

the Wheat Belt Connection



IT'S A NEW YEAR - MAKE IT THE BEST!

JANUARY 2019



SCHOLARSHIPS FOUND HERE!

Wheat Belt Public Power District, Tri-State G & T, Basin Electric and Arbor Wealth Management have joined to bring to our customers and their dependents several opportunities to be awarded scholarships. The applications may be

found at www.wheatbelt.com under Youth Info or you can contact Yolanda Hruska and have one mailed to you. The application deadline is February 15, so don't delay.

If you are interested in a lineman scholarship, we have one available up to \$2,000 toward the tuition. Applicants applying for the Wheat Belt scholarships, must be enrolled or planning to enroll full-time in a lineman college or technical/vocational school, and specifically enrolled in a technical field course of study.

There are several scholarships available for customers or dependents of customers planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate or graduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school.

Please mail your application to PO Box 177, Sidney, Nebraska 69162 or you can drop it at the office location at 11306 Road 32, Sidney, Nebraska. Call for an application at 800-261-7114 or 254-5871.

Remember February 15 is the deadline, so don't delay!

Wheat Belt Connection

Editor
Pam Wieser

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Drawing Winner

Yolanda Hruska

Congratulations Ronald Devier, our November "Lucky Winner!" Ronald is a native of Cheyenne County, living in the area for 81 years. He is retired from farming, however continues to help his son Rod. Ron has two sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren; he is delighted with his two grandchildren, Riley and Rhegan, who live nearby. Ron enjoys spending time with his family and considers farming his hobby.

Ronald receives a \$50 credit on his account. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid the \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 18th of the month. For your convenience, we offer Automatic Bank Draft, Credit Card and Online Payment. For more information, give us a call or visit wheatbelt.com, select the Customer Services menu.

AUTOPAY - THE EASY WAY

Security is usually the issue people have with autopay, but when you think about it, if you mail a check, and it gets into the wrong hands, the opportunity for identity theft is just as great. At that point, however, they even have your signature to copy. Just another side that most people do not think about.

Bank Bill Pay does not guarantee your payment will be on time, please make sure ample time is allowed for mail delivery. We have had numerous calls from delinquent customers that their Wheat Belt statement showed paid on their bank account. All that means is that the money was pulled from the account, and a payment was sent. It does not guarantee the delivery.

If you use a credit card, you are protected by the issuing bank. Even if you use a debit card, you are protected. No one can say they are 100 percent protected from any breach, but our on-line system is very secure.

Isn't it time to stop worrying as to whether your payment will reach its destination? Never worry about your electric bill again, by enrolling in autopay.

We need a signed authorization form on file. You can use the form printed on the back of your statement or print one from our site at www.wheatbelt.com. Call the office at 308-254-5871 or 800-261-7114, and we can mail or e-mail a form to you.

Quotes to Ponder

"One of the most courageous acts is to be yourself. Being different, recognizing your self-worth, and not caring about what others think, takes courage."

Unknown

"Retailers of over-priced trending products love sheep. If one jumps the rest follow!"

Unknown

"If you're being true to yourself, and it isn't enough for the people around you, maybe it's time to change the people around you."

Quotes Central

"Never look back - you aren't going that way."

Unknown

"If you don't stand up for what you believe, you will fall."

Unknown

"When you realize, it is not about being perfect, you will be happy!"

Unknown

"When you learn to stop caring what others think, you will find that their motivation was from jealousy, and it wouldn't have mattered what you changed, they would not." Unknown

2019 Rebates

Check on-line at www.wheatbelt.com under the "Energy Efficient" tab or contact the office for current rebates offered by Tri-State G & T and Wheat Belt PPD.

This might be just the right time to purchase a new heat pump.

If you have multiple accounts, and would like them automatically totalled, Wheat Belt's On-line portal is just what you need.

Go to www.wheatbelt.com, and click on Pay Your Bill Online at the top of the page. Click on Register in the black bar. Once you have successfully created a username, you can associate as many accounts as you want under that name. From that point, you can just Login to view or view and pay. Call Jane if you have any questions at 308-254-5871 or 800-261-7114

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Tim's Tidbits

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Happy New Year! It has been a pleasure to serve your electrical needs over the past years, and I continue to look forward to finding better ways to make your lives better in 2019.

Wheat Belt PPD, and the electrical industry, continually work on research to improve on our delivery of electricity, and on better ways to use electricity, both in efficiency and comfort. We have several levels of research going at all times. I have been fortunate to serve on one of our national research councils and have an opportunity to guide the research, focusing on the rural needs. Our power supplier, Tri-State G&T, also conducts research on various ways to make electricity more efficient. Tri-State G&T partnered with the Electrical Power Research Institute (EPRI) to evaluate cold-climate air to air heat pumps. There are four test units that were installed in December as part of this research. Two of the units were installed in Wheat Belt's territory. These systems will maintain air to air efficiency down to approximately five degrees above zero, compared to traditional air to air heat pumps, which start losing efficiency below 32 degrees. The two-year test will prove these units

in our climate, will gather economic data for comparison to other heating sources, will monitor home comfort, various levels of temperature adjustments, and find optimum heating and cooling schedules to maximize efficiency. After the two-year EPRI test, Wheat Belt will continue to test the units for reliability, rate development, and home energy efficiency returns. We look forward to sharing the results of this research with the national industry, manufacturers, and with you, so that you can make the best choice when it comes to installing an HVAC system and other energy efficiency upgrades.



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Safety First

BY PAM WIESER

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

It is heartbreaking to read about deaths or serious injuries caused by home fires, and I don't remember ever not hearing about a fire when winter hits. Whether it is from a faulty chimney, gas, propane or an electrical hazard, most home fires are totally preventable with diligence in checking equipment, cords and making sure you have fail-safe safety equipment installed.

Make sure your chimney is checked and clean, have routine maintenance performed on fossil fuel furnaces, and make sure your electrical appliances are in good repair and wiring is not frayed or undersized. Never hide or coil cords, and do not leave space heaters unattended that are not rated for constant use. Always buy UL listed appliances. Instruct your children never to leave anything lying in front of a heater.

You should test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors monthly. If you have children, make sure they know what to do in the case of fire. Everyone should know where the family will meet if different exits are to be used, and they should use the closest exit if it is not blocked by fire. If you have two stories, is there a ladder rope available for escape?



Don't assume it will not happen to you! Did you know, on average, seven people die every day from a home fire - most are children and elderly.

Wheat Belt Public Power District
P O Box 177, Sidney, Nebraska
Serving parts of Cheyenne, Deuel, Morrill, Garden, Arthur and Keith Counties

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During normal office hours (7:30a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) and after hours call:
(308) 254-5871 . (800) 261-7114

Fax: (308) 254-2384

e-mail: wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com

www.wheatbelt.com

Nearly 100 Years of Success -Community Owned Energy - Public Power in Nebraska-

There is only one state in the nation that serves every resident's and business's electrical needs from a community-owned cooperative or public power district. Local electric boards make the decisions that govern their district.

Public and cooperative ownership keep costs low for the state's consumers. Nebraskans enjoy one of the lowest rates for electricity in the nation, and being non-profit, revenues are reinvested in plant to ensure reliable and inexpensive costs in the future. The key is to keep control local. Who knows better than the people served how to operate at optimal efficiency. Employees are your friends and neighbors, and have your interests in mind.

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