



the Wheat Belt Connection

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY JULY 4TH

JULY 2019

Gold Rush Days June 7 - 9



Wheat Belt Connection

Editor
Pam Wieser

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Drawing Winner

Yolanda Hruska

Congratulations to Mark and Chris Lind, our May "Lucky Winners!" They have been Gurley Wheat Belt customers since 1972. Mark and Chris have six children, 14 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. They are long-time employees of the Village of Gurley and Gurley Elementary School. Along with spending time with family, Mark enjoys fishing, and Chris enjoys hobbies of sewing and crocheting.

They will receive a \$50 credit for their prompt payment. If you would like to be included in our next drawing, and avoid the \$5 delinquent fee, please send your payment before the 18th of the month. For your convenience, we offer several options. Please give us a call or visit wheatbelt.com, and select the Customer Services menu.

The Touchstone Balloon was scheduled for Gold Rush Days in early June, and although it was too windy for the balloon to take flight, the pilot was able to demonstrate how the heaters worked, and the children or those young at heart, could climb into the basket, and inspect the heaters. The Touchstone Balloon is in its 20th year. The team, sponsored by Tri-State, agreed to attend this year's Gold Rush Days. The Gold Rush Event is the essence of the old west, and Wheat Belt along with partners, Tri-State G & T and Touchstone, hoped to increase attendance by including the Touchstone Balloon.

A brat and hot dog feed was also sponsored on the evening of June 7. The balloon is, as you can imagine, very weather dependent, and can not be raised if it is windy. We had hoped in the early morning hours or late afternoon, it would work, but alas, this is Nebraska.

Gold Rush Days Brat and Hot Dog Feed



A successful 2019 for the Gold Rush Committee!

Wheat Belt employees (left to right Kelli Chaon, Deb Schlaman, Yolanda Hruska and Lacey Gulbranson) served nearly 300 brats and hot dogs.

Wheat Belt, Tri-State G & T and Touchstone joined in promoting the 2019 Gold Rush Days held in Sidney June, 7, 8 and 9. The Park Department did a wonderful job in preparing Legion Park for hundreds of visitors to the event. If you are interested in seeing photos and videos of the event go to **SidneyGoldRushDays** on facebook, and plan to attend next year!

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Quotes to Ponder

"Rightful liberty is unobstructed action according to our will within limits drawn around us by the equal rights of others. I do not add 'within the limits of the law' because law is often but the tyrant's will, and always so when it violates the rights of the individual."

Thomas Jefferson

"True equality means holding everyone accountable in the same way, regardless of race, gender, faith, ethnicity - or political ideology."

Monica Crowley

"Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word, equality. But notice the difference while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude."

Alexis de Tocqueville (French Diplomat 1805-1859)
(political scientist, historian and politician)

"The American Republic will endure until the day Congress discovers that it can bribe the public with the public's money."

Alexis de Tocqueville

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Tim's Tidbits

**Strategic
Update**
Lacey Gulbranson



As we continue to work through the strategic plan of the District, you will continue to receive updates on a periodic basis. Our 2019-2021 strategic plan consists of six goals: Infrastructure, Modern Energy, Technology, Customer Engagement, Broadband, and Financial Management.

In May, Rural Broadband was our strategic plan topic to discuss. In the April Rural Electric Nebraska insert, Tim's Tidbits provided an update regarding the Nebraska Governor's Rural Broadband Taskforce, on which Tim, Wheat Belt's General Manager and CEO, sits.

The four subcommittees of the taskforce are Nebraska Universal Service Fund, Data, Technologies and Public-Private Partnerships. Tim serves on the Public-Private Partnership subcommittee. The taskforce meets monthly, typically in Lincoln. During the past couple of meetings, the subcommittees have provided their initial findings/reports. The subcommittees continue fact finding to wrap up their final recommendations in the coming months. With these final recommendations, the taskforce will work towards the final charge to "recommend state policies to effectively utilize state universal service fund dollars to leverage federal universal service fund support and other federal funding". Therefore, the taskforce has actively been, and will continue, to engage state senators on the process, findings and recom-

mendations for rural broadband in Nebraska.

The goal is to have a rural broadband legislative bill sponsored and introduced in the 2020 legislative session. As the taskforce wraps up, legislative bills are introduced and policies are updated.

Wheat Belt will continue to pursue opportunities where the District can benefit from improved communications, meters and meter data and continue to advocate for opportunities where our customers have access to improved, cost-effective services across the service territory. Next month the strategic topic is Infrastructure.

Nebraska Statute 86-1101

Broadband telecommunications service; legislative intent.

The Legislature finds and declares that:

1. The availability, quality, and affordability of broadband telecommunications service is important to the residents of Nebraska; and
2. Because availability, quality, and affordability of broadband telecommunications service is lacking in certain rural areas in Nebraska, combined with greater investment in urban areas, the state may be facing a digital divide.

It is the intent of the Legislature that broadband telecommunications service in rural areas of the state should be comparable in download and upload speed and price to urban areas in the state where possible and that state resources should be utilized to ensure that the rural residents of the state should not be penalized simply because of their rural residence. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the residents of this state should have access to broadband telecommunications service at a minimum download speed of twenty-five megabits per second and a minimum upload speed of three megabits per second.

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Safety First

BY PAM WIESER

EXTREME HEAT Ready Department of Homeland Security

Extreme Heat often results in the highest number of annual deaths among all weather-related hazards. In most of the United States, extreme heat is defined as a long period (2 to 3 days) of high heat and humidity with temperatures above 90 degrees. In extreme heat, evaporation is slowed and the body must work extra hard to maintain a normal temperature. This can lead to death by overworking the human body. Remember that:

Extreme heat can occur quickly and without warning. Older adults, children, and sick or overweight individuals are at greater risk from extreme heat.

Humidity increases the feeling of heat as measured by a heat index.

IF YOU ARE UNDER AN EXTREME HEAT WARNING:

Find air conditioning.
Avoid strenuous activities.
Watch for heat illness.
Wear light clothing.

Check on family members and neighbors.
Drink plenty of fluids.

Watch for heat cramps, heat exhaustion,
and heat stroke.

Never leave people or pets in a closed car.
STAY SAFE

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