Energy Insight
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About the Cover:
Do Nebraska’s landscapes get more iconic than Chimney Rock? Sun glints down off the impressive landmark, casting a dramatic shadow on the spire that contrasts beautifully with the brilliant emerald pasture below. Surely, this was a sight to see for pioneers traveling the Oregon, California and Mormon trails. Flooded altered many a Nebraskan landscape for the foreseeable future, certainly affecting someone you hold dear. And, emerging technologies provide our organization an exciting means to explore ways to stay competitive and cutting-edge both in our teammates’ daily tasks and among customers.

Bob Dylan said it best: “The Times – They are A Changin’.” An anthem of change in the ‘60s, the song has often been covered by other brilliant artists throughout the decades, maintaining its political significance to this day. It ranked 59th on Rolling Stone’s 2004 list of the “500 Greatest Songs of All Time” – a fine accomplishment, though second to Dylan’s sense of political purpose achieved lyric by lyric.

NPPD can relate. This year, we have seen changes within our Board of Directors as we welcomed Charlie Kennedy, who represents the western portion of the state. Flooding altered many a Nebraskan landscape for the foreseeable future, certainly affecting someone you hold dear. And, emerging technologies provide our organization an exciting means to explore ways to stay competitive and cutting-edge both in our teammates’ daily tasks and among customers.

Stories inside this issue of Energy Insight depict the influx of changes we are all experiencing. A dairy farm finds new life in cheesemaking. Teammates are holding back tears of both joy and sadness as their sons and daughters trade high school life with college life. Several retirees are starting anew, too.

Summer is around the corner, promising hectic routines and long days of “doing.” Yet, in a blink of an eye, we’ll be trading sangria and swimwear with s’mores and sweaters.

We can’t stop change, that’s true. But, at NPPD, we embrace it day by day, using every hour to identify our greatest potential and, like Dylan’s song, help an industry we are all proud to be a part of transcend the rigors of time.

Best yet – we can read stories of change right here, within these very pages.

Wishing you an unforgettable summer!
In the age of digital transformation, are we a thermometer or a smart thermostat? The way I see it, a thermometer’s primary function is to react to its environment, while a thermostat sets the environment. It can be easy to default to thermometer mode. Depending on the “temperature of the day,” we adjust our attitudes and energy to reflect our surroundings, whether good or bad. Fluctuation and involuntary response are a thermometer’s life forces.

A new, Competitive Advantage project at NPPD aims to keep us operating in smart thermostat mode. Here, we can very clearly set our vision and our goals. We have complete control over the methods we use to get there, and we are intentional and precise, constantly communicating with everyone around us to ensure our processes are clearly defined, streamlined and executed.

There is no better time to start such a project. Technology is advancing rapidly, and NPPD is in a sound place financially to execute strategic business goals. This foundation equips us to find an additional edge so we can respond quickly and confidently to potential future challenges. In time, we won’t just keep pace with industry change – we’ll set it.

The last few years, our organization has downsized through continuous cost-cutting and improvement efforts. The project is about doing things smarter, not harder, by letting technology work for us to ease workloads and make tasks easier. This doesn’t mean job-cutting, but rather, taking a holistic approach to further maximize everyday responsibilities while tailoring products and services to what customers want most.

Just in the beginning stages of the project, the Competitive Advantage team has developed a set of 13 guiding principles to keep goals aimed toward fruitful decisions and solutions.

Though one is not more important than another, these principles include things like listening to learn, adding value, outpacing the competition, evolving our culture, growing together, keeping it simple, tackling the quick wins, uncovering the best way, building a technical foundation, generating quality data on demand and leaving a legacy of positive change.

We don’t know all the answers yet, but I am confident our approach to this project will help us find the right path forward. More than anything, communication (and lots of it) is key so each decision we make yields correct if necessary. And, just like a smart thermostat is programmable, this project will help us collect data to benchmark findings, ultimately improving our competitiveness and locking in future victories.

While the core project team consists of a dozen colleagues, hundreds more will be involved every step of the way to identify and prioritize how best to move NPPD from its current to its future state through identification of value streams, analysis and process mapping. These tasks will help us create a business case for sustainable improvements. Our teammates hold the keys – the knowledge, experience and skills – to advantageous change. Their feedback will undoubtedly propel us forward, but that shouldn’t make us fearful. We aren’t about to turn up the heat and sweat everyone out simply for the sake of change. Instead, we will work together to ensure change is organic and everyone is comfortable with our direction. Thoughtful conversations, focused efforts and flexible mindsets will empower us to leave a positive legacy at NPPD. We are in total control of our future. Instead of reflecting what is, we have the power to create what could be. Now, as we always do, we will work smart.
**2019 FLOOD REVIEW**

**Weathering the Storm**

**WEATHER PLAYERS**
- Heavy Rain
- Frozen Ground
- Rising Flood Waters
- Ice Jams
- Blizzard

**MISSOURI RIVER**

- The Missouri River reached 901.5 feet mean sea level.
- Cooper Nuclear Station was in a notification of unusual event for 10 days.

