits account based on your patronage.

The board then examines the cooperative’s financial position and determines whether to retire capital credits to its members. This year, the board approved retiring the remaining margins from 1989, 100% of 1990 and 53% of 1991 totaling \$450,000 while our G&T retired a portion of the 1996 margins in the amount of \$59,164.15. The total retirement of capital credits being dispersed is \$509,164.15.

If you have had a change of address since leaving our service, please contact this office at 785-534-1601 during regularly scheduled business hours to update your contact information.

He Was Crying, But They Couldn't Help Him

Most parents agree that the hardest part of being a parent is watching a child go through something tough and not being able to fix it for them. It's a common sentiment, often superimposed over inspiring images for social media. One mom in Mitchell County lived it for what seemed like an eternity as her 3-year-old cried for her while sitting in a tractor pulling a grain cart that had contacted an electrical line.

There's probably not much a rural 3-year-old would rather do than ride in a full-size piece of farm machinery. Then, just as the workday was ending, the unthinkable happened. The machinery was passing an electric line a little too closely and broke a pole. In an instant, the exciting ride became a life or death situation.

Although the driver was only 17 years old, he knew better than to get out and check for damage or take the terrified toddler to his parents. Unless the machine you are in catches on fire, the safest place to be is shrouded within the metal of the vehicle. You want to do anything you can to avoid being a pathway to the ground.

When the sheriff's deputy responded to the call, he instructed the dispatcher

to call out both Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative and Prairie Land Electric Cooperative. Most of Mitchell County is served by Rolling Hills, but Prairie Land territory weaves through it, and it's difficult for first responders to be certain who is actually responsible for the line. It's best to err on the side of having more trained lineworkers at the scene than fewer. The line was Prairie Land's, but **TYLER BAILEY**, Rolling Hills lineman, lived much closer and arrived sooner. He was able to put grounding chains on either side of the accident and take initial steps to make the scene safer while everyone waited for Prairie Land to ensure the line was de-energized and would not inadvertently be re-energized.

Prairie Land was on its way from Smith County, which is a long drive no matter what, but when children are in danger, and it's getting darker and scarier every moment, it seems even longer. The deputy was busy keeping family and onlookers at least 50 feet away. While the driver stayed calm, the 3-year-old grew increasingly scared and exhausted. As the sun went down and time ticked further past bedtime, the toddler couldn't keep from crying. It took extreme willpower for his mother to keep from running to get him.

Even so, staying away is critical. If electrical current is flowing through the grain cart and into the earth, the charge



can ripple out 30-40 feet, depending on the conditions of the soil. Recent rains would have the current reaching further, and there is no way to know for sure until it's too late.

Electric cooperatives get numerous calls each year of equipment encountering poles and lines. Equipment is getting larger and more automated. Technology and/or multi-tasking while operating equipment can distract attention away from surroundings until it is too late and the equipment has come into contact with a pole or power line putting the operator and others nearby at a safety risk.

Rolling Hills Electric appreciates Prairie Land Electric Cooperative allowing us to share this accident with our members. The family was more than appreciative of the assistance from both cooperatives and the sheriff's department working together for the safety of those involved in the accident and onlookers.

Excerpts from Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s member communications.

In Memory of Gene Meitler

GENE C. MEITLER, of rural Lucas, passed away on Oct. 2. Meitler served on the board of trustees representing the Ellsworth District of Smoky Hill Electric Cooperative Association, now Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc., from 1976 through 2010. During his tenure as trustee, he served as vice president, president and treasurer. In addition, he represented the cooperative on committees and served as a trustee for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. and Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, both of Topeka.





ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE YOUTH TOUR



WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 14-21, 2021



**FREE TRIP &
\$500 SCHOLARSHIP**
APPLY BY DEC. 21, 2020

CONTACT LINNEA BEEBE

785-534-1601 | LBEEBE@ROLLINGHILLS.COOP

COOPERATIVE YOUTH LEADERSHIP CAMP



COLORADO

JULY 16-22, 2021



Now Accepting Applications for 2021 Trips and Scholarships

Attention High School Juniors: Are You Eligible for the Trip of a Lifetime?

