



JANUARY 2021

THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Wheat Belt, Basin, Tri-State, and Arbor Wealth are teaming up this year, offering several scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Wheat Belt

- One - \$2,000 Lineman or
- Two - \$500 Vocational/Technical

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

- One - \$1,000

Tri-State Generation & Transmission Assoc.

- Two - \$500

Arbor Wealth Management, Inc.

- One - \$100

GUIDELINES

- Dependent of a Wheat Belt PPD customer
- College Freshman - Senior, Fall status
- Enrolled in a full-time undergraduate course of study
- Enrolled at a 2-yr. community or junior college, 4-yr. college or university, vocational/technical school or lineman school
- WB scholarship only - must be enrolled in a technical field course of study

Please visit wheatbelt.com, News & Events, Youth Info to download the application and for more information. Application must be in Wheat Belt's office by 4:00 p.m. on February 12, 2021.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



TRI-STATE

ARBOR WEALTH MANAGEMENT, INC.

Investment Consulting/Wealth Planning

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Editor - Yolanda Hruska

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DRAWING WINNER

Congratulations to John Jordan, our November "Lucky Winner"! For his prompt payment, John has received 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 15th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please give us a call or visit wheatbelt.com.

P.O. BOX 177, 11306 RD 32, SIDNEY, NE 69162

P 308.254.5871 | T 800.261.7114 | wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com | www.wheatbelt.com

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Tyson Long joins Wheat Belt



Wheat Belt is happy to introduce Tyson Long to our customers. Tyson joined our Wheat Belt team as Sidney Maintenance Lineman on December 1, 2020.

Tyson, a native of Sidney, enjoys fishing and pheasant hunting. And, being outdoors is what he likes most

about his job. Enjoy getting to know Tyson!

Favorite food: Mexican food

Favorite sport: Baseball

Favorite TV program: Shark Tank

Where is the best place you have traveled to and why? The best place I have traveled to is Costa Rica. I enjoyed the laid back atmosphere.

If you could travel to any place, where would it be and why? I would travel to Alaska, to see the outdoors and to go fishing.

Tell us something that might surprise us about you: I can play the drums.

If I could have another occupation it would be: as a maintenance guy at a golf course.

A great evening to me is: grilling and sitting by the bonfire.

TIME TO DITCH YOUR OLD SPACE HEATER?

If you can't remember when you purchased your space heater, it might be time to replace it. Just like the flip phones of yesteryear have progressed into today's modern cell phone, portable space heaters have come a long way too. Most of today's models have built-in safety features, such as non-exposed coils and sensors that detect overheating, as well as an automatic shut-off feature in case it gets tipped over.

Regardless of whether your space heater is fresh out of the box or several years old, it should be used safely, since most home heating fire deaths (86%) involve using one, according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). In fact, heating equipment is the second-leading cause of U.S. home fires, right behind cooking.

Along with using a unit that is in good working order, be sure to keep clothing, papers, rugs and other flammable items at least three feet away from a space heater. More than half of the heating-related home fires start when items are too close to the heat source, according to the NFPA, including upholstered

Continued on 12-D

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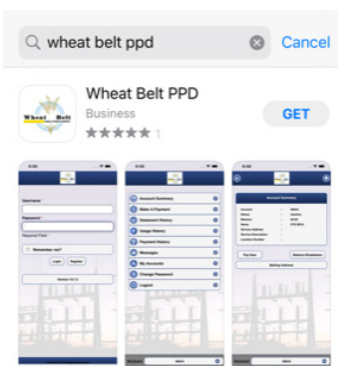
Kelli Chaon
Customer Engagement
Manager

WHEAT BELT PPD MOBILE APP

Wheat Belt Public Power District (WBPPD) is pleased to announce the launch of a new mobile service application for both iOS and Android devices. The new app is a tool in our campaign to improve customer communications, assist our customers in paying their bills and to view their usage.

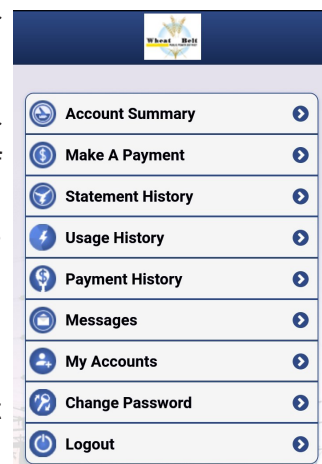
To download the free app, customers should search "Wheat Belt PPD" in the app store. If you have already set up a username and password for online account management, you can use the same login information for your mobile device. If you are not already using our online tools to help you manage your WBPPD accounts, you can now register for a new login and use that login for both online and mobile applications. If you receive a stack of bills from us each month, an online/mobile account is a great way to consolidate, summarize and total those accounts for you.

Currently you can use the mobile app to make a payment, view statement, usage and payment



histories, and maintain your account information. We are in the process of working with our software provider on future functionality of the app. This includes the ability to allow customers to report outages and receive notifications from our office through the app involving outage locations, and statement and payment status. WBPPD will keep our customers informed of the progress with our new app through Facebook, the Nebraska Magazine (The Wheat Belt Connection) and on wheatbelt.com.

If you need assistance setting up your new mobile app or online accounts, please contact our Customer Engagement Department at (308) 254-5871.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source: www.nrel.gov





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86% of home heating fire deaths involve space heaters.

Source: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)



furniture, clothing, a mattress or bedding.

Safe Electricity and Wheat Belt PPD recommend these additional space heater safety tips:

1. Read all instructions and only use as recommended.
2. Do not leave a space heater unattended.
3. Plug it directly into an outlet; most power strips and extension cords are not equipped to handle the energy spikes caused by a space heater cycling on and off.
4. Unplug any other item from the outlet you are using; also try to use a dedicated circuit to avoid overload.
5. Keep children and pets away from space heaters.
6. Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.
7. Do not use a heater in disrepair or with a frayed cord or damaged plug.
8. Place them on flat, level surfaces and never place on furniture, counters or carpet, which can overheat.

Use a space heater with care. For additional safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.

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