



September 2024



Wheat Belt Conducts Annual Hurtman Rescue Training

LACEY GULBRANSON
General Manager/CEO



As you know, being a high-voltage lineman is a dangerous job. Each month we have a safety meeting covering topics like heat exhaustion, distracted/fatigued driving, substation switchman training, first aid and CPR, plus many other topics.

Once a year we cover hurtman rescue, our August safety meeting was a cool,

drizzly day for this exercise. Hurtman rescue is just what it sounds like, retrieving a dummy from a power pole simulating a lineman unable to get down on their own. There are a few different methods of retrieval the linemen are required to know and each year they are tested on a different method. Hurtman rescue demonstrates a lineman's ability to do their job and it reinforces trust amongst the crew members... knowing that if something should happen I'm in good hands and my crew members are capable.

Wheat Belt Public Power District is committed to delivering electricity safely, reliably and affordably.

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Editor - Kelli Chaon

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LUCKY DRAWING

Congratulations to Andy Company our July "Lucky Draw Winner"!

History of Andy Company (by Kay Anderson): Nils and Anna Anderson homesteaded west of where the main house is located. They were the 1st generation. Today, we have our 6th generation learning how to help work cattle and change water on the flood fields. We are located southeast of Broadwater by the Silverthorn Substation. We have always been with Wheat Belt Public Power! We farm, ranch and have a feedlot. As far as hobbies go, golfing is enjoyed by several of the family members. Others just enjoy the daily activities of farming, ranching and taking care of the feedlot.

Andy Company received a \$50 credit on their account for their prompt payment. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid a \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 16th of the month.

For your convenience, we offer several payment options. Please give us a call at 308-254-5871, or visit wheatbelt.com, and select the Customer Engagement page for more information.

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Tim Jones Joins Wheat Belt Staff

Finance Administrative Services Manager



Tim Jones joined our team in May of this year as our Finance and Administrative Services Manager. He holds a Master of Business Administration Degree from Bellevue University. Prior to coming on board at Wheat Belt, Tim worked various electronic technician jobs and then moved to project management. His positions have involved all aspects of project management and specialized in project/port-

folio finance and administration.

He stated his favorite part of the job so far is in this role he gets a diversity of finance and human resources. "I get to help Wheat Belt's employees and help the company grow," Tim stated.

Tim grew up in the Kansas City area (Paoela, KS) and lived in Omaha, NE, before moving out to the panhandle. Tim is married to his wife, Faith. They have three kids: Zac Jones, wife Bri and grandson Felix; Alyssa Meyer, husband Tristan and a granddaughter on the way in September, and Kaitlyn Jones. In his free time, Tim enjoys fishing.

PREPAREDNESS MONTH WORD SEARCH

Did you know September is National Preparedness Month? There are several ways you and your family can be prepared for an emergency.

Read the tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle. (Use the word bank as a guide.)



PREPAREDNESS TIPS:

Keep a list of emergency **phone numbers** in a location that's easy to find.

Learn about different types of **emergency alerts** and understand what they mean.

Make an emergency **kit** that includes items like flashlights, batteries, water, non-perishable food and a First Aid Kit.

Designate a **safe area** in your home in the event of a severe storm. This should be an area in the center of the home, away from windows.

Make sure **smoke alarms** are installed on every floor of your home and outside bedrooms. Test alarms every month to ensure they're working properly.



WORD BANK: phone numbers, emergency, alerts, kit, safe area, smoke alarms

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Now is the time to schedule annual maintenance for your home's heating system. During fall months, HVAC technicians are typically less busy, making this an excellent time for maintenance and any necessary repairs before the winter months.

A qualified technician can clean filters, check for leaks and ensure all system components are working efficiently to keep your home cozy and warm when the temperatures begin to drop.

The Power of Smart Home Technologies

BY: ANNE PRINCE, NRECA's Straight Talk

Smart home technologies are transforming how we live, making our homes more comfortable, convenient and energy efficient than ever before.

Smart home technologies are devices that communicate with each other to automate everyday tasks and functions around the home, like heating and cooling, lighting and security. In addition to convenience, smart technologies enable consumers to manage and monitor their energy consumption through device scheduling and control.

With just a tap on your phone or a voice command to your virtual assistant (like Alexa or Siri), you can conveniently control many aspects of your home environment. If you're new to the smart tech world, there are several cost-effective devices you can try as you explore ways to make your home smarter.

One of the best and most inexpensive places to start is with a smart bulb or plug. Smart LED bulbs allow you to control home lighting remotely through a smartphone app or voice commands. You can set schedules to automatically turn lights off or on, which can help you save energy and boost

home security.

Smart plugs are another inexpensive way to give electronics and small appliances the smart home treatment. Smart plugs allow you to set schedules and remotely control power to lamps, small appliances and electronics, minimizing standby energy consumption and maximizing convenience. For example, you can sync the timing of your bedside lamp, alarm, speakers and coffee maker to turn on at the same time each morning.

If Alexa or Siri is already part of your household, you can build on your existing "tech ecosystem" by adding a smart hub, like Amazon Echo or Apple HomePod. Voice assistants that are synced to smart devices like bulbs and plugs provide additional options for device management and allow family members to interact with the various devices through voice control rather than individual apps.

Home heating and cooling account for a significant portion of energy use, so one of the best investments you can make in smart tech is a smart thermostat. While traditional

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TIPS FOR INTEGRATING SMART HOME TECH

If you're new to smart home technologies, keep the following tips in mind as you explore home automation options.

- 1. Define goals.** Determine the areas in your home you want to make smart, like lighting, security and entertainment systems.
- 2. Choose compatible devices.** A smart hub can make integration easier with a central device to control multiple smart technologies.
- 3. Check Wi-Fi strength.** Smart home technologies require a stable internet connection to function properly, so consider factors like router placement and signal strength.
- 4. Prioritize security.** Set strong, unique passwords for your Wi-Fi network, set devices to update automatically and limit personal data collection.

The Power of Smart Home Technologies cont'd from 12-C

programmable thermostats can be set to your schedule and preferences, a smart thermostat takes this one step further by learning and adjusting to your routine and building a schedule around it.

Smart security systems are popular options for homeowners looking for advanced security solutions that incorporate cameras, sensors and cloud-based video recordings. As with other smart technologies, smart security systems provide convenient, flexible ways to monitor homes (and businesses), giving you peace of mind even when you're away.

If you're considering smart tech for your home, start by defining your goals. Is saving energy your top priority, or are you aiming to improve home security? Smart home technologies provide great convenience—but remember, they are internet-connected devices. That means you'll need a stable Wi-Fi connection to ensure devices are working properly, and you'll need strong passwords for your router and individual devices.

Whether you're looking to automate every aspect of your home or simply want to try a device or two, smart technologies have the power to transform your living space into a home where comfort and convenience reign supreme.



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OFFICE HOURS:

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

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Our Mission

Deliver electricity safely, reliably and efficiently.