



the Wheat Belt Connection

HAPPY EASTER - APRIL 21

APRIL 2019



Irrigation Panel Safety

There are times when damage is very apparent when you are getting ready to start your irrigation system, but there are other times, when it might not be so noticeable, which makes it much more dangerous, and why you should always do an inspection before reaching for the panel door.



Mice are the biggest culprits for damage and causing hazardous conditions. Even if the mice have not caused a short, removing the debris can be hazardous.

Before you start your system for the first time each spring, take a couple of minutes to look over the equipment. Walk around the panel and motor looking for any arc marks or burn holes. Are any of the doors opened far enough for mice to get in? If there are any arc marks or burns on the equipment, do not touch it. Contact Wheat Belt to remove the main fuses at the transformers, so that you can safely open the doors and work on the equipment.

Contact Wheat Belt during normal working hours to schedule the repair. If you are not sure what to look for, you may want to contact an electrician to start your inspection, and make sure everything is working properly.

Electricity will follow any path to ground, such as water or metal. This can create a shock hazard to anyone nearby or in contact with the equipment. Keep this in mind. If it is shorting, it may be electrifying nearby pipes or equipment.

Please take the time to check your systems before you need them, and always take the time to inspect your system before you start it.

Wheat Belt Connection

Editor
Pam Wieser

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Drawing Winner

Yolanda Hruska

Congratulations to Vern and Lynda Johnson of Deuel County, our February "Lucky Winners!" The Johnsons have made a career in the farming and cattle industry. During the summer, they enjoy weekly get-togethers at Lake McConaughy with their two sons, daughter-in-law and grandson. The Johnsons also enjoy flower and vegetable gardening.

For their prompt payment, they receive a \$50 credit. 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 several options: Automatic Bank Draft, and Automatic Credit Card or you may Pay Your Bill Online using our secure Auto-Pay system. We also accept payments over the phone. These are one-time drafts, and the information is not retained. Please give us a call or visit wheatbelt.com, select the Customer Services menu.

Scams, Scams and More Scams

We have shared with our readers a number of Phishing Scams. From imitating your electric supplier to imitating a co-worker or even a close family member, these scammers have no limit, and are becoming more and more sophisticated. It appears the authorities just throw up their hands because they are usually from over-seas.

We recently experienced scams that were directed to employees with the signature coming from an I-phone. Because so many people use the I-phone for just about everything, it appeared legitimate. The scammers figured out that many people were double-checking the e-mail addresses more closely.

No legitimate company will call you and ask for financial information. Don't send financial information through e-mail or fax unsecured. Scammers can copy official logos, and even provide an address that looks as though they are coming from that company. Always take the time to verify before you act.

Quotes to Ponder

"Easter is the only time it is ok to put all your eggs in one basket."

Unknown

"Don't trip over what is in front of you because you are always looking back."

Unknown

"If you look in the mirror and don't like what you see, change it."

Unknown

"Teach your kids to respect themselves, then they will never be the victim. What others think or say will not matter, because they know their own worth."

Unknown

"Everything is funny as long as it's happening to somebody else."

Will Rogers

"The art of sarcasm has gone by the wayside, nobody gets a joke and everyone is offended about something!"

So laugh anyway.

A day without laughter is a day wasted!"

"For the guys out there. If your wife says she needs some alone time, believe her, it is for your own safety!"

Unknown



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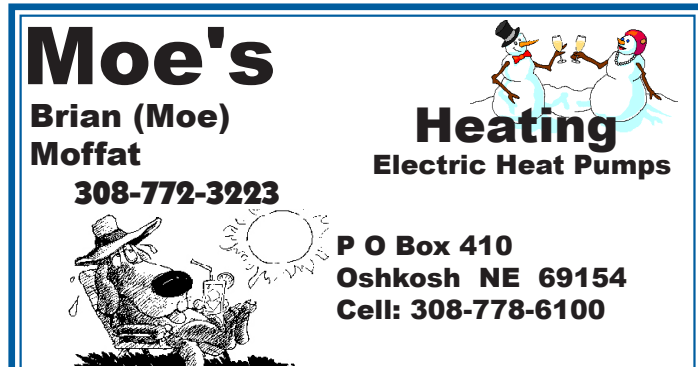


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Tim Lindahl
General Manager

Tim's Tidbits

Rural Broadband Update



Our rural areas continue to struggle with maintaining population and sustaining a vibrant economy. One of the key pieces to this sustainability is being able to keep up with the rest of the world. The state of Nebraska created a rural broadband task force to study what obstacles are limiting rural broadband development, preventing "on par" access with the urban areas.

I have been afforded the opportunity to represent public power in Nebraska on this task force. Our utilities continue to evolve, and the needs for robust digital communication are ever increasing as we push the grid to optimum efficiencies. Our needs and costs for this communication is as great as the communities. I have always been a believer that we should all work together to accomplish the same or similar tasks. Since our needs will require better high-speed communication and the infrastructure to support it, I believe it is worth exploring to see if we can help solve the rural broadband issue by sharing communication infrastructure in the rural

"We are advocating for our rural communities, for bringing service in the most cost-effective manner, and for utilizing all of our resources for the common good." Tim Lindahl

areas with others who provide broadband service. There are four subcommittees of the task force, Nebraska Universal Service Fund, Data, Technologies, and Public-Private Partnerships. I serve on the Public-Private Partnership subcommittee, and have been exploring different models of working together in the rural areas.

Wheat Belt and Public Power are not advocating that we solve this challenge, nor that we should venture from our core mission of providing safe, affordable, and reliable electric service. We are advocating for our rural communities, for bringing service in the most cost-effective manner, and for utilizing all of our resources for the common good.

The meetings of the Nebraska Rural Broadband Task Force are streamed via web video. If you would like more information on the task force or would like to follow the discussion, you can visit <http://ruralbroadband.nebraska.gov>. All of the presentations, minutes, and other background information are posted on the site.



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Safety First

BY PAM WIESER



You never know what weather March will bring, which is probably why they chose March 25-29, 2019, as Severe Weather Awareness week.

Being prepared, making sure your family knows

what to do, and practicing for dangerous weather phenomena are important. Do your children know to listen to radio or tune in to radar for updates during severe weather? Do they know to head for the basement or interior rooms if a tornado has been spotted?

Always stay away from windows during storms. Lightning kills an estimated 50 people in the United States and injures many more. Severe weather takes a toll with several hundred people dying and several thousand people sustaining injuries.

Storms can move quickly, and hail and strong winds can cause branches to break, trees to come down and beat you to death if you are unprotected.

Heat related deaths, especially children, have been recorded even in the winter months. Never leave a child or pet in a car. Heat and cold related deaths are the leading weather-related killers in the United States.

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