

the Wheat Belt Connection

happy
Easter

HAPPY EASTER - APRIL 12

APRIL 2020

Please

JOIN US

Wheat Belt Customer Appreciation

Friday, April 24, 2020

2pm — 4pm

11306 Road 32

2:00-3:00

APRIL 24, 2020 CUSTOMER MEETING POSTPONED!
The health and safety of our customers and employees is our highest priority.
After careful consideration, we are postponing our Customer Meeting.
In light of the ongoing COVID-19, the rescheduled date has not been determined.

Q & A

3:00-4:00

Social Hour

- Swag bags
- Random drawings for amazing door prizes
- Light refreshments

Wheat Belt Connection

Editor - Yolanda Hruska

In This Issue

Irrigation Safety	Page 12-B
Employee Spotlight	Page 12-C
Youth Energy Leadership Camp	Page 12-C
Story Behind the Switch	Page 12-D



Drawing Winner

Yolanda Hruska

Congratulations to Jeff and Marla Sprenger, our February "Lucky Winners"! Jeff and Marla Sprenger were both born and raised in the area. They have been Wheat Belt customers since 1993 and this is the first time they won!

Jeff has his own welding business on the farm (The Iron Shoppe) and Marla is a New York Life Insurance agent. They have two married sons and 4 grandchildren.

The Sprengers have received a \$50 credit for their prompt payment. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid the \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 15th of the month. For your convenience, we offer several options. Please give us a call or visit wheatbelt.com, and select the Customer Services menu.

IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT SAFETY



Spring is here, farming season has begun. As you start your work for the year and throughout the year, remember to keep your eyes and mind on task.

Before you start your irrigation system for the first time this spring, take a couple of minutes to do an inspection of the panel door and 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? Mice are the biggest culprits for causing damage. If there are 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.

Visit safeelectricity.org/irrigation-equipment-safety/ for more safety tips.

ne1call.com



Nebraska811 is a FREE service for anyone who is planning a digging project, including homeowners and professional excavators. Nebraska State law requires anyone who digs to place a locate request at least two full business days before digging. Once your request is submitted, utilities will locate and mark their lines.

By placing a call or an online request with Nebraska811, damage to underground utility lines can be prevented as well as costs for repairs, loss of use and injury. It's FREE. It's EASY. It's the LAW.

Locate requests are placed by calling 811 or 800-331-5666 or visit ne1call.com.

Please Note: For private utility lines, it is the owner's responsibility to determine their location. Utilities will NOT locate and mark privately owned lines.

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LOCAL BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



As a Wheat Belt customer, if you are interested in our upcoming Local Business Spotlight, please contact us at 308-254-5871 or yolanda.hruska@wheatbelt.com.

NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP

July 20-24, 2020 * HS Students Grades 9–11
Nebraska State 4-H Camp—Halsey National Forest
All-expense paid camp

For more information and application form, contact Kelli Chaon, 308-254-5871.

* DEADLINE IS MAY 15, 2020*

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EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Dean Gipfert

Operations Department
Sidney Area Foreman

With Wheat Belt since: March 1975



Birthplace: Sidney NE

Family: Married to Nancy 43 years, children Tiffany, Josh, Megan and grandchildren Addy, Khira, Logan and Brooklyn

Education: Sidney Public Schools



Hobbies: Woodworking and remodeling projects

Favorite food: Steak, shrimp, crab and bbq

Favorite sport: All, especially sports my grandchildren are playing

Favorite place to be: Home with family

Favorite music: Country

What would you do (for a career) if you weren't doing this: Home construction and remodeling

Where is the best place you have traveled to and why: Riviera Maya Mexico, treated very well



What do you like most about your job: Turning on the lights and helping others

If you could travel to any place, where would it be & why: Alaska, never been there

Best advice anyone ever gave you: Work hard and help others

Tell us something that might surprise us about you:

From a family of 13

A random fact about you: I was the youngest male employee hired and now I am the oldest male employee

What is the one thing you cannot resist: Good food

What is your greatest fear: Not being able to get up and move

If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do: Bring my family together and decide what is best for all

If you could meet anyone, living or deceased, who would you meet: My parents

How do you balance your career and family: Make sacrifices



If you could learn to do anything, what would it be: Play a guitar

STORY BEHIND THE SWITCH



Michelle Pastor with Tri-State G&T was in Sidney on Tuesday, Feb. 18th presenting "Story Behind the Switch" to 4th Grade students at North Elementary. Wheat Belt Representatives, Lacey Gulbranson & Yolanda Hruska, were also present to assist with the presentation.

"Story Behind the Switch", engaging for students K-12, is a 45-60 minute traveling program with several interactive electricity demonstrations. The session teaches our students about electricity and safety with hands-on activities, covering diverse energy resources, energy efficiency, conductors vs. insulators, and the path of electricity from the power plant to your home.

A good time was had by all! We are scheduled to present at Leyton Elementary School on Friday, April 24th. We are more than happy to extend our presentations to civic organizations and community events. Presentations are customized to include a variety of topics for different age groups. Contact our office, 308-254-5871, to schedule. WE ARE DEDICATED TO PROMOTING A CULTURE OF SAFETY!

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Garden, Arthur and Keith Counties

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During office hours (7:30am to 4:00pm) and after hours call: (308) 254-5871/(800) 261-7114



The Cheyenne County Sheriff and Sidney Police Department are warning the public about scams recently reported in the area.

A group is posing as Blue Cross Blue Shield, saying they have updated account numbers for all their members, and they need to update banking information. Blue Cross Blue Shield will not ask for banking information over the phone.

Another scam involves a website called nextdoor.com. Several people are being contacted through letters and email by the website, claiming to have items for sale, advertising for local events among other things. The sheriff's office warns the public this website is fraudulent.

A scammer has been making calls posing as an employee of the City of Sidney, asking for credit card information in order to avoid disconnecting electricity. Neither the City, nor Wheat Belt, will ask for financial information over the phone.

If you receive similar calls, please immediately report to the Sheriff's Office or the Sidney Police Department.

Lastly, nationally, scams referencing the coronavirus have already started circulating. Please be very careful, and always double check your sources.



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