

**ROLLING HILLS  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

# NEWS

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## Orozco Retires After 25 Years at Co-op

**PETE OROZCO** officially retired on Sept. 1, 2022, after 25 dedicated years with Rolling Hills Electric. The entire crew celebrated together with his favorite meal — chicken fried steak — for lunch to congratulate him and wish him well.

Orozco grew up in Kanopolis and attended Wichita State University. He started out his career working for Cessna in 1977 in aircraft production for three years then in research and development for two more years. He then took a position at Praxair Air Industrial where he worked for 14 years in gases and process. He then began his career for the cooperative in 1997 as an electrician and then mapping technician.

When asked what has changed the most since he began his career here at

Rolling Hills, he said the consolidation of the three cooperatives to form Rolling Hills Electric and the office moving to Beloit.

He has six children, two boys and four girls, and 11 grandchildren and is looking forward to getting to spend more time with them.

Advice that he would pass down to the younger generation just starting out in their career is, “Work safely, work smart.”

As for his post-retirement plans, he will be doing small jobs for a little extra change to jingle in his pocket.

And finally, when asked what’s a fun fact about him that not everybody knows? He likes to work out!

He also wanted to add, “May God bless you all.”

You will sure be missed around here, Pete! On behalf of Rolling Hills Electric, we wish you a happy, healthy and fun-filled retirement! You deserve it!



**Pete Orozco with his cake to celebrate his retirement.**



**Marc Martin, operations manager, (left) and Doug Jackson, general manager, (right) presented Pete Orozco with a certificate to recognize his 25 years of service.**

# YOUTH TRIPS RETURN

Summer 2023



## Applications open now for all-expense-paid trips and scholarships

Summer 2023 may seem like a long time away as fall fades and winter approaches, but finding and selecting stellar delegates for youth trips takes time. 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.

To be eligible, parents’ or guardians’ primary residence must be on Rolling Hills Electric’s power lines. We encourage all eligible students to apply for the summer youth trips!

Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative will select two delegates to sponsor for these youth trips.

- ▶ One high school junior will go to Washington, D.C., as part of the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.
- ▶ One high school junior will go to Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp.

Rolling Hills Electric pays for transportation, lodging, meals and other incidental costs incurred with all trips. The safety of our students and chaperones is our top priority. If trip coordinators feel that travel is unsafe, we will cancel the trips. In this case, we may ask delegates to participate in an alternate activity for an award.

For an eligible high school junior to enter the competition, applications must be submitted and received **BY DEC. 30, 2022**. Application details are online at <https://rollinghills.coop/apply-our-youth-programs>. Summer will be here before you know it. Don’t delay; enter today!



### 2023 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) email \_\_\_\_\_

**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.*

# Winter is Coming

It's time to think about preparing for winter weather

As we look toward the winter months it may be time to start preparing your family for the upcoming winter weather. Although Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative works hard to keep our members' power on all winter long, winter storms can sometimes have devastating results to the area — leaving your family without power for an extended period of time.

Stay aware. Stay prepared. Know the difference between watches and warnings.

**A WINTER STORM WATCH** means stormy conditions, including heavy snow, freezing rain or sleet are likely within the next few days. You should be aware that this means adverse conditions could begin within 12-48 hours.

**A WINTER STORM WARNING** means conditions can become adverse within the next 24 hours. Those in the range of the warning should be aware of impending conditions and consider altering plans to travel.

**A BLIZZARD WARNING** means an affected area should seek refuge immediately due to high levels of snow, strong winds and near-zero visibility to those traveling.

Do you have an emergency preparedness kit for winter weather? Your family should be aware of the kit location and contents. Here are some items that may keep your family safe during a winter storm.

- ▶ Drinking water and food (peanut butter or canned goods).
- ▶ Blankets, pillows and extra clothing.
- ▶ Basic first-aid supplies.
- ▶ Medications.
- ▶ Basic toiletries.
- ▶ Flashlights and batteries.
- ▶ Battery-operated radio.
- ▶ Extra supply of batteries.
- ▶ Cellphone with portable charger.
- ▶ Cash and/or credit cards.
- ▶ Important documents and identification.
- ▶ Basic tools (duct tape, wrench, screwdriver, etc.).
- ▶ Toys, books and games.
- ▶ Baby or pet supplies.