**3 DOWNED TOWERS**

**NPPD TEAMMATE INJURIES 0**

**25 ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS HELPED ANSWER PHONE CALLS**

**100+ MEDIA REQUESTS**

**$5.5M TOTAL PLANNED COSTS TO DATE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RESTORATION. (as of May 29)**

**1,800 LB. SANDBAGS HELICOPTERED IN BY THE NATIONAL GUARD TO COOPER NUCLEAR STATION**

**$32K WAS RAISED FOR NPPD TEAMMATES AFFECTED BY THE FLOODING.**

**2 FLOODED TRANSMISSION SUBSTATIONS: OAKLAND & NORFOLK**

**24/7 ALWAYS READY TO RESPOND**

**LINEMAN FACTS BY THE NUMBERS**

- NPPD has more than 8,000 miles of lines.
- NPPD has more than 62,000 wood poles.
- NPPD serves more than 90,000 retail customers.
- The average height of a pole is 70 feet.

**NPPD INCENTIVES TO HELP FLOOD VICTIMS**

- NPPD incentives include:
  - High Efficiency Heat Pump
  - Heat Pump Water Heater
  - Cooling Tune-Up

**2 WHOLESALE POWER UTILITIES HELICOPTERED IN**
- North Central PPD & Loup PPD
- Norfolk Operations Center & Customer Contact Center

**2 NPPD FACILITIES EVACUATED**

**2 $32K ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS HELPED ANSWER PHONE CALLS**

**FLOOD REVIEW**

**March 12**

The storm, dubbed the Bomb Cyclone, started on March 12.

**March 15 to March 24**

Cooper Nuclear Station shut down when river levels reach 902 feet mean sea level.

**March 15**

The Missouri River reached 901.5 feet mean sea level.

**March 15 to March 24**

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Tell us about yourself. I’m originally from Ava, Missouri, but I’ve lived in Omaha since 1995, and Scottsbluff since 2008. I’ve worked in health insurance for 20 years, and just last month began a new job at WellCare as a network operations coordinator. I’m a problem solver. I love to tinker, and there’s nowhere I’d rather work than outside the box.

What about public power intrigues you? After World War II, my dad was a journeyman who supplied electricity to rural areas. Folks were so appreciative. As such, I’ve been fascinated in the magic of electricity. There’s so much sun and wind in western Nebraska. As I think about the future of technology within the utility industry, I want to do my part to promote renewable energy sources. They are inexhaustible.

What excites you most about NPPD’s future? Our strategic direction is forward-thinking and customer-oriented. Above all, I’m proud to work within the NPPD family, where we take into consideration Nebraskans’ livelihoods. I want to leave the state better than I found it. While I look forward to utilizing new technologies and improved, cost-friendly energy alternatives, I want our transition toward more renewables to be smooth so as not to disrupt current infrastructure and reliability.

Thoughts on our current generation mix? The recent flooding shows exactly why there’s nowhere I’d rather work than outside the box. The magic of electricity. There’s so much sun and wind in western Nebraska. As I think about the future of technology within the utility industry, I want to do my part to promote renewable energy sources. They are inexhaustible.

What inspired you to run for the Board position? I wanted to play an active part in my community’s conversation about public power. If I am more available and approachable, folks within my service territory can call me, and we can have an educated discussion about public power’s benefits. I can also help promote the needs and requests of those in my community. There are a lot of good people here who want to see an increase in renewable energy.

What challenges lie ahead for NPPD? The industry is quickly changing. It will require open communication – bringing our points of view to the table, but ultimately, listening and being attentive and respectful to others’ opinions, too. We should be willing to adjust our course if needed. It’s essential we consistently evaluate if we are moving in the right direction. Flexibility and open-mindedness are invaluable tools.

What do you hope to accomplish in your position? This is a “people” job. I love my new NPPD family – board and staff, alike, and feel very comfortable coming in as the new guy. Everyone was hydroelectric, what could have happened? Cooper Nuclear Station is a very important part of our mix offering carbon-free generation. Gerald Gentleman Station is clean and efficient. Above all, it’s essential we take care of our planet. Carbon-free energy should not be a political issue, and our resources should complement one another.

