



NOVEMBER 2020

## THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION

### LEYTON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS VISITS WHEAT BELT HEADQUARTERS



Mr. Matt Haley's Industrial Technology high school class visited Wheat Belt headquarters on Monday, September 28th. The students

were required to write a minimum of five facts learned during the 60-minute presentation.

A wall size map of our territory was shown along with some of the different equipment found on an electric utility pole, equipment used by linemen, what wet sand looks like after touched by an energized power line, and, a live, low-voltage demonstration.

Our outage process was discussed and a "License to Live" video by Safe Electricity was shown. The video focused on what to do if you are ever in an accident that involves a utility pole or underground equipment.

*Continued on Page 12-B*

#### **\*ATTENTION WHEAT BELT CUSTOMERS\***

Beginning November 1, 2020, Wheat Belt PPD will no longer be making automated phone calls to our customers regarding disconnects for non-payment. This is the result of the FCC Ruling on the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.

This does not affect outage notifications. We will continue to send automated calls pertaining to outages.

Please contact our office with any questions or to update your contact number.

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*Editor - Yolanda Hruska*

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### DRAWING WINNER

Congratulations to the Village of Dalton, our September "Lucky Winner"! The Village has received a \$50 credit on their account.

The Village of Dalton, founded in 1909 and surrounded by wheat, corn, and bean fields, is a serene place to live. A community of approximately 315, residents are proud of their town, homes, and businesses. Dalton is also home to the Leyton Warriors. Leyton Public High School has a total of 59 students.

Next time you are heading north on Highway 385, schedule a tour of the Prairie Schooner Museum or stop by and visit the local businesses.

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 payment options. Please give us a call or visit [wheatbelt.com](http://wheatbelt.com).

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)



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

**Shelley Peterson**

Customer Engagement  
Department

With Wheat Belt since:  
September 3, 1996

This month we are featuring Shelley, who has been with Wheat Belt for 24 years. Enjoy!

**Birthplace:** Sidney

**Cities/towns you have lived in:** Lodgepole and Chappell

**Family:** Spouse, Todd; son, Tucker; and daughter, Whitley, our beautiful guardian angel.

**Hobbies and favorite place to be:** Exercise and being in the sunshine.

**Favorite quote:** "One kind word can change someone's entire day."

**Favorite food:** Any food I don't have to prepare; meatloaf, mexican, and seafood.

**Favorite music:** Country

**Favorite sport:** Volleyball and I love to watch track.

**Where is the best place you have traveled to and why?** Venice, Italy; I saw lots of beautiful history and made life-long memories with my sister.

**If you could travel to any place, where would it be and why?** Anywhere tropical, I love the sun.

**If you won the lottery, what is the first thing you would do?** I would hire an attorney.

**One random fact about you:** I sleep very little.

What would you do (for a career) if you weren't doing this? I would love to have my own make-up line.

What chore do you absolutely hate doing? Cleaning out closets.

When you have 30 minutes of free-time, how do you pass the time? Go for a walk.

Tell us something that might surprise us about you: I am very claustrophobic.



*LEYTON continued from Page 12-A*



Earl Reilly, Operations Manager/Safety Director; Ryan Borges, Staking Engineer; and Eric Reimers, Engineering Technician spoke about their roles and responsibilities, as well as, other careers in our industry.

The presentation concluded with a final reminder, **safety is our number one priority!**

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Timothy Lindahl  
General Manager/CEO

Tim's Tidbits

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Electric vehicles have been making the news recently, especially with California announcing that all new vehicles sold in that state after 2035 will need to be powered by electricity. Electric vehicles are not new, in fact some of the very first automobiles were powered by batteries. What has changed is the battery technology, charging times, and economics. Today's electric vehicles appear to be as reliable and more cost effective as compared to a traditional gasoline powered car.

The small and toylike vehicles of the past are not the norm today. Ford has announced their all electric F150 for late next year, Tesla cars are sporty, and there are more practical versions already out or in the works. There are two types of plug-in electric vehicles. A fully electric version and a plug-in hybrid version, known as a PHEV. Both have their positives and a choice can be made based on the type of driving you do.

Before we can support or recommend a change to an electric vehicle, we thought we needed to gain our own experiences with them. A few months back, you may have read the article on our test Tesla Model 3. We will soon get to test a Tesla Model Y, a consumer priced version of their SUV. We recently added a

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS' UPDATE



We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the Fehringer family. Our board President, Bernard G. Fehringer, passed away September 22, 2020.

Bernie was elected in 1981 representing the South District, Sidney, NE. He served the board for 39 years,

most recently as President.

Throughout those years, Bernie was very committed. He attended monthly meetings, state and national meetings, numerous conferences and was present for most Wheat Belt events. In addition, he completed a number of National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) courses becoming a Credentialed Cooperative Director. He also served on many statewide and national committees.

Bernie is survived by Sharon, his wife of 56 years, two children Amy (Erik) Fehringer-Tschopp and John (Sara) Fehringer; and nine grandchildren.



After 27 years on Wheat Belt's Board of Directors, Doug Smith has retired. He served from January 1993 to September 2020, representing our South District, Chappell, NE.

Doug was very dedicated to Wheat Belt. In addition to Board certification, he attended monthly meetings, state and national meetings, and conferences to stay abreast of our industry.

Wheat Belt was part of the family tradition. Doug's father, Theodore Smith, served on the Wheat Belt Board from 1946 – 1970.

Residing on the family farm since 1967, Doug was very active in his community and his church; and, is an avid golfer and sports fan. They have relocated to the eastern part of Nebraska.

Doug and Joyce, his wife of 60 years, will travel and spend more time with family. Their backyard view is the golf course and he will enjoy golfing!



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**ELECTRIC VEHICLES** continued from Page 12-C

Chrysler Pacifica PHEV to our fleet through a lease. This plug-in hybrid will be our long term test vehicle, performing a majority of its tasks on full electric power, but having the engine available for longer trips. I also purchased a PHEV personally and have been collecting data from my commuting and other trips. Over the coming months we will provide what we learned, our experiences, and the data on efficiency and cost. We will use our data to develop optimum retail rates for charging the vehicles, so that you can get the most economical benefit, should you make the switch. We plan to compare the different driving styles and needs to gain a greater understanding and confidence in these vehicles. If you consider an electric vehicle for yourself, we hope we can be a resource for you.

So far our experience has been positive, but time and testing will ensure the best possible opinion.

*In every day, there are 1,440 minutes. That means we have 1,440 daily opportunities to make a positive impact. ~ Les Brown*

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### **OFFICE HOURS:**

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