

North Central's News

Serving Parts of Knox, Antelope, Pierce, and Holt Counties Since 1945



New District logo introduced



Thoughts and Comments from General Manager, Keith E. Harvey

Pink Elephants on Parade

--From "Dumbo" by Walt Disney Studios



Look out! Look out!
Pink elephants on parade...
What'll I do? What'll I do?
What an unusual view!
I could stand the sight of worms
And look at microscopic germs
But technicolor pachyderms
Is really much for me
I am not the type to faint
When things are odd or things
are quaint
But seeing things you know that ain't
Can certainly give you an awful fright!



Those of you out there who have ever imbibed more of the distilled spirits or other alcoholic beverages than might have been wise are probably a little more aware of pink elephants and how annoying they can be with all the noise and nonsense while dancing around you in a dizzying spiral. They can also be used to describe the feeling a person gets when things just don't make much sense. Do you want a smart grid? And how smart do you want it to be? How many megawatts of wind energy do we get before the greenhouse gas savings of the turbines is less than the increased greenhouse output of the fossil fuel fired power plants required to keep running in order to provide electricity when the wind stops blowing? Do you want a cap and trade system that will reduce greenhouse gases in the United States even if it means killing the economy and bankrupting coal-fired utilities in the Midwest while transferring all of their "carbon penalty" money to both coasts where natural gas is the primary source of power (and it too emits greenhouse gases)?

The U.S. Department of Energy predicts that U.S. electricity demand will increase by something like 26% from 2020 to 2030 – even with a concentrated and continued push for efficiency. How this country is going to meet that de-

Delivering a Difference

North Central PPD's management have approved a new logo for the District.

The new logo will be displayed in red, black and white. The white lines running through NCPD symbolize power lines that deliver power to our customers, *delivering a difference* in their lives.

Management felt it was time to update our old logo that was designed over 60 years ago. Office personnel and management worked together to come up with ideas for creating a new logo. Shelly Masat, Operations Secretary who is creative and artistic created the new logo.

The logo will be implemented gradually over time, to reduce costs involved with changing out a logo. Items (billing statements, letterhead, envelopes, truck signs business cards, i.e) with our old logo will be updated with our new logo as needed.

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mand by building wind and solar is a question that begs answering. Of course there should be some nuclear plants involved but remember that currently it can take 15 years to permit and build such a plant and that's if the environmentalists don't litigate it into oblivion. Another pink elephant is the one dealing with how this nation will be able to transmit that electricity from where it is generated to where it is needed. It is likely that a system of 765,000 volt lines will be needed to criss-cross the U.S. much like the interstate highway system does now. My condolences go out to the poor souls that have to try to get the easements from U.S. citizens to build such a network of lines. Without Federal imminent domain these lines will never be built and obtaining this power by the Federal government will be a very difficult and tedious process.

The State of Nebraska through its net metering law is trying to create another pink elephant for the power districts to deal with. I am not saying at all that the law isn't a reasonable attempt to get customers to put in individual renewable generation and offset their power cost while selling some power back to the utility. It is a noble and well-intentioned law based somewhat on the feeling that power companies don't always have the public's best interest in mind. The problem becomes an elephant whenever someone wants to connect a personal generator into the grid and we send them a packet of papers thick enough to prove extremely daunting to most lay people. If a person wants to generate power for their own use with no grid hook-up then that is a simple situation. However, if this same person wants to tie into North Central's distribution system and put their excess power onto our lines then they have taken a giant leap from the Bush League into the Major Leagues. If an individual wants to generate and sell power then they must meet all the criteria to keep our linemen safe; to keep the power quality in the system high; and to prevent any engineering problems that would negatively impact any other customers on North Central lines. It is a technical process that appears as if we as a utility are putting up roadblocks to renewables but this would be the same for any kind of generation that was to access our system. If a person wants to play with Big Boy toys then they will need to play by Big Boy rules. It all boils down to safety and the stability of the District's (and all of its owners') distribution system. North Central will work with anyone to make renewable generation work for them as long as they bear the cost and own the liability associated with safely putting electricity onto our lines.

While reading through the 2009 Manufacturing and Wholesale Distribution National Survey by RSM McGladrey, a tax, accounting and consulting firm, I came across what may indeed be another pink elephant. In the section on workforce this publication states "Despite the recession, respondents to the survey continue to struggle to find workers with the skills required by today's technologically advanced work environment. Even with unemployment up sharply, these companies still have trouble finding workers to fill key needs." Just think – newspapers, job web-sites and employment agencies bulging with unfilled jobs and yet the U.S. is at almost 10% unemployment. Huh? That's right with companies needing engineers, machinists; manufacturing technicians, supervisory personnel, entry-level workers and professional sales persons this country continues to experience high unemployment. The cause or causes of this, in my opinion, is that people are not willing to move to where the jobs are located or we have a country made up of many people who do not have the requisite skills to fill today's jobs. There is also the possibility that it is more economically beneficial for some potential workers to stay on unemployment and other government programs instead of losing money to take a job. Whatever the reason it is

Winter rates go into effect October 1st

On October 1st the winter rates go into effect. These rates are lower than the summer rates and will be in effect for the next eight months (October through May). These rates reflect the lower cost of wholesale power the District purchases during these months. These low rates encourage customers to switch to electric space and water heating sources. The additional winter electric consumption helps the District offset the effects of large summer demands.

something that needs to be addressed on many levels from the individual right on up. Oh and what's going to happen when the economy does pick up and we need more of the same skill-level employees that we couldn't even find enough of to fill the jobs when there was a recession? And just for the record, in the recession of 1982 I was laid off from a fairly high paying job and ended up relocating and working two jobs to bring in about half as much money. I do know how it feels.