Another way to prepare for winter is to think about a standby or backup generator. If your household requires medical or life support devices, you require power to house or feed livestock, or perhaps you have temperature sensitive materials on your farm, you might

consider purchasing a generator for your home. Generators can be an important tool year-round.

There are two types of generators for homeowners to choose from: portable and standby. A portable generator is usually gas powered and can be moved around. You can power your home by plugging appliances into it. Standby generators are installed directly to the house and are typically powered by natural gas or propane. These generators start automatically when the power goes out.

Begin by identifying your basic electrical needs in the event of a power outage and calculating the number of watts needed. You will want a generator that produces more power than all the equipment combined plus the initial surge when it is turned on.

You may want to contact the cooperative to determine your needed power usage. Your needs will determine the type and wattage that makes the most sense.

Typically the recommended size is greater than 6,500 watts because there is less sensitivity to voltage fluctuation and more control. However, generators of 8,500 to 10,000 watts are best (8,500 being minimum).

One important aspect of a generator is a transfer switch. This is often an extra charge to install and connects the generator to your circuit box. The switch also eliminates cumbersome extension cords and protects the generator and appliances once power is restored. The transfer switch is also key for safety and will keep linemen safe while working on power lines.



Having an emergency preparedness kit is essential for every home. Store the kit where you can get to it easily and take with you. Stay aware. Stay prepared.

## Employee Changes

It is with mixed emotions that we announce lineman, **KYLE STRUTT**, from our Osborne district, has accepted a position at Prairie Land Electric Cooperative where he will be closer to family and friends. We are very appreciative of all he has done for the cooperative over the years, and he will be greatly missed. He has played an integral role in the development of the Osborne Outpost and will be difficult to replace. We will miss you!

With this absence, lineman **CLAY PICKEL-STRICKLAND** has accepted the position and transferred to the Osborne district. This position will allow him to be closer to family and friends. Congrats!

**JADEN ATWOOD** was promoted from a temporary position to a full-time second-year apprentice lineman position based out of the Beloit



Jaden Atwood



Clay  
Pickel-Strickland



Kyle Strutt

District. Atwood completed his internship with Rolling Hills Electric in summer 2021 and was recently hired in a temporary position. Congrats on your well-deserved promotion and welcome to the Rolling Hills Electric family!

## Cold Weather Rule: What You Need to Know

Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative Inc. wants consumer-members to have the electric service needed to keep their homes warm during the winter. Rolling Hills Electric also recognizes the member's responsibility to make contact to establish payment arrangements. When we work together it ensures both goals are met.

### What Does the Cold Weather Rule Mean for Me?

The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric service for their homes during the winter. You must make payment arrangements with Rolling Hills Electric.

### How Do I Qualify?

If you cannot pay your entire electric bill, call Rolling Hills Electric to make payment arrangements:

- ▶ Agree to pay 1/12 of the past due amount of your bill, plus your current bill, all disconnection and connection fees, and agree to pay the remainder in equal payments over the next 11 months.
- ▶ Negotiate a payment plan to pay the past due amount off in fewer billing cycles.
- ▶ It will be necessary to pay your current monthly bill while paying off the past-due amount.
- ▶ It will be necessary to contact Rolling Hills Electric if you are unable to fulfill the above qualifications.

### What Can You Expect from Rolling Hills Electric?

Rolling Hills Electric will inform you of the Cold Weather Rule payment plan as well as other available payment options. Remember, under the Cold Weather Rule, you have the option of spreading your payment over a 12-month period.

Rolling Hills Electric will send written notice to consumer-members 10 days before disconnection, plus will call by phone or make personal contact the day before.



The Cold Weather Rule helps existing consumer-members maintain electric services during the winter.

### Can I be Disconnected During the Cold Weather Rule?

Rolling Hills Electric will not disconnect your primary residence when the temperature is forecast to drop below 35 degrees over the next 48 hours, except in certain circumstances.

To prevent disconnection when it is 35 degrees or above, or to be reconnected regardless of temperature, you must make payment arrangements with Rolling Hills Electric.

Rolling Hills Electric may start the final notification and disconnection process if there is a 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

If the 48-hour forecast changes before the period ends and there is a forecast of below 35 degrees, Rolling Hills Electric will not disconnect until there is another 48-hour forecast of temperatures above 35 degrees.

### Questions?

Please call Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. at 800-530-5572. The Cold Weather Rule applies only to existing residential consumer-members at their primary residence and is subject to the rules and regulations of the cooperative.