- ▶ All high school juniors whose parents or guardians reside on Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. lines.
- ▶ Complete and return an entry form at right by Dec. 21, 2020. You may also find the form at www.rollinghills.coop, in the *Kansas Country Living* magazine, from your high school counselor and on Facebook.
- ▶ Contestants will receive an entry packet. Finalists will be chosen from a completed application, resume, open book quiz and short essay.
- ▶ Finalists will be interviewed to determine winners (time and date to be announced).
- ▶ Trip winners are expected to speak at Rolling Hills Electric's Annual Meeting.

Rolling Hills Electric is now accepting applications from high school juniors who are interested in competing for a "trip of a lifetime." In addition to the two trips to be awarded, each recipient will receive a \$500 scholarship upon high school graduation. Parents or guardians must reside on Rolling Hills Electric's power lines. Material packets will be mailed to applicants Dec. 22, 2020.

For an eligible high school junior to enter the competition, the cooperative office should receive the completed form below **BY DEC. 21, 2020**. Submit your application by email to lbeebe@rollinghills.coop. You can also mail or deliver your application to: Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc., Attn: Linnea Beebe, P.O. Box 339, Beloit, KS 67420.

2021 YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION

Applicant Name _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Student Phone _____ Student Email _____

Grade _____ School _____

Name of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Electric Account # _____

Parent/Guardian(s) Phone _____

Parent/Guardian(s) E-mail _____

I agree that all information supplied in this application is accurate and true.

Applicant Signature _____

The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour or Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp organizers believe that travel is unsafe due to concerns with the coronavirus (or any other acts of terrorism, disaster, civil disorder, or curtailment of transportation facilities), then the trip will be canceled.



HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

Give the Gift of Safety



PORTABLE GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTER (GFCI)

Designed for locations where there is not a permanent GFCI installed, these devices detect an abnormal flow of electricity and shut off the power, preventing shock and electrocution.



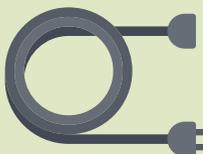
OUTDOOR REMOTE CONTROL OUTLET SWITCH

Leaving outdoor lights on overnight can be costly and pose a potential hazard. An alternative to smart lights, this remote control switch allows you to turn outdoor lights and other gadgets on or off remotely.



TAMPER RESISTANT OUTLETS (TROS)

Great for families with small children, TROs are wall receptacles that have shutters that stay closed unless a plug with two prongs is inserted into the outlet. Because they help keep children safe, the National Electrical Code requires TROs in new homes and apartments.



HEAVY DUTY EXTENSION CORD

Power devices safely. Too often the tools or equipment necessary for larger projects are powered by extension cords that are inadequate for the environment or heavier electrical load.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org



Tyler Bailey

Bailey Responds to Accident

TYLER BAILEY, Rolling Hills lineman, responded to an accident involving a grain cart and a power pole.

He was able to put grounding chains on either side of the accident and take initial steps to make the scene safer while Prairie Land Electric, the cooperative that owns the line in that area, was traveling to the accident scene. A great example of electric cooperatives working together to keep our member-owners and the public safe!

Concannon Visits Rolling Hills Electric

Rolling Hills Electric recently hosted Rep. **SUSAN CONCANNON**, Kansas House of Representatives for District 107 and Doug Shepherd, vice president of management consulting services for Kansas Electric Cooperatives Inc., at the Beloit office on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Also, in attendance was Manager Doug Jackson.

The scheduled visit was to discuss legislative issues cooperatives currently face. Rolling Hills Electric appreciates Rep. Concannon's support for the rural communities and cooperatives.



Set the water heater temperature to 120 degrees.	Get a water heater blanket.	Turn off the lights when you leave a room.	Seal air leaks around windows, doors, plumbing, etc.
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20 NEW YEAR'S 21 Energy Saving

RESOLUTIONS YOU CAN AFFORD TO KEEP

Unplug electronics and chargers not in use.

Replace regular bulbs with CFL or LED lightbulbs.	Adjust your thermostat when going to bed or leaving the home.	Use a programmable thermostat.	Run only full loads in the washer or dishwasher
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