

# North Central's News

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



*General Manager Doyle Hazen*

## A busy year for the District

Well, it has been an interesting few months since I started the position of General Manager in July. North Central Public Power District (NCPD) has been busy with crews that have been trying to catch up on our "regular" maintenance. Much work had to be deferred due to the flooding this spring, but we are getting caught up. NCPD has also been busy finishing up with some key capital projects. We had one small and one large transmission project that totaled \$1.119M, and a substation project that totaled \$1.258M. There is still some retirement of the larger transmission project to be completed, which will take place after harvest to minimize crop damage.

As of September 3, 2019, we have reached the end of NCPD's load control season. With the weekly rains this summer, one would think that the overall

number of irrigation kWh sold would be relatively low. In looking at the statistics we keep from year to year, we have actually sold more irrigation kWh relative to last year as of the end of August. At the end of August in 2018 we had sold 19,137,931 kWh year to date. At the end of August 2019 we have sold 30,114,273 kWh year to date. Last year's total sales in irrigation were affected by the wet August and this year's total irrigation sales were better due to 73 irrigation wells being added to the system.

Just a few more interesting facts. Our residential and commercial sales were higher in August of this year compared to August of 2018, due mainly to the addition of Plainview. In August of 2018 we had year-to-date sales of 28,992,116 kWh for residential and 19,585,054 kWh for commercial. In 2019, we had year to date sales of 33,331,919 kWh for residential and 24,410,445 kWh for commercial. That is a 14.97% and 24.64% increase respectively. The

trending line for total kWh sales has been an up trending line for over ten years. This is a good thing for the district as a whole because we are able to broaden the base from which we collect our fixed costs so that we can contain costs on an individual basis. We can't guarantee growth, but we strive to be prepared as those opportunities make themselves available.

I hope this finds you well and we wish you good days ahead as we move into harvest.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

#### Winter Rates

On October 1st winter rates will go into effect. These rates are lower than summer rates and will be in effect for the next eight months (October through May).

## North Central PPD performs Pole Top and Bucket Rescue Drills

Workplace safety training is as vital as workplace safety itself. It enables management to ensure a safe and healthy work environment. It also helps the employees to recognize safety hazards and correct them. Training enables them to understand best safety practices and expectations.

Safety is a top priority at North Central Public Power District. Linemen are constantly practicing safety techniques to ensure the best and most efficient way to handle all types of situations. In September, linemen practiced life-saving pole top and bucket rescue skills using a dummy victim. During this annual safety training – two things are practiced: proper May-Day procedures and pole top rescue. Linemen must safely climb a pole where the unconscious dummy victim hangs by its climbing belt up in the air. The linemen use a hand line to safely bring the victim to the ground. Another form of pole top rescue that the crews practiced is the bucket rescue, where the crew focuses on bringing an unconscious victim down to the ground via the bucket. The crew practices using the emergency lower controls on the bucket, which is up in the air, then tips the bucket enough to get the victim out on to the ground.



### IRRIGATION SERVICE REMINDER

North Central PPD wants to remind all irrigation customers to open their main disconnect handle. This will isolate the irrigation customers' underground wires. If the irrigation is equipped with auto restart, we also recommend to open the disconnect handle at the irrigation panel. Have a safe and productive harvest.



## New Number One Hazard on US Roadways - Phone Addicts

According to Zendrive, the new number one hazard on the U.S. roadways is distracted drivers. Drivers distracted by cell phones and by doing other tasks have replaced drunk drivers.

Data from Zendrive found that over 60 percent of drivers use their phones while driving each day, and out of the 1.8 million people it studied in the U.S. in 2018, a subset of distracted drivers (phone addicts) use their phones six minutes or more every hour they are driving. This is almost double from 2017. The general population averaged about two minutes of phone use per hour of driving in 2018. Phone addicts spend almost a third of their time ignoring the road. They spend 1.5 times more time on the road than the average driver, drive 7-6 times more miles while using their devices each day, pick up their devices 4.3 times more than average, and spend more time with their device whenever they touch it. The number of phone addicts nearly doubled in 2018 from 4.6 percent to 8 percent of the population. If this trend continues, they could make up about 20 percent of the driving population by 2022! That would mean that 1 in 5 drivers would fall under the phone addict classification in just under three years. Unlike drunk drivers who are in higher numbers from midnight to 3 a.m., phone addicts are more likely to be on the road from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., meaning that they are a bigger danger than drunk drivers. Smartphone distracted drivers exhibited greater impairment than intoxicated drivers. For that reason, Zendrive feels that phone addicts have replaced drunk drivers as the new number one threat on U.S. roadways. Be careful while driving and working on or near roadways.

