



Jeremy Kerns



Rylee Van Belle

Meter Shop Brings in New Employees

Klickitat PUD recently hired two new workers for the meter shop: Jeremy Kerns and Rylee Van Belle.

KPUD's meter shop employees are responsible for testing, programming and maintaining equipment used in KPUD's electrical system. This includes voltage regulation equipment on transmission and distribution power line structures and customer's meters.

They also work on equipment and programming for projects, and provide monitoring equipment repairs and troubleshooting for the Water/Wastewater Department.

Both Kerns and Van Belle joined KPUD in October 2021 as substation wiremen.

"Jeremy has really picked up on all assigned projects," says Meter Shop Superintendent Jim Brokaw. "His technical expertise has been very helpful to the utility."

Jeremy worked in the construction industry before pursuing a career as an industrial electrician. He attended Perry Technical Institute. After graduating, he spent several years working in an oil refinery, then worked at Grand Coulee Dam and The Dalles Dam before accepting his position at KPUD.

"I came to work here because I wanted to serve the

local community and, hopefully, make a positive impact as the utility grows," Jeremy says.

Rylee's technical expertise also has helped the utility. "Rylee is a strong worker, and he has been instrumental in completing projects for Lyle Wastewater Treatment Plant," Jim says.

Rylee graduated from Perry Technical Institute in 2011 and worked as an apprentice electrician for three years. Once his apprenticeship was complete, Rylee joined IBEW Local 112 for union electricians. Most recently, he worked for Washington River Protection Solutions doing tank farm retrieval at the Hanford Site.

Rylee and his wife have four kids. They frequently visited the area and like the "small-town USA" feel of Klickitat County to raise their family.

Klickitat County also provides them access to enjoy their outdoor hobbies, which include being on the river, boating, hunting and snowmobiling.

KPUD is happy to have these two skilled individuals and is excited to see them continue to be successful in their roles at the utility. ■