

Watts New

KH

November, 2019

From The Desk Of . . . Don Smith, Manager

What a beautiful day! Fall is here! Last week, a little snow to remind us not to get too comfortable, then today, a very pleasant temperature of mid 70's, and an ever so slight breeze.

Fall is truly one of my most favorite times of the year. Not only can the weather be fantastic, but the November holidays are some of my favorites! Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving are appropriately celebrated in the same month, so we can show and give thanks for our freedoms and blessings.

Those of you who have read my previous articles are probably aware that I am a very strong supporter of our active military, as well as our veterans. Rarely a day goes by that I do not give thanks for these individuals. Whether they served during wartime or peacetime, as the saying goes, "*All gave some and some gave all.*" Make no mistake about my respect for those individuals who have dedicated time (whether a few weeks a year, or their career) to protecting this great nation. Due to the sacrifice and dedication of veterans throughout the years, we are able to enjoy the freedoms we have in this great country. One day a year is just not enough to properly recognize the commitments and dedication of these individuals! THANK YOU to all who have or are currently serving!



Speaking of our veterans, please come and join us on Monday, November 11th, for our 5th Annual Veteran's Day Open House. Come and view our uniform display and enjoy some time visiting with those who have dedicated time to serving our great nation! Uniforms dating back to the Civil War have been loaned to us by our members for the Open House. These uniforms, and the stories behind them, represent the historic sacrifice of this country, by our members and their families. Hope to see you at the Open House!

Thanksgiving is also a great holiday! Traditionally, the United States traces the beginning of the Thanksgiving celebration back to the early 1600's as the Pilgrims and Puritans celebrated the harvest. Today, the traditions are less about the harvest and more about the feast and football! I believe we should continually contemplate the many things we have been blessed with. I think if we truly consider our situations, we can all find something to be grateful for, whether it be health, our jobs, family, friends and loved ones, even the freedoms that come from living in this great nation! Look deeply and give thanks in your own way. As we consider our blessings, let's not forget about those less fortunate. If you are able, please share with those who may not be as fortunate as you, to make sure they have opportunities to be thankful for as well. You don't have to look far, either within this country or outside it, to realize we have many things others do not have. We are truly blessed!

Earlier in October, the REA and Platte County School District #1 co-hosted the 5th Annual Platte County Career Fair. Typically, career fairs have a significant emphasis on four-year colleges and universities, and careers which require a four-year degree. At our career fair, we put more emphasis on trades and careers that require a two-year degree. We feel the skilled labor force is an area that has been overlooked, and we are short on tradesmen. We experience this in the utility world and have heard of it in many other industries. We need more employees in trades! This year we had a record number of attendees. Not only did we have more attendees looking at available jobs, but we also had more prospective employers. This is a great event and I thank the school district for their partnership, as well as all those that helped put the career fair together!

In closing, I want to tell you how grateful I am to be able to live here and be able to serve you, the member-owners of Wheatland REA! As you have heard me say before, I am extremely grateful for the dedicated REA employees! Wheatland is truly a wonderful place to live and work! As always, please stop in and let me know if you have any thoughts or concerns, or even if you would like to recognize an accomplishment of one of the fantastic REA employees. Thanks, everyone! I hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

**Watts New is a publication of
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From the office of RKA...

Fall is here. It doesn't seem possible that we are winding down the 2019 year. I love the Fall, and wish it could stick around way longer than it usually does!

Once again, we are having our Veteran's Day Open House on Monday, November 11th. I hope you take the time to come by and see the display of uniforms and pictures that we collect from veterans. It is a wonderful opportunity to see all the various uniforms from our armed services. Please take the time that day to thank our veterans, current and past, for serving. Without their courage and sacrifice, we would not be enjoying our freedoms. Please stop by and have some refreshments...our treat!



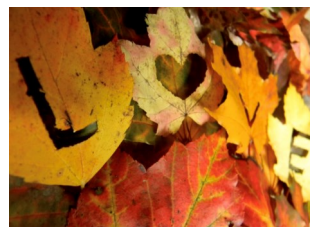
I would like to thank everyone who donated clothing and various items to "Operation Stand Down." Under the direction of Ruth Herdt, President of the Wheatland VFW Auxiliary, we collected a lot of warm clothing to donate to homeless veterans and their families. This project was a great success! Again, thank you all for your donations to this very worthy cause!

As we get closer to the end of 2019, it seems like we are "winding up" instead of "winding down." Timing is everything when closing the year; with completing the budget, closing the books, completing specific projects, etc. We, as management, must always weigh expenses vs. revenue, as well as the capital items that must be prioritized for the ensuing year. Capital expenditures can be very expensive, but are necessary to provide our members reliable and affordable electricity. Upgrades are never-ending on some of our distribution systems, and we work hard to budget what is necessary every year.

One of the year-end items that we start working on is our annual meeting. Our annual meeting is Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Because of the renovation project set for the 4-H building next year, we will be having the annual meeting at the Wheatland High School. Don't worry; we won't make you have lunch with the students! LOL! At that time of year, the school district will be on Spring Break, so we won't be interfering with school. We will again have the Health Fair for you. There will be directors' positions up for election. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for future information!


I have mentioned this before, but Fall is my favorite time of the year. I think the dogs and I are on the same wave-length as far as temperature. Not only do they prefer the cooler seasons, but this is also the time of the year that they go pheasant hunting. It is fun to watch the dogs work the fields hunting for pheasants. They are so focused, and driven to find those birds. They know that when the hunting gear is unpacked, and the clothing is put on, it's time to go! It has been a little over a year since my hubby has been retired. It has been an adjustment for both of us, to say the least. I am just wondering what is on the agenda for year #2!?!?!? I will keep you informed.

Until next month....



HAPPY
Thanksgiving
 ...from our family to yours...

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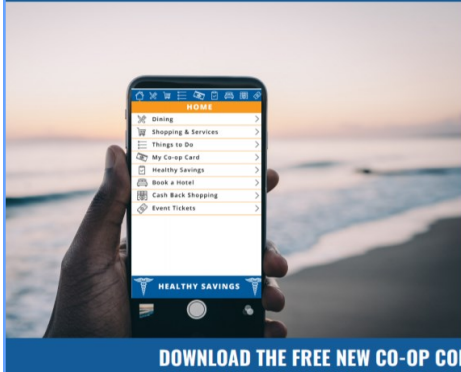
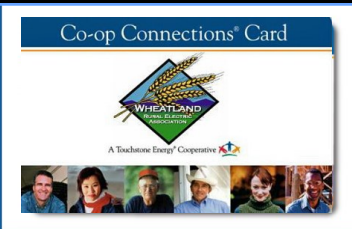
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2019 Platte County Career Fair

It was another successful year! 361 students and 18 adults were in attendance to explore the participant booths.



Michelle Pastor, from Tri-State G&T, adds a little fun to her informative presentation about administrative cooperative careers.

The Wyoming Air National Guard was there to share career opportunities with fair visitors.



Peabody-Powder River Services was actively recruiting for electricians, welders and diesel mechanics.



Wheatland REA's Jill Goodrich (Billing Specialist) and Poston Anderson (Apprentice Lineman) stayed busy explaining the scholarship opportunities available through the REA for both college and certificate type training, such as the Utility Line School at Western Nebraska Community College.



Thinking about Scholarships?

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