



JANUARY 2022

THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We are happy to announce our 2022 Scholarship Program. Wheat Belt Public Power District, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Tri-State G&T, and Arbor Wealth Management, Inc. team up each year to offer several scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Wheat Belt Public Power District

- One - \$2,000 Lineman or
- Two - \$500 Vocational/Technical

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

- One - \$1,000

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Assoc.

- Two - \$500

Arbor Wealth Management, Inc.

- One - \$500

GUIDELINES

- Dependent of a Wheat Belt PPD customer
- College Freshman - Senior, Fall status
- Enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study
- Enrolled at a 2-yr. community or junior college, 4-yr. college or university, vocational/technical school or lineman school
- WB scholarship only - must be enrolled in a technical field course of study

SUBMIT

- Deliver - 11306 Road 32, Sidney
- Mail - PO Box 177, Sidney NE 69162
- Fax - (308) 254-2384 (include cover page)
- Email - wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com

Applications can be obtained from your school's guidance counselor or on our site, wheatbelt.com. Select "Youth Info" under the News & Events menu.

Application must be in Wheat Belt's office by 4:00pm on February 11, 2022.



Carolyn Hostetler
45 Years of Service



Deb Schlaman
24 Years of Service

Thank you for your dedication and hard work throughout the years. You were valued employees and colleagues, and you will be missed. Congratulations on your retirement!



LUCKY DRAWING



Congratulations to Darrell and Jennie Dykman, our November "Lucky Winners"!

Darrell and Jennie Dykman live north of Lodgepole. They enjoy the country life and have planted 4,500 trees and shrubs on the property for wildlife. Jennie is a retired teacher and Darrell a retired carpenter. Some of their interests include pottery, gardening and beekeeping. They enjoy their grandchildren and spending time with family.

If you would like to be included in our next \$50 drawing, and avoid the \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 16th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please contact us, 308-254-5871, or visit wheatbelt.com and select the Customer Engagement page for information.

P.O. BOX 177, 11306 RD 32, SIDNEY, NE 69162

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Dalton 301 Main Street, Phone: (308)377-2313	Lisco 102 Coldwater, Phone: (308)772-3226

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LACEY GULBRANSON
General Manager/CEO

Happy New Year from all of us at Wheat Belt Public Power District. We hope each of you were able to spend some time with family and friends over the holidays. Several months ago I wrote an article regarding 2021 being a year of change for us. Here is a recap of what that looked like: we welcomed four new board members and five new employees, we congratulated two employees on their retirements and two employees we wished the best of luck in continuing their careers elsewhere. We are turning the calendar to 2022 with a full board and a full staff. Later this month, the board will embark on reviewing and updating our strategic plan. You will hear about that in the coming months.

My promise to you is Wheat Belt is committed each day to accomplish our mission to: Deliver electricity **safely, reliably** and **efficiently**.

ARE PORTABLE SPACE HEATERS EFFICIENT FOR MY HOME?

By Abby Berry



Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: heat a small space. But unfortunately, many people use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can really take a toll on your energy bills. The truth is, whether you should use space heaters really depends on your home's

efficiency and energy needs.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. If you're on a tight budget, caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors is a low-cost, easy way to save energy. Depending on the size of your home,

adding insulation can be a great next step. Loose fill insulation typically costs \$1 to \$1.50 per square foot. Taking these proactive energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient but you're cold-natured and want a specific room to be cozier than the rest. In this case, a space heater may work for your needs. A good comparison is ceiling fans. We use ceiling fans in the summer to cool people, not rooms. A space heater can be used in a similar way during winter months. Only use a space heater in small spaces that you're occupying and, if possible, try to shut off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. If you decide to use a space heater to heat a small area in your home, make sure the heater is properly sized for the space; most heaters include a general sizing table.

A word about safety: the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths.

Continued on 12-D



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1744 Illinois
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Portable Space Heaters cont'd from 12-C

If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a thermostatically controlled heater to avoid energy waste and overheating, and place the heater on a level surface away from foot traffic when in use. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.



Consider alternative ways to stay warm like extra layers of clothing or UL-approved electric blankets. If you have hardwood or tile floors, lay down area rugs to provide additional insulation (and appeal!) and maintain warmth.

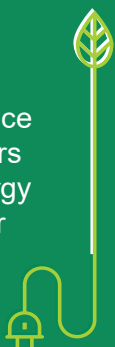
We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Maximize your heating system's performance by inspecting, cleaning or replacing air filters once a month or as needed to reduce energy costs and prevent potential damage to your system. Make sure radiators, baseboard heaters and warm-air registers aren't blocked so air can flow freely.

Source: Dept. of Energy



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