

September 2022

# THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION

## WHEAT BELT PPD STRATEGIC INITIATIVES 2022-2024

### Culture

Wheat Belt's goal over the coming months is to give our customers insight into our 2022-2024 Strategic Plan. The plan consists of four initiatives: Culture, Operational Efficiency, Safety and Customer Experience. Last month we started with an overview of the Operational Efficiency Initiative, and this month we will move onto the Culture Initiative. When culture at Wheat Belt was discussed at the strategic planning session, it became very apparent that it needed to be a major focus area for our team in the coming years.

When we talk culture, we are referring to Wheat Belts values, employee engagement and performance development of our employees. The employees have identified our three

core values as; respect individuals, produce quality work and value integrity. Having our values clarified, and our mission statement in place will pave the way for our performance development to be put into motion. Performance development will consist of making sure our employees have the training and education they need to do their jobs safely and to the best of their abilities. This also includes performance evaluations and employee coaching that will begin this year. By incorporating performance development into the District, we will be able to serve our customers in a more efficient manner.



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Editor - Kelli Chaon

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## LUCKY DRAWING



Congratulations to Steve McCormick, our July "Lucky Draw Winner"!

Steve received a \$50 credit on his account for his prompt payment. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid a \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 16th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please give us a call, 308-254-5871, or visit [wheatbelt.com](http://wheatbelt.com). Select the Customer Engagement page for information.

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

P 308.254.5871 | T 800.261.7114 | [wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com](mailto:wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com) | [www.wheatbelt.com](http://www.wheatbelt.com)



Watch for continued communications about the cost of your electricity. More information will be released as we undergo a cost-of-service study and determine the best way to move forward.

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# The Power of Preparation

By: Anne Prince

With severe weather events occurring more frequently, now more than ever, it makes sense to be prepared. During a prolonged power outage or other emergency, this means having enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days.

In honor of National Preparedness Month in September, I want to remind members of our community about the power of preparation. While you don't have to achieve a "doomsday prepper" level of preparedness, there are several practical steps you can take to keep you and your family safe.

Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress, anxiety and lessen the impact of an emergency event. We recommend starting with the basics.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal

Emergency Management Agency:

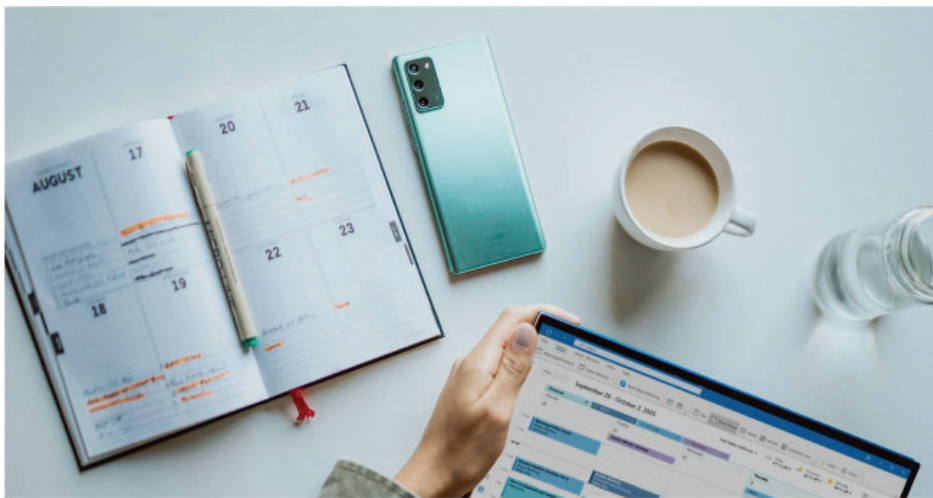
- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, battery-powered radio and phone chargers.

- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).

- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.

- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).

*Continued on 12-C*



Are you sitting down to pay your bills today, but don't want the money to come out of your account until a different day?

## Schedule Future Payments

You can now schedule a payment for a future date!

- ➡ Schedule for a one-time future payment.
- ➡ Schedule for recurring weekly or monthly payments.

Log into your account at [Wheatbelt.com](http://Wheatbelt.com), or contact our office to set up your future payments.

*(Please keep in mind, if the funds are not submitted to us by the due date, your account will incur a delinquent fee. Any accounts that are not paid in full by 9 am on the stated disconnect date will be subject to disconnect.)*

# Moe's

Brian (Moe) Moffat

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# **UNDERSTANDING YOUR** *Electric Bill*

As a member of Tri-State Generation and Transmission, Wheat Belt Public Power District benefits from a diverse portfolio of resources and power contracts. Headquartered in Westminster, Colorado, Tri-State has been our reliable wholesale power supplier since its inception in the early 1950s. Wheat Belt is in an all-requirements contract with Tri-State, meaning we pay Tri-State to supply the power we need. We also have the flexibility to generate 5% of our own power supply.

**kWh Purchased by Month**



This chart shows our territories' power consumption by kilowatt hours (kWh). Our customers drive power costs by how much energy is consumed and when it is consumed.

For more information about energy consumption, visit [wheatbelt.com/yourelectricbill](http://wheatbelt.com/yourelectricbill)

## **The Power of Preparation cont'd from 12-B**

- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.

- Fill your car with gas.

- Organize your supplies so they are together in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

**Caring for vulnerable family members:**

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relative stay with you if feasible, otherwise call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.

### **Keeping four-legged family members safe:**

For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress especially if you need to make a decision during an emergency.

- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.

- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.

- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.

- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

At Wheat Belt PPD we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency situation today can give you more confidence to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.



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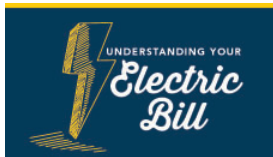
- Complete Exhaust Work
- Complete Brake Work
- Alignments
- Oil Change & Lube
- Wheels

Most Major Brand Tires  
Michelin - Uniroyal - Firestone - BF Goodrich - Kelly - Goodyear



1744 Illinois  
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308-254-6127 or 800-303-6127





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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

*Source: Dept. of Energy*

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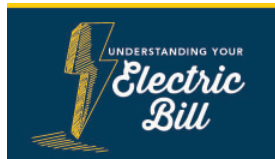
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**P** 308.254.5871 | **T** 800.261.7114 | **F** 308.254.2384

wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com

## Our Mission

**Deliver electricity safely, reliably and efficiently.**



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