By design North Central has an aggressive program to hire and retain highly educated, well-trained and dedicated employees.

The elephants keep parading by but I am out of space for this newsletter. I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable September. Finally - please don't drive and watch pink elephants at the same time.

Haley Zimmerer to attend 2010 Washington D.C. Youth Tour

Haley Zimmerer, daughter of Curt and Sherri Zimmerer of Verdigre has been selected to attend the 2010 Washington D.C. Youth Tour. To be eligible to be selected for this honor students must have first attended the 2008 Nebraska Rural Electric Association's Youth Energy Camp. Then they are invited to prepare and present a report to North Central's board of directors on why they should be selected to represent North Central PPD at the Washington D. C. Youth Tour.



During her presentation to North Central's board Haley reported she was elected to serve on the camp Board of Directors along with seven other students. She was also selected as one of 10 ambassador finalist from among 100 other students also attending this camp to be considered to become one of three ambassadors who would attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. The ambassador finalist had to write a speech about the advantages and disadvantages to using renewable energy and present it to everyone attending the camp. Even though she was not selected as one of the three ambassadors, she was selected as an alternate and invited to return as a junior counselor at next years NREA youth energy camp. Haley also said she learned a lot about Nebraska's energy sources and how our state uses and distributes electricity, and even more about leadership while attending this camp.

When Haley attends the 2010 Washington D. C. Youth Tour she will be accompanied by students from all over the country. Students who participate in this tour will have the opportunity to learn about the role of the rural electric system in the national level. The tour helps foster an appreciation for the democratic form of government and exposes the students to the sights and sounds of our nation's heritage. It also builds leadership skills so that students may make a difference in their rural communities.

Congratulations Haley on achieving this honor.

The Bargain Barn

For Sale: Bo-Flex extreme, already assembled, comes with computer program. Please call 402-394-8105.

For Sale: 1974 Ford 600, 5 speed with 2 speed axle, Steffen wood box, 18 1/2 feet log, silage end gate, 362 motor, 920 tires. Please call 402-338-5973 or 402-394-1292.

For Sale: Girls gray and pink princess battery operated car. In excellent condition. Please call 402-358-5362 after 5:00p.m.


For Sale: Big round oat straw bales. Please call 402-655-2276.

For Sale: 1989 Chevy Silverado 1/2 ton pickup. Four-wheel drive, 350 motor, auto, air, power windows, power locks, black standard cab, 130,000 miles. Please call 402-358-5294.

Wanted: Used dehumidifier - reasonable. Please call 402-358-5409.

Wanted: Looking for a used seat in good condition for a 56 John Deer riding lawn mower. Please call 402-668-2316.

From our homes to yours . . . **Tried & Tasted Delicacies**



Fudge Bars

Crust mixture:	1 1/2 cup flour	Fudge mixture:
1 cup margarine	2 eggs	1 cup chocolate chips
1 cup brown sugar	1 tsp salt	1 tbs. margarine
1 cup white sugar	1 tsp. vanilla	1 can sweetened condense milk
4 cups quick oatmeal	1 tsp. baking soda	1/4 tsp salt

Cream together margarine, brown sugar, white sugar, and vanilla. Add beaten eggs and beat until fluffy. Sift together flour, salt, baking soda, and oatmeal. Add these dry ingredients to above creamed mixture. Save back 1 1/2 cups of this mixture for later use as a topping. Press rest into the pan (makes 2 9x13 pans or one large jelly roll pan. Dough is hard to spread out thin and may stick to your hands, try spraying hands with cooking spray. In a saucepan over low heat blend until melted chocolate chips, butter, sweetened condensed milk and salt. Remove from heat and mix in vanilla. Pour this mixture over the cookie base. Use hands/spoon and drop/crumble/dab reserved oatmeal mixture on top of the chocolate layer. Bake in preheated oven at 325 degrees for about 20 minutes (a little softer this way).



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Delivering a Difference

Statement of Nondiscrimination

North Central Public Power District is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Electrification Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Keith E. Harvey, General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Stop 1510, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC, 20250-1510; or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

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Name: _____

Meter Number	Meter Reading
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please use this section to record your meter reading before you call your reading into our office.

Meter Reading Reminder for Rural Customers



Please Call or E-Mail your meter readings into North Central's office between

September 20 and 28, 2009

358-5112 • 1-800-578-1060 •
ncentral@ncppd.net • www.ncppd.com

Meter Readings Must Be Received by 5:00 p.m. on September 28, 2009

RURAL CONSUMERS please read your meter between the 20th and the 28th. If you are calling your meter reading(s) into our office use our local or toll free "800" telephone number. If you call after our normal business hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, you may leave your reading on our answering service. To e-mail your meter readings - log on to our web site at www.ncppd.com and click Submit Your Meter Readings. If you are unable to call your meter reading(s) into our office, you can mail your readings into our office by the date listed above.

Town meters are read by North Central PPD personnel.