# 2019 Youth Energy Camp



Linda Sokol,  
Energy Advisor

Evan Ruzicka, son of Scott and Heidi Ruzicka, Rachael Pavelka, daughter of Doug and Jean Pavelka and Andrea Sucha, daughter of Travis and Anita Sucha represented North Central Public Power District at the 2019 Youth Energy Leadership Camp. The camp ran from Monday, July 8th to Friday, July 12th at the Nebraska State 4-H Camp near Halsey. Through interesting workshops, fascinating demonstrations and presentations by regional experts addressing the many issues affecting the rural electric program, the students came home from camp far more knowledgeable than when they arrived.

Favorite

parts of the camp were the tours to Gerald Gentleman Power Station and Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plant. The campers said it was an awesome experience to see how massive the plants are. After attending the camp, Evan and Rachael came to the North Central Public Power District's Board meeting to give speeches for a chance to attend the NREA Youth Tour in 2020. Congratulations to Rachael Pavelka who will be representing North Central PPD at Washington D.C.



*From our homes to yours . . .*

## Alfredo Style Mac and Cheese

### Ingredients

- 3 C uncooked elbow macaroni
- 1 C shredded carrots
- 1 bag frozen broccoli florets, thawed
- 2 10 oz containers refrigerated Alfredo pasta sauce
- $\frac{3}{4}$  C freshly shredded Parmesan cheese
- $\frac{3}{4}$  C panko crispy bread crumbs
- 3 Tbsp butter melted

### Directions

Heat oven to 375°F. Spray 13x9-inch (3-quart) glass baking dish with cooking spray. In 5-quart Dutch oven, heat 4 quarts water to boiling. Add macaroni; cook 4 minutes. Stir in carrots; cook 2 minutes longer or until tender. Drain. Return macaroni and carrots to Dutch oven. Stir in broccoli, Alfredo sauce and  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of the cheese. Spoon into baking dish. In small bowl, mix bread crumbs, remaining  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup cheese and the butter; sprinkle evenly over casserole. Bake uncovered 25 to 30 minutes or until thoroughly heated and topping is golden.



## Deadlines Approaching for Available Grants

- The USDA has announced the deadlines for the REAP grant applications. For Grants of \$80,000 or less the deadline is October 31, 2019 and for all project sizes the deadline is April 1st, 2020.
- The Diesel Irrigation Engine Replacement Rebate program through the Nebraska Department of Environmental and Energy deadline it January 17th, 2020.

If you are interested in applying for either of these grants or have any questions please call Linda Sokol at 402-358-5112.





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1409 Main St • PO Box 90 • Creighton, NE 68729-0090  
www.ncppd.com • E-Mail: ncentral@ncppd.net  
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**Thanksgiving**

November 21-22, 2019

**Christmas**

December 24-25, 2019

**New Year's Day**

January 1, 2020



**FOR SALE:** 400-4bolt GM motor, standard bore, 10-10 crank, not running. \$400 OBO. Call 402-857-3675 or 402-841-2984.

**FOR SALE:** 8ft wood step ladder, like new. \$25. Call 402-857-3675 or 402-841-2984.

**FOR SALE:** 1949 Chevy Fleetliner, 4 door, very restorable. \$2500. Call 402-857-3675 or 402-841-2984.

**FOR SALE:** Pair of Vortec heads. \$150. Call 402-857-3675 or 402-841-2984.

**FOR SALE:** Pair of Iron Eagle Heads (cast). \$450. Call 402-857-3675 or 402-841-2984.

**FOR SALE:** 1959 John Deere 730 Diesel; 1968 Chevy 2 Ton Straight Truck; and 1994 Chevy 4x4 Suburban. All always shedded. Call 402-288-4236. Leave message if no answer.

**FOR SALE:** Six gun, gun and ammo cabinet with decorative glass door, locks and keys.

Like new. Call 402-640-0114.

**FOR SALE:** Full size bed headboard and adjustable steel bed frame. Like new. Call 402-640-0114.

**FOR SALE:** Large, black swivel TV stand with glass doors. Like new. Call 402-640-0114.

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.



**Discover Credit Cards  
Now Accepted**

For your convenience, North Central PPD now accepts Discover card as a form of payment. North Central PPD strives to provide its customers with a variety of payment options and this addition will give the customer more choices when it comes to paying their electric bill. Customers now have the option to pay with cash, check, E-check, automatic bank withdraw, money order, Visa, MasterCard or Discover.

