



May 2023

## THE WHEAT BELT CONNECTION

### Dean Gipfert Retires From Wheat Belt After 48 Years

After 48 years of service to our Wheat Belt customers, Dean has decided it is time to retire. Prior to his service at Wheat Belt, Dean worked as a machine operator at Pfizer for their seasonal hops run. He then came to work at Wheat Belt in 1975 as an assistant warehouseman. He worked in that position for four years and moved to a Maintenance Equipment Operator position when it came open. During this time he earned his journeyman lineman certification. In 1995, Dean became the Sidney Area Maintenance Lineman, and held that position until 2018 when he became the foreman for the Sidney area. Wheat Belt created a PCB Analyst position in 2022, and Dean moved into that position until his retirement.

When asked what he enjoyed most about working for Wheat Belt, he said, "Meeting people! Learning the how and why of the electrical operation. Learning that this business is self-rewarding in that you can learn and do more than just a job. When you go to build or restore power to a customer, they are more than a customer. They are people that you build a relationship with and they know you can get the job done." Dean also stated, "working at Wheat Belt, you build a bond with the people you work with, it's like brotherhood and family!"

He says he plans to fill his retirement days with honey-dos, traveling and spending more time with the grandkids. Dean's wife Nancy of 46 years, plans on retiring later in the year also. They have two daughters, Tiffany(David) Vallier, and Megan (Lane) Rathman, their late son Josh and five grandchildren, Addy, Khria, Logan, Brooklyn and Everly.



Please Join Us for A  
**Retirement Party/Open House**

Honoring  
**Dean Gipfert**

**Saturday  
At 4:30 PM**

**3**

**June  
2023**



**Hillside Golf Course**  
2616 Hillside Dr., Sidney, NE  
69162



Taco Bar and refreshments



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LACEY GULBRANSON  
General Manager/CEO

## May Is Electric Safety Month

May is Electric Safety Month so here are some good reminders when working outside. Power lines are a part of life. We have come accustomed to them and sometimes we forget they are near. When working around power lines: make a plan, ensure people and equipment remain at least 10 feet from the lines in all directions, use a spotter, lower equipment to the lowest possible level when transporting (under 14 feet), practice awareness and caution when raising equipment (large or small), and never attempt to raise or move a power line, call Wheat Belt instead. Also, take note that large modern equipment, especially with antennas, can exceed the height of 14 feet posing an increased risk of contacting a power line.

Always remember if you are in a vehicle or on equipment that comes into contact with a power line, **DO NOT EXIT** the vehicle. Wait until utility workers have de-energized the line and have instructed you to exit the vehicle or equipment. In the event the vehicle/equipment is on fire and you must exit, remember hop with both feet together as far away from the vehicle/equipment as you can.

Happy spring and stay safe.



## LUCKY DRAWING



Our monthly Lucky Drawing is held January through November. All customers who pay before 4:00 p.m. the 16th of each month are automatically entered and the winner receives a \$50 credit on their account.

We offer the following payment options:

- \*Mobile Customer Access, iOS and Android, search for Wheat Belt Public Power in your app store
- \*Online, using our secure Auto-Pay system
- \*Automatic Bank Draft: Checking or Savings
- \*Automatic Credit Card Draft: Visa, Mastercard, or Discover
- \*Future Scheduled Payments
- \*Phone payments, one-time drafts: e-check/savings or credit card
- \*Mail: PO Box 177 (please do not send cash)
- \*Drop box: 11306 Road 32 (please do not leave cash, checked daily except during office closures)
- \*Pay at the office: cash, check or credit card



### Learn How to Protect Yourself from Scams and Fraud

As technology continues to evolve, so do the tactics of scammers trying to take advantage of unsuspecting consumers. One such scam that has been making the rounds recently is individuals pretending to be representatives of your electric utility company. These scammers will call you claiming that they are from your utility company and that you have overpaid and are due to receive a credit.

The scammer will then ask for your personal information, such as your social security number or credit card information, claiming that they need it to credit your account.

### Don't Get Duped

It is important to remember that your electric utility company will never call you to ask for personal information or demand immediate payment. If you do receive a call like this, it is likely a scam. If you are unsure if a call is legitimate, hang up and call your utility company directly to verify.



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1744 Illinois  
Sidney NE 69162  
308-254-6127 or 800-303-6127





## **CONGRATULATIONS!**

### **2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Wheat Belt PPD 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 2022 Scholarship Program. We congratulate and wish ALL graduates success in their future endeavors!



#### **Ty Coss**

A \$2,000 Wheat Belt Lineman Scholarship was awarded to Ty. He will be a Freshman at Mitchell Technical College, Major Course of Study: Powerline Construction and Maintenance. Ty is the son of Kevin and DeeAnn Coss of Oshkosh, Nebraska.

#### **Haily Koenen**

A \$1,000 Basin Scholarship was awarded to Haily. She will be a Freshman at University of Northern Colorado, Major Course of Study: Secondary Education. Haily is the daughter of Clint and Julie Koenen of Chappell, Nebraska.



#### **Karson Loomis**

A \$500 Tri-State Scholarship was awarded to Karson. He will be a Freshman at Casper College, Major Course of Study: Fire Science. Karson is the son of Cody and Naomi Loomis of Alliance, Nebraska.

#### **Cade Loomis**

A \$500 Tri-State Scholarship was awarded to Cade. He will be a Sophomore at Southeast Community College, Major Course of Study: John Deere Diesel Technician. Cade is the son of Cody and Naomi Loomis of Alliance, Nebraska.



#### **Kenzee Moffat**

A \$500 Arbor Wealth Scholarship was awarded to Kenzee. She will be a Freshman at Western Welding Academy, Major Course of Study: Professional Pipe Welding. Kenzee is the daughter of Brian "Moe" Moffat and Jenny Moffat of Oshkosh, Nebraska.



# **Moe's**

**Brian (Moe) Moffat**

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★★★★★  
**MEMORIAL  
 DAY**  
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## A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

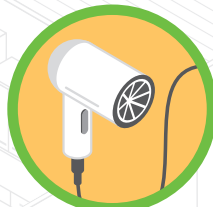
### DON'T

place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.



### DO

keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.



### DO

ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.



### DON'T

overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.



May is National Electrical Safety Month.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kelli Chaon

### OFFICE HOURS:

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

P 308.254.5871 | T 800.261.7114 | F 308.254.2384

wheatbelt@wheatbelt.com

## Our Mission

Deliver electricity safely, reliably and efficiently.