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# Staying Cyber Safe in a Connected World

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In today's world, nearly every aspect of our lives touches the internet—whether it's paying bills, checking email or managing smart devices at home. While technology brings convenience, it also introduces risks. Cyber threats like phishing, malware and ransomware are increasingly sophisticated, targeting individuals and organizations alike. That's why cybersecurity isn't just an IT issue—it's a shared responsibility that protects our personal information, community services and critical infrastructure.

## How We're Protecting You

At Wheat Belt Public Power District, the safety and reliability of your electric service has always been our top priority. That commitment now extends to the digital world. Here's what we're doing to protect you from cyber threats:

**Network Protection:** We use advanced firewalls, end-point protection software and continuous monitoring to safeguard our internal systems and prevent unauthorized access.

**Employee Training:** All of our staff undergo regular cybersecurity training to recognize threats like phishing emails and suspicious activity. A strong first line of defense begins with informed people.

**Customer Data Security:** Any personal or billing information we collect is encrypted and stored securely. We follow best practices for data privacy and comply with applicable regulations.

**Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA):** All administrative and remote access accounts are protected with MFA. Compromised credentials can be safeguarded with MFA

*Continued on 3-D*



## LUCKY DRAWING



Congratulations to Michael and Kyla Wesch our May "Lucky Draw Winner"!

Mike and Kyla have four boys who range in age from 4-11 years old. They have resided in the Oshkosh area for two years where Mike is a high school math teacher and Kyla is a school psychologist.

In their spare time, the Wesch's enjoy watching their children participate in various activities throughout the year, such as football, basketball, baseball and 4-H. They also enjoy camping, fishing and spending time outdoors as a family.

Mike and Kyla 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.



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*Editor - Kelli Chaon*

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# Wheat Belt Searches for New General Manager

as Gulbranson resigns as CEO



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To: Wheat Belt Public Power District Customers & Communities  
From: Board of Directors - Wheat Belt PPD

Hiring a GM is the most important decision that a Public Power District Board of Directors can make. As such, we take this responsibility very seriously to ensure Wheat Belt's continued success and positive impact in the communities that we serve.

Our goal is to identify a dynamic leader who will not only uphold the District's core values and commitment to serve our customers but will also steer us towards a future defined by innovation and sustainability. We are dedicated to finding an individual who possesses the vision, experience, and passion necessary to lead us into the next chapter of our journey.

The Wheat Belt PPD Board has contracted with NRECA Executive Search to facilitate our GM search process. We encourage qualified candidates to apply for the position at <https://careers.electric.coop/jobs/>.

The posting will be open from June 20 through August 1, 2025. If you have any questions about the application process, please contact Jean Brandt at 701-263-2111 or [jean.brandt-contractor@nreca.coop](mailto:jean.brandt-contractor@nreca.coop).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Wheat Belt PPD's mission, values, and customers that we proudly serve.

Sincerely,

Brian Zimmerman  
Board Chair

## Safety Fair 2025

Since the late 1990s, Wheat Belt has hosted a Safety Fair every three years for fourth, fifth, and sixth-grade students across our service area. We believe safety education is always essential, and delivering these lessons in a fun, fair-like setting helps students engage with the material and retain what they learn.

This year's event took place on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at the Cheyenne County Fairgrounds from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Just over 400 students from Creek Valley, Sidney, South Platte, Leyton, Garden County and the Homeschool

Co-op attended the fair.