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What would you like to learn more about? It’s amazing how delicate delivering electricity really is. Before I stepped into this industry, I had no idea what it took. I’m a customer, too, and very happy with my service. I often took for granted the flip of my light switch. The root of NPPD is reliability and low-cost electricity, and I look forward to learning more about how these goals are accomplished.

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It’s every DOG LOVER’S DREAM –

A standing Wednesday night date with adorable, well-behaved puppies. After all, who among us can resist their wagging tails and pint-sized paws? York Planner/Scheduler Linnea Williamsen, herself a proud owner of two, three-legged canine companions, was certainly drawn by this promise of quality puppy time when she signed up to volunteer for Domesti-PUPS, a Lincoln-based nonprofit. But, she also knew it came with a catch.

You see, to accomplish their mission of improving the lives of persons with special needs through the assistance of animals, Domesti-PUPS calls upon two types of helpers. The first type, like Williamsen, are community members who are passionate about making a difference. The second, similarly motivated group, is comprised of men and women spending time behind bars.

“I initially heard about Domesti-PUPS through my cousin, who mentioned they were always looking for people to transport dogs from York to Lincoln for a variety of reasons, such as vet appointments,” Williamsen recalled. “She was the one who invited me to become involved.”

Williamsen was eager to provide whatever support the organization needed, understanding that meant she would become a regular at the local prison. She soon began transporting dogs, including trips through multiple snow storms this winter, and attending the weekly training sessions with female inmates. As predicted, it was difficult at first, but not for the reason most would expect.

“I walked in and there were puppies everywhere. It was, and still is, hard to fight the urge to play with them,” Williamsen said. “We must wait until the dogs follow their commands and demonstrate what they have learned over the past week before engaging. It’s an important part of their instruction.”

Training a service dog is a multi-year process. Williamsen, her fellow civilian volunteers and the incarcerated women who have been accepted into the program, are part of the very first phase. They take puppies who have been rescued from shelters, donated or purchased at six to eight weeks old and begin teaching them the basics – sit, stay, kennel, leave it, look at me, etc. Over a three-month period, the dogs make their way through obedience curriculum with a steady pattern of positive reinforcement and 24/7 care.

“Any industry. The inmates selected to be a part of Domesti-PUPS must complete a resume, participate in an interview process and maintain good behavior. They are rewarded with a sense of responsibility and teamwork, as well as the chance to make a positive contribution to society. Williamsen often finds herself in awe of their strength and abilities.

“In my short time with the program, I’ve seen a woman whose dog changed her 180 degrees,” she said. “She told me he provided a source of unconditional love, which sadly she had never experienced. It really struck a chord with me.”

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“What a path a dog takes from there is dependent upon their personality and physical characteristics,” Williamsen said. “After graduation from the York facility, they may continue on to learn how to be medical response, emotional support or therapy dogs.”

In reality, only about three out of every 100 dogs possess the exact traits needed for assisting with medical response, emotional support or therapy dogs. Because of this, most Domesti-PUPS alumni are placed in schools and nursing homes or with individuals who suffer from a mental or psychiatric disability. No matter where they end up, however, Williamsen is confident the dogs are destined to touch many lives, starting with the prisoners.

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In 1946, Lad Jisa began a dairy farm with just a few head of Holsteins in the heart of Butler County. Over the years, this handful of cows grew into a large herd, as did Jisa’s operation. However, by the time his son, Dave Sr., was in charge, they were experiencing fluctuation like so many family-run businesses do, thus patiently riding the waves between good and bad years.

In the early 2000s, the milk market took a dive, and dairies were struggling to remain open. With the market taking a dive, small-town stores and local farmers markets were some of Jisa’s first customers. The family credits these mom-and-pop grocers with sticking by them through thick and thin. But, like with many cheeses – namely cheddars – aging has been kind to the business, and major chains like HyVee and Super Saver now carry their products.

A rising interest in craft breweries and wineries has also helped sales spread across the Midwest and Great Plains. In particular, their partnership with Boulevard Brewing Company out of Kansas City has resulted in specialty flavors infused with the beer (Tank7 or Wheat Beer, anyone?).

A perfect pairing: Existing dairy farm yields artisan cheeses

Through the highest of highs and lowest of lows, what one trait do you associate with business success? Some might say intelligence or creativity, whereas others insist its perseverance or humility. While all these qualities are noteworthy, it is adaptability that truly allows an organization, no matter how big or small, to navigate the ups and downs of their industry. For proof of this in practice, look no further than Jisa’s Farmstead Cheese, located in the village of Brainard, Nebraska.

