



**WHEATLAND
 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

NEWS

**Wheatland Electric
 Cooperative, Inc.**

Bruce Mueller—General Manager

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- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
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District Offices

- | | |
|---|---|
| Garden City
2005 W Fulton
P.O. Box 973
Garden City, KS
67846
620-275-0261 | Scott City-
Main
101 Main Street
P.O. Box 230
Scott City, KS
67871
620-872-5885 |
| Great Bend
2300 Broadway
P.O. Box 1446
Great Bend, KS
67530
620-793-4223 | Syracuse
206 1/2 N Main
P.O. Box 1010
Syracuse, KS
67878
620-384-5171 |
| Harper
302 W. 6th
P.O. Box 247
Harper, KS
67058
620-896-7090 | Tribune
310 Broadway
P.O. Box 490
Tribune, KS
67879
620-376-4231 |
| Leoti
N Hwy 25
P.O. Box 966
Leoti, KS 67861
620-375-2632 | |

FROM THE MANAGER

Self-Regulation Passes

The membership has spoken and you have overwhelmingly voted in favor of Wheatland Electric Cooperative being “self-regulated.” The final vote was 78 percent in favor and 22 percent against.

The management and Board of Trustees thanks you for your participation. Your decision gives Wheatland Electric’s member elected Board of Trustees the decision making authority to establish:

- ▶ Revenue Requirements
- ▶ Rates
- ▶ Rate design
- ▶ Financing requirements
- ▶ Operational rules and regulations
- ▶ Member programs

The voting results also assist Wheatland Electric by enhancing local control, improving efficiency and eliminating unnecessary regulatory costs.

Your decision allows Wheatland to be better positioned for future opportunities.

When members are engaged and involved in the cooperative it helps Wheatland understand and better serve the needs of our members. With nearly 25 percent of the membership voting in this self-regulation election, I believe the process was a great success. I hope the interest and involvement of the membership continues as it will undoubtedly make our communities better for it.

Once again, I would like to thank all the members who participated in this important decision and the employees who worked diligently to make the process run smoothly.

Until next time, take care.



Bruce Mueller

Wheatland Hosts Tractor Registration Day

In May, Wheatland Broadband hosted a KBUF Tractor Registration Day. Western Kansas Broadcast, in conjunction with KBUF 1030 AM, is giving away a fully-restored Spirit of '76 Case 1030 tractor.

The station will host registration days across their listening area and will select 250 finalists. A final drawing will be held August 23 in Hoxie for the tractor.

Wheatland Broadband employees served lunch for those who registered and held a drawing for a \$50 Visa gift card and four tickets to Schlitterbahn Waterpark in Kansas City. Wheatland Electric plans to host another registration day later this summer in Tribune. Watch this magazine for the time and date for your chance to register and grab some lunch at the Tribune office.



Wheatland Broadband held a registration day in May for this fully-restored Spirit of '76 Case 1030.

SHARING SUCCESS

Wheatland Awards Grant to Hospital & Humane Society

The Wheatland Sharing Success Fund, managed by the Scott Community Foundation, awarded two grants of \$1,000 each to the Golden Belt Humane and Animal Welfare Society, Great Bend; and the Harper Hospital, Harper.

Golden Belt requested funds to help with the completion of a fence around the property, as well as the construction of a cat room.

The fence project will create an outdoor play space for dogs under the facility's care.

The cat room, as the name suggests, will be used as recreational space for cats. In addition, the Humane Society plans to purchase towers, beds, and window perches for their feline residents.

The Golden Belt Humane Society is a non-profit organization whose sole function is to provide care for abandoned, neglected and abused animals. Dedicated to helping animals find their "forever" homes, the humane society provides adoption services in hopes that no rescued animals will have to be euthanized. The



Golden Belt Humane Society received a \$1,000 grant from the Sharing Success Fund. Representing Golden Belt and holding the check (from left) are Heather Acheson, Director; Chris Klima and Carol Hopkins; board members. In the back row (from left) Alli Conine, Scott Community Foundation; Sheila Helm and Chris Huber, both from Wheatland Electric.

society relies primarily on donations and volunteers to maintain its operations.

The Harper Hospital made the grant request for purchasing a digital pulse oximeter and an ophthalmic burr.

The clinic currently uses oximeters on a daily basis to monitor pulse rates of adults, children and

infants. An ophthalmic burr is used to remove foreign objects from the eye. Currently, the clinic has to borrow the hospital's only ophthalmic burr from the emergency room.

The Harper Hospital, founded in 1960, is a rural health care provider. Their service area

includes approximately 4,248 residents. Harper Hospital's primary mission is to provide high quality health care services utilizing responsible stewardship of resources to those they serve. The hospital is dedicated to improving the quality of life in the communities they serve.

The Scott Community Foundation began formally accepting applications for grants from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund on December 1, 2012. Wheatland Electric and CoBank each contributed an additional \$5,000 to the fund in September 2013.

To date, the program has made 18 grants to qualifying nonprofits throughout Wheatland's service territory totaling nearly \$16,000. The program will continue to run until the funds are exhausted. Non-profit groups interested in receiving funding from the Wheatland Electric Sharing Success Fund should contact the Scott Community Foundation at 620-872-3790 for further details.



