

# North Central's News

*Delivering a difference to parts of Knox, Antelope, Pierce, and Holt Counties Since 1945*



**Thoughts and Comments from General Manager Keith E. Harvey**

# All news is not Bad

Sometimes I find an article that is so good that I do not want to change a word. This particular newsletter is relating a heart-warming story that is worth printing and having your readership.

## A Soldier Never Forgets North Platte

By Bob Greene

'We were overwhelmed," said Lt. Col. Nick Jaskolski. "I don't really have words to describe how surprised and moved we all were. I had never even heard of the town before."

Col. Jaskolski, a veteran of the Iraq war, is commander of the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade of the Arkansas Army National Guard. For three weeks earlier this summer, the 142nd had been conducting an emergency deployment readiness exercise in Wyoming, training and sleeping outdoors, subsisting on field rations. Now it was time for the 700 soldiers to return to their base.

A charter bus company had been hired for the 18-hour drive back to Arkansas. The Army had budgeted for a stop to get snacks. The bus company determined that the soldiers would reach North Platte, in western Nebraska, around the time they would likely be hungry. The company placed a call to the visitors'

bureau: Was there anywhere in town that could handle a succession of 21 buses, and get 700 soldiers in and out for a quick snack?

North Platte said yes. North Platte has always said yes.

During World War II, North Platte was a geographically isolated town of 12,000. Soldiers, sailors and aviators on their way to fight the war rode troop trains across the nation, bound for Europe via the East Coast or the Pacific via the West Coast. The Union Pacific Railroad trains that transported the soldiers always made 10-minute stops in North Platte to take on water.

The townspeople made those 10 minutes count. Starting in December 1941, they met every train: up to 23 a day, beginning at 5 a.m. and ending after midnight. Those volunteers greeted between 3,000 and 5,000 soldiers a day. They presented them with sandwiches and gifts, played music for them, danced with them, baked birthday cakes for them. Every

day of the year, every day of the war, they were there at the depot. They never missed a train, never missed a soldier. They fed six million soldiers by the end of the war. Not 1 cent of government money was asked for or spent, save for a \$5 bill sent by Presi-

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*North Central  
PPD Office  
will be closed  
Monday,  
September 3, 2018  
in observance of*



## North Platte....

*continued from page 1*

dent Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The soldiers never forgot the kindness. Most of them, and most of the townspeople who greeted them, are dead. And now, in 2018, those 21 busloads from the 142nd Field Artillery were on their way, expecting to stop at some fast-food joint.

"We couldn't believe what we saw when we pulled up," Col. Jaskolski said. As each bus arrived over a two-day period, the soldiers stepped out to be greeted by lines of cheering people holding signs of thanks. They weren't at a fast-food restaurant: They were at North Platte's events center, which had been opened and decorated especially for them.

"People just started calling our office when they heard the soldiers were on their way," said Lisa Burke, the director of the visitors' bureau. "Hundreds of people, who wanted to help."

The soldiers entered the events center to the aroma of steaks grilling

and the sound of recorded music: current songs by Luke Bryan, Justin Timberlake, Florida Georgia Line; World War II songs by Glenn Miller, the Andrews Sisters, Jimmy Dorsey. They were served steak sandwiches, ham sandwiches, turkey sandwiches, deviled eggs, salads and fruit; local church groups baked pies, brownies and cookies.

Mayor Dwight Livingston stood at the door for two days and shook every soldier's hand. Mr. Livingston served in the Air Force in Vietnam and came home to no words of thanks. Now, he said, as he shook the hands and welcomed the soldiers, "I don't know whether those moments were more important for them, or for me. I knew I had to be there."

"It was one soldier's 21st birthday," Lisa Burke said. "When I gave him his cake, he told me it was the first birthday cake he'd ever had in his life." Not wanting to pry, she didn't ask him how that could possibly be. "I was able to hold my emotions together," she said. "Until later."

When it became time to settle up

-- the Army, after all, had that money budgeted for snacks -- the 142nd Field Artillery was told: Nope. You're not spending a penny here. This is on us.

This is on North Platte.

*Mr. Greene's books include "Once Upon a Town: The Miracle of the North Platte Canteen."*

*(See related letter: "Letters to the Editor: God Bless Those Helpful Patriots of North Platte" -- WSJ July 26, 2018)*

Have a great rest of the summer and I hope you enjoyed the article. Be safe and North Central will strive to keep your power at your fingertips.