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In the early 2000s, the milk market took a dive, and dairies were struggling to remain open. Rather than seeing doom and gloom, Dave Sr. chose to see opportunity. If milk was no longer going to be their proverbial cash cow, why not cheese? Thus, an idea was born, and ground was broken on a new factory.

The 6,000-square-foot plant has been in operation since 2005. Four days a week, about 20 percent of the milk from the Jisa dairy farm makes the short, half-mile journey north to be turned into cheese. Dave Sr. originally learned the art by consulting the University of Nebraska Food Science and Technology Department and, if he’s being honest, by learning on the fly. Today, his own son, David, serves as one of two head cheesemakers.

The actual process of making cheese, outlined to the right, is a delicate balance of time and temperature. It’s a lot of hurry up and wait, and, as expected, a great deal of physical labor. A single batch can make an astonishing 900 pounds of cheese! The plant employs eight men and women out of David City, Seward and Schuyler who work as a well-oiled machine, producing, packaging and shipping their 20+ flavors of cheese across the nation. The job certainly has its perks, however, as employees double as taste testers for new recipes.

Staying true to their Nebraskan roots, small-town stores and local farmers markets were some of Jisa’s first customers. The family credits these mom-and-pop grocers with sticking by them through thick and thin. But, like with many cheeses – namely cheddars – aging has been kind to the business, and major chains like HyVee and Super Saver now carry their products.

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There is no crystal ball to say exactly what the future holds for Jisa Farmstead Cheese, but looking ahead, they remain characteristically optimistic. Dave Sr. and David would love to someday be able to turn their full milk production into cheese, take on outside milk, expand their facilities and, of course, overcome their biggest challenge – marketing. It just goes to show that difficult times don’t last forever and adaptability (plus a healthy amount of hard work) pays off in the end.

To keep the factory’s (cheese) wheels spinning, Jisa’s Farmstead Cheese gets its electricity from Butler Public Power District. Butler PPD is an NPPD wholesale customer.

Twice a day, 365 days-a-year, Jisa’s 450 cows are milked. A portion of this milk goes to the cheese factory, while the rest is sold to the Dairy Farmers of America.

The milk runs through a pasteurizer, which heats it to a precise 165 degrees F. to kill harmful bacteria. It’s then cooled and sent to large 10,000- to 20,000-lb. cheese vats, where culture and enzymes are added.

Once the milk thickens, the whey is drained and separated from the curd with a wire cutter. Seasonings are added to the basic white cheese at this point.

The curd is then placed into hoops. These blocks are pressed to squeeze out even more whey. When ideal conditions are met, the cheese is cut into 8-oz. bars, 6-lb. loaves or 40-lb. blocks.

After being vacuum packed and labeled, the cheese is refrigerated. Jisa’s large cooler is their biggest energy expense. A backup generator is on hand, just in case power goes out.

The finished product is shipped to different retailers and wineries. Currently, Jisa cheeses can be purchased in six states.
We’ve made reporting an outage a tap
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- Stay informed on current outages
- Manage your account

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Calendar of events

JUNE
8 NPPD Board Meeting Columbus

JULY
4 Fourth of July Holiday
11 NPPD Board Meeting CNS area
18 Rate Review Committee/Power Resources Advisory Board/Customer Meeting Holthus Center - York

AUGUST
13 NPPD Board Meeting Columbus
22-23 NPPD Annual Customer Meeting Gothenburg

SEPTEMBER
2 Labor Day Holiday
11-12 NPPD Board Meeting Columbus
12-13 Nebraska Open Golf Tournament Elks Country Club - Columbus

ENERGY INSIGHT • SECOND QUARTER 2019

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News from around the state

Syras Boston, 16-year-old son of Scoutmaster and York Distribution Superintendent Ray and Tammy Boston, became an Eagle Scout in March. Eagle Scouts embody the Scout motto of “Be Prepared.” They are outdoorsmen, good citizens and family members, financially independent and health oriented. An Eagle Scout must earn 12 required merit badges and nine elective merit badges. Syras has 50 badges and counting. Previously, he earned the Scout badge and the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life. He also served in troop leadership positions for 16 months and spent at least 13 hours on service projects, including his Eagle Scout Service project, in which $4,000 was raised to install four benches on York’s Beaver Creek walking trail. Syras dedicated the benches to four topics close to heart: those who lost their lives too soon, those fighting illness, disability awareness, and those securing our freedom in the military. Each bench features an inclusion pad so wheelchairs and strollers are off the trail when at rest. Leftover project funds were donated to a local foundation called Living in the Right Lane, which benefits special needs individuals.

Renewable Energy Consultant Ron Rose was recognized by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) for his efforts in a collaborative research and development project that entailed installing more than 250 energy management circuit breakers, which allow utilities and customers to monitor and control electricity use across 12 utilities, at more than 60 sites, in 19 states. They also help improve reliability of power delivery. Ron received the 2018 Technology Transfer Award for demonstrating initiative, collaboration and leadership, as well as helping to shape, enhance and transform the power system of the future by harnessing new and evolving technologies that deliver benefits to NPPD and the entire power industry. Ron was honored for his work during EPRI’s Power Delivery and Utilization research meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

Alyssa Gilliland, daughter of York Director of Operations Support Matt Gilliland, completed a special semester-long tutoring position. The high school junior was approached by her Spanish teacher earlier this year to work with three middle schoolers who were just beginning to learn English. Alyssa created her own curriculum and lesson plans, helping her pupils progress through new vocabulary and grammar each week. Through this experience, she improved her own skills, overcame language barriers and built relationships with the students. Even with all this extra work, Alyssa excelled in her own studies, scoring a perfect 36 on the ACT exam in April. Going into her senior year, she hopes to continue tutoring.

Alyssa Gilliland

Syras alongside the McDaniel family: Brian, April, and their two daughters. The McDaniels are founders of Living in the Right Lane.
Columbus / Kathy Fadschild, Communication Specialist / klfads@nppd.com

Katie Herman and Samantha Richardson were inducted into the Scouts Central Catholic High School Athletic Hall of Fame. The ladies are 2009 Scouts graduates and have storied athletic careers. Katie is the daughter of Land Management Manager Alan and Sustainable Energy Coordinator Kelly Beiermann and Samantha is the daughter of Senior Systems Analyst Al and Systems Analyst Lori Spenser.

Vice President of Customer & Corporate Services Ken Curry received the Pateta La Shauro District Award of Merit, which recognizes Boy Scout leaders for their involvement in scouting and community leadership. Ken’s scouting career began as a Cub Scout and continued through Eagle Scout achievement, and he has returned to his scouting interests through involvement in many committee and leadership positions. In addition to scouting, Ken has been involved with Habitat for Humanity, Columbus First United Methodist Church, Columbus Chamber of Commerce, Columbus Area United Way, Columbus Area Future Fund, Columbus Rotary, the Columbus Public Schools board, the YMCA board, Teammates, and the Columbus Area UNL Alumni board. Procurement Manager Scott Zwick and Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Tom Kent presented Ken with his award April 6.

Senior Communication Specialist Cassie Rief earned first place in the Nebraska Press Women’s annual Communication Contest in the category of “Publications Regularly Written by Entrant – Magazines” for the third quarter 2018 issue of Energy Insight. Upon the issue being entered into the National Federation of Press Women’s 2019 National Communications Contest, it earned second place in the same category.

Katie Herman (left) and Samantha Richardson (courtesy photo)

Cassie Rief

NPPD Board Member Mary Harding was appointed to the American Public Power Association’s Policy Makers Council earlier this year. Mary will serve a one-year term as an at-large member. The Council assists the APPA in promoting federal legislation that is important to public power utilities, as well as opposing harmful legislation. It also provides advice on other issues of importance within the APPA. The Council is made up of 40 members who serve either on utility boards or are elected officials in public power communities.

Mary Harding

At NPPD’s April Board of Directors meeting, Director of Research Alan Dostal received an appreciation award from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for his continuous outstanding support of UNL’s Nebraska Center for Energy Sciences Research since its inception in 2006. Alan has been involved in the Center’s efforts since former Board Director Darrell Nelson recommended a partnership in 2005.

Alan Dostal (right)

In late April, employees teamed together in their yearly project to help build a Habitat for Humanity home in Columbus. Tasks included painting, attaching siding and foam board along the outside of the house, and soffit work.


Kearney / Brenda Norris, Distribution Support Specialist / bknorr@nppd.com

Director of Projects and Capital Planning Dave Oshlo in March assumed the position of Electric Power Research Institute’s (EPR) manager of EPRI technology transfer (METT). As EPR/METT, Dave is responsible for key agreement for interface activities between EPRI and NPPD. He previously served a similar role as NPPD’s Nuclear METT at CNS.

Dave Oshlo

This spring, NPPD participated in the APPA Lineworkers Rodeo in Colorado Springs. It was the largest APPA rodeo to date, with 130 apprentices and 78 teams competing. NPPD sent one journeyman team and two apprentices, including Bassett Local Manager Todd Keller, Kearney Journey