Harper Hospital received a \$1,000 from the Sharing Success fund for new equipment. From left; Steve Wilson; Wheatland Electric; Lisa Mathes, Harper Hospital Board Member; Loretta Kerschen, Harper Hospital Grants/Preparedness Coordinator; Shawn Powelson, Wheatland Electric; Susie Allen, Harper Hospital Clinic Manager; and Sandra Owen, Harper Hospital CFO.

Wheatland Broadband Practices Tower Rescues

With 18 towers up to 400 feet in height and equipment on an additional 42 structures such as grain elevators and water towers, tower safety is a major concern for the crew at Wheatland Broadband.

Frequent training and safety meetings keep rescue procedures fresh for the men who scale these structures to make sure the internet service reaches our members without interruption.

On May 14-15, the Scott City crew—**NICK BUEHLER, GEAROLD LEVERETT, NEIL O'CONNELL, LEWIS BROWN** and **NOLAN NUMRICH**, along with **LUKE WEST**, Safety Manager—brushed up on tower rescue training provided by Advanced Rescue Solutions, which specializes in this type of training.

Instruction consisted of correct use of equipment and safety tips, followed by hands-on training in which individuals were safely lowered from the Scott City Co-op grain elevator. The training emphasized lowering a person in distress and special techniques used to tie off during a high angle rescue.

On the second day, instruction moved



The crew learns how to safely tie off before beginning their descent off the Scott City Co-op elevator.

to a 170-foot tall tower owned by Wheatland Electric. The crew learned how to safely lower a conscious, but injured person, and finally a person who was unconscious, by attaching them to an able climber who could then bring the injured party safely to the ground.

“The guys take pride in knowing that they are among the elite trained exterior elevator and tower rescuers in Western Kansas,” said Jim Welker, Manager of Information Technology at Wheatland Broadband. “Safety is very important to not only the climbers, but everyone around the tower site.”

Wheatland Broadband would like to thank Gary Friesen, Scott City Co-op Manager, for use of the grain elevator.



Left: Luke West, along with six other Wheatland Broadband employees, practiced rescues while repelling down a grain elevator.

Right: Luke West (top) practices lowering Lewis Brown playing an “injured man” to safety from a 400-foot structure.

Hembree & Mercer Travel to Topeka for Tour

On May 20, Wheatland Electric sponsored two youth for a tour of our state capital. The trip included a guided tour of the Kansas State Capitol; a visit to the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site; an afternoon trip to Ward-Meade Park, which included lunch and an ice cream sundae at the old fashion Potwin Drug Store and a schoolhouse session in a one-room schoolhouse; and a visit to the Kansas Museum of History.

The students selected to attend the Topeka tour were Skyler Hembree, of Wichita County High School in Leoti; and Danica Mercer of Conway Springs High School in Conway Springs. Both students were recommended to apply for the Washington, D.C., Youth Tour by a high school staff member. Wheatland Electric employees Sheila Helm and Shawn Powelson chaperoned the tour.

"Wheatland got to know the students during the application and interview process for the DC Youth Tour and wanted to reward the students with a tour of Topeka to give them a taste of the legislative process and Kansas history," said Powelson.

Dave Holthaus, Vice President

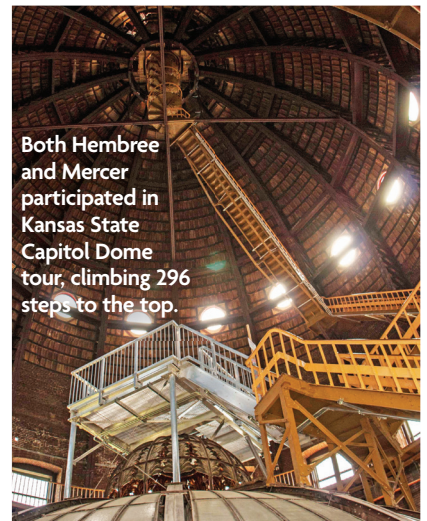


Dave Holthaus, Vice President of Government Relations at KEC, spoke to the students prior to capitol tour about the role of electric cooperatives in state legislation.

of Government Relations at Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), spoke to the students prior to capitol tour, which helped the students understand the role of electric cooperatives in state legislation and the importance of the rural representation within the state.

The tour marked Hembree's first visit to the capitol. "I learned so much about the state's history and how the Kansas State Capitol works to make this state better," he said.

Mercer was most excited to "revisit the top of the State Capitol, in addition to getting ice cream sundaes at the Potwin Drug Store."



Both Hembree and Mercer participated in Kansas State Capitol Dome tour, climbing 296 steps to the top.

Rebates Available to Upgrade Your HVAC

Save Energy, Save Money



Did you know that Wheatland offers rebates to residential members for the installation of energy-efficient heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems?

Heating and cooling a house often accounts for the majority of a household's monthly energy costs. Many homeowners have a great opportunity to save energy and money by installing a more efficient HVAC system.

Essentially, higher efficiency equates to lower monthly energy bills and improved comfort. For

example, you could receive a \$410 rebate for a four-ton (48,000 BTU) heat pump.

For eligibility requirements or to download a rebate form visit www.weci.net and click on the "Energy Education" tab and then on "Rebates." You can also contact any local office.

Rebate Levels

BTU	Min SEER	Central A/C	Heat Pump
Up to 36,000*	13	\$200	+\$150

*Add \$30 for each 1/2 ton above 3 ton (36,000 BTU)

Plug-in to Savings!