

# the Wheat Belt Connection

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800-261-7114  
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www.wheatbelt.com

**MOTHER'S DAY - MAY 10**

**MAY 2020**

## ***Congratulations 2020 Scholarship Recipients***

Wheat Belt and our partners, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Tri-State Generation and Transmission and Arbor Wealth Management are pleased to recognize the following recipients of our 2020 Scholarship Program. We wish all graduates success in their future endeavors.



**Caroline Lindahl**

A \$1,000 Basin Scholarship was awarded to Caroline Lindahl. She will be a Freshman at Concordia University, Major Course of Study: Elementary Education. Caroline is the daughter of Timothy and Sarah Lindahl of Sidney, Nebraska.

**Danielle Higgins**

A second \$1,000 Basin Scholarship was awarded to Danielle Higgins. She will be a Sophomore at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Major Course of Study: Nutrition, Exercise and Health Sciences and Minor: Business Administration. Danielle is the daughter of Robert and Lianne Higgins of Dalton, Nebraska.



**Logan Wamsley**

A \$500 Wheat Belt Scholarship was awarded to Logan Wamsley. He will be a Freshman at Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Major Course of Study: Diversified Agriculture and Minors: Irrigation Technology and Agribusiness Management. Logan is the son of Scott and Christine Wamsley of Sidney, Nebraska.



## **Wheat Belt Connection**

Editor - Yolanda Hruska

### **In This Issue**

Scholarship Recipients	
Cont.	Page 12-B
Tim's Tidbits	Page 12-C
Touchstone Award	
Recipients	Page 12-D



## **Drawing Winner**

Yolanda Hruska

Congratulations to Shawn and Nancy Vineyard, our March "Lucky Winners"!

Shawn and Nancy ranch north of Oshkosh and Nancy also works at the Garden County Assessor's Office. Shawn enjoys team roping and Nancy enjoys all their family events. Their son Terrel helps with the ranch and daughter Tori, a dental hygienist, and her husband live north of Gillette, WY and are expecting their first child in May.

The Vineyards 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.

## 2020 Scholarship Recipients



**Jeremy Carley**

One of the \$500 Tri-State Scholarships was awarded to Jeremy Carley. He will be a Freshman at Chadron State College, Major Course of Study: Business. Jeremy is the son of Mark and Jackie Carley of Dalton, Nebraska.

**Katelyn Higgins**

The second \$500 Tri-State Scholarship was awarded to Katelyn Higgins. She will be a Senior at Bryan College of Health Sciences, Major Course of Study: Diagnostic Medical Sonography and Minor: Vascular Sonography. Katelyn is the daughter of Robert and Lianne Higgins of Dalton, Nebraska



**Samantha Schmid**

The \$100 Arbor Wealth Scholarship was awarded to Samantha Schmid. She will be a Junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Major Course of Study: Psychology and Minors: Criminology/Criminal Justice and Spanish. Samantha is the daughter of Daniel and Michelle Schmid of Oshkosh, Nebraska.



## NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP

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\*DEADLINE IS MAY 15, 2020\*

Happy  
Mother's  
Day



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## TIM'S TIDBITS

### PROTECTING OUR RATES - PART 2

In the March edition of this magazine, I provided an update on our initiatives to protect our customers from undue costs resulting from regulatory and legislative costs in other states. I have some good news resulting from the litigation efforts at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The FERC sided with us on nearly all of our complaints.

The first challenge was that we believed that our wholesale power provider falls under the full jurisdiction of the FERC. Assuming we were correct, the FERC then oversees that our wholesale energy rates are just and reasonable. We filed several complaints relating to our wholesale rates. Our first challenge was the validity of the costs that make up our wholesale rate and the interstate regulatory cost issue. The second challenge was the cost of service component of our wholesale standby service rate that we pay on behalf of one of our customers. Thirdly, we challenged that any contract buyout method is indeed a rate, or at least a cost that will be incurred in our wholesale rate. For the background on these challenges, you might refer back to the article that I placed in the March magazine.

The FERC sided with our arguments in a ruling issued March 19, 2020. Because of our inability to be represented in the other states, as well as other items we pointed out, the FERC ruled they have full jurisdiction over our wholesale rates. The only exception in the ruling was on determining a contract buyout cost for two utilities in Colorado, which they left with the Colorado PUC. We believe this will also be resolved in the near future, based on additional information presented. The FERC, in the same ruling, determined that both our wholesale rate and the standby service rate we are charged are not just and reasonable and not substantiated as a cost-based rate. The FERC ordered that settlement proceedings occur between Wheat Belt and Tri-State, with any settlement able to be refunded during the process. We have started this settlement process and believe it will take up to six months to work through. We are very hopeful that we can come to agreement on a settlement that does not require our customers to pay for regulations imposed in other states for the future and be refunded for some that have occurred in the past.

Your Board of Directors and I do not take challenges such as this lightly. We conducted a significant amount of research before we launched this challenge. We are extremely pleased that the FERC sided with us, and you, and we hope we can settle our concerns in this process.

### 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](mailto:yolanda.hruska@wheatbelt.com).

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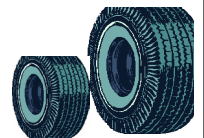
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## 2020 TOUCHSTONE AWARD PROGRAM OUTSTANDING SCHOLASTIC & ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE

Each year area schools are able to recognize and award two high school students for outstanding performance in alignment with Touchstone values of accountability, integrity, teamwork and commitment to excellence. Two students from each school are selected, one for scholastic achievements and one for athletic achievements. The school is given \$400 (\$200 per division) on behalf of Wheat Belt and the students. The funds are to be used at the school's discretion.

Recipients receive a certificate and gift cards; also, an engraved nameplate is added to the Touchstone plaque displayed at their school.

**Bridgeport:** Evy Loomis-Goltl (S) and Casey Benavides (A)

**Creek Valley:** Catie Koenen (S) and Patrick Hansen (A)

**Garden County:** Camden Robertson (S) and Reid Spady (A)

**Leyton:** Alyson Holt (S) and Jeremy Carley (A)

**Sidney:** Benjamin Bashtovoi (S) and Mattie Johnson (A)

### Congratulations!



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### MONDAY, MAY 25

This U.S. federal holiday is observed on the last Monday of May to honor the men and women who have died while in the military service of their country, particularly those who died in battle or as a result of wounds sustained in battle. We spend time remembering those who lost their lives and could not come home, reflecting on their service and why we have the luxury and freedom that we enjoy today. We might consider how we can support and safeguard their grieving families and loved ones who are left behind.

Remember: Raise the flag with honor and respect!

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