Greene, Bob (2018, July 23). A soldier never forgets North Platte. *The Wall Street Journal*, pp. A17. Reprinted with permission from Dow Jones and Company, Inc., WSJ, License #4401481430405.



# WE ARE PUBLIC POWER

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depend on the District's  
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## North Central Public Power District sponsors 3 students to attend the Nebraska Rural Electric Association Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.



Linda Sokol,  
Energy Advisor

Ashtyn Fritz, daughter of Rick and Jeannie Fritz of Creighton, Erin Schwager, daughter of Kenny and Deb Schwager of Orchard and Jadin Doerr, daughter of Duane and Tami Doerr of Plainview attended the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour, a once in a life time opportunity. Ashtyn was chosen by her peers at Youth Energy Camp to serve as Nebraska's Ambassador, Erin and Jadin were selected to represent NCPPD by North Central's Board of Directors. To be selected for Youth Tour, students must first attend the NREA Youth Energy Camp in Halsey, NE, a week long leadership program for rural youth. The trip gives participants an op-

portunity to learn first-hand about our nation's history and the pressing issues facing the energy industry. In addition, the experience fosters student's appreciation for the democratic process, builds leadership skills, and educates the students about the role rural electric systems have in the national economy. While on the Youth Tour, Ashtyn, Erin and Jadin visited a number of our Nation's Capitol historic sites including the Capitol building, the National Mall and Smithsonian Institution, the Holocaust Museum, Mt. Vernon, and Gettysburg battlefield. They also attended the Nebraska Breakfast with the entire Nebraska congressional delegation and had private meetings with their representatives. The girls said they couldn't pick just one favorite part of the trip because it was all Great." In addition

to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, nearly 1,700 students from rural areas across the U.S. convened for National Youth Day to learn about political engagement, leadership, and the pressing issues facing the electric industry today. The NREA Youth Tour has been a joint effort of local rural electric providers, the NREA, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for more than 47 years. Since 1964, more than 50,000 high school juniors and seniors have participated in the program.



*From our homes to yours . . .*

### Easy Ham Pasta Salad

#### Ingredients

- 3 cups uncooked small shell pasta (12 oz)
- 2 cups frozen sweet peas
- 3 cups diced cooked ham
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- ½ cup dill pickle relish, drained
- 2 cups Colby-Monterey Jack cheese blend, diced (8 oz)
- ¾ cup mayonnaise
- ¾ cup ranch salad dressing
- ¼ cup chopped fresh chives
- ½ teaspoon pepper

#### Directions

Cook and drain pasta as directed on package, adding peas during last 2 to 3 minutes of cooking time. Rinse with cold water to cool. Drain well. Meanwhile, in large bowl, mix ham, celery, bell pepper, pickle relish and cheese. In small bowl, mix remaining ingredients. Add pasta and peas to salad; stir gently to mix. Add mayonnaise mixture; toss to coat. Serve immediately, or cover and refrigerate until serving time.





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**FOR SALE:** 15 Cubic foot chest freezer. \$50 or OBO. Very clean. Call 402-640-0114.

Leave message if no answer.

**FOR SALE:** Valspar Supreme White paint 5 gal. Cost \$159, sell for \$75. Never opened. Call 402-668-2015.

**FREE:** Irises, assorted colors. Call 402-358-3577.

**FOR SALE:** 1998 Ford Contour - 151,000 miles. Excellent condition, needs transmission. \$500 OBO. Call 402-340-9830.

**FOR SALE:** Alfalfa hay and prairie hay. Call 402-340-9830.

Do you have something to sell or are you looking for something in particular? You may call, send or email (bargain.barn@ncppd.net) your description of what's

for sale or what you are looking for to our office. The ad will run in the Bargain Barn section free for one month. Please include name and telephone number. No commercial ads will be accepted, personal items only.



## Upcoming Events



**NE State Fair**  
-Grand Island

Aug 24- Sep 3

**Husker Harvest Days**  
-Grand Island

Sep 11-13

**Pierce Old Time  
Thresher's Bee**  
-Pierce County Fairgrounds

Sep 8-9

**Neligh Mills Fall Festival**  
-Neligh

Sep 9

**Grandparents Day**

Sep 9

**Patriot Day**

Sep 11