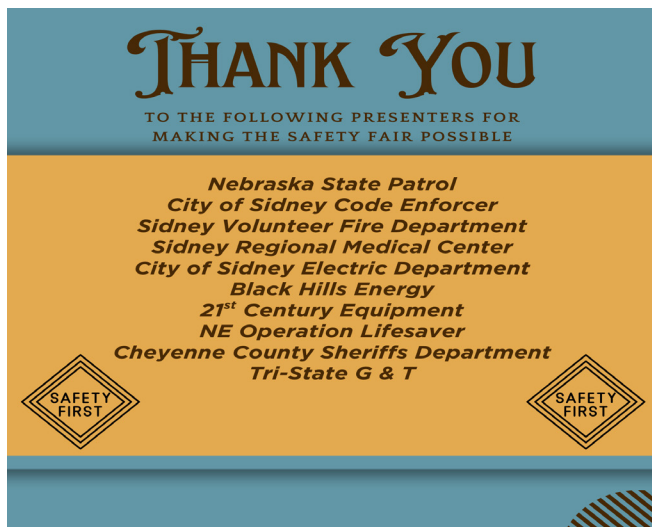
The event was a collaborative effort involving several local organizations. Students rotated through nine different safety-focused stations, each offering a 15-minute presentation. Lunch was provided, and the day concluded with the engaging "Story Behind the Switch" presentation by Tri-State G&T. To top off the experience, every student went home with educational safety materials—and a bag of cotton candy.

If your school or organization is interested in hosting an electrical safety presentation, we'd love to help. Please contact our office for more information.

*Continued on 3-C*



## Safety Fair Con't



## Wheat Belt PPD Board Members Earn Advanced Leadership Credentials

Wheat Belt Public Power District is pleased to recognize the recent accomplishments of board members Toni Blomenkamp and Marcus Milanuk, who have completed advanced certifications through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Blomenkamp earned the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), which builds on the foundational Credentialed Cooperative Director program and includes 10 credits of advanced coursework focused on cooperative governance and industry issues.

Milanuk attained the Director Gold Credential (DGC)—the highest level of NRECA board certification. This credential signifies an ongoing commitment to education, requiring continued coursework every two years to maintain status.

As the electric utility landscape grows more complex, these certifications ensure that Wheat Belt PPD board members are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to guide the organization with insight, integrity and a strong commitment to cooperative and public power principles.

Congratulations to Toni and Marcus for their dedication to leadership and continued professional development!



## Staying Cyber Safe cont'd from 3-A

and locked out until the account can be recovered and the password changed.

**Partnerships and Best Practices:** We collaborate with industry groups and government partners like the Department of Homeland Security to stay informed on emerging threats and the latest protections.


We believe protecting your information and our grid is just as important as keeping the lights on.


Stay safe,

Your Wheat Belt PPD Team

# MAY

## BOARD MEETING UPDATE





- Board reviewed and amended Policies: D-15, Conflicts of Interest; C-9, Disconnect for Non-Payment; O-5, After Hours Connections or Disconnects and F-3, Investments. Updated customer policies have been uploaded to Wheat Belt PPD's website.
- Tim Jones presented the finalized audit report to the board prepared by Dana F. Cole. The board voted to approve the 2024 Audit Report as presented.
- Wheat Belt's 3-year Strategic Plan was presented to the board by the staff initiative owners. The board approved the plan as presented.
- Wheat Belt has been under contract with RVW INC to stake the Vo-tech Transmission line north of Sidney. Shawn Prochaska with RVW, INC presented the bids to the board for the construction of the line and the board awarded the contract to Altitude Energy of Keensburg, CO.
- The board reported they will have a special meeting on June 13, 2025, to meet with the NRECA firm hired to conduct the search for a new general manager. The position will be posted on June 20th, 2025.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

Brian Zimmerman, *Big Springs*

### VICE PRESIDENT

Stuart Morgan, *Dalton*

### SECRETARY

Brian "Moe" Moffat, *Oshkosh*

### TREASURER

Marcus Milanuk, *Oshkosh*

### ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Toni Blomenkamp, *Broadwater*

### DIRECTOR

Jennifer Eckhardt, *Dalton*

### DIRECTOR

Collin Anderson, *Dalton*

## MANAGERS

### GENERAL MANAGER / CEO

Lacey Gulbranson

### FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES MANAGER

Tim Jones

### OPERATIONS MANAGER

Rollie Waite

### FIELD ENGINEER

Mark Cape

### MANAGER OF TECHNOLOGIES

Jim Weeda

### CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT MANAGER

Kelli Chaon

### OFFICE HOURS:

M-TH 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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## Our Mission

Deliver electricity safely, reliably and  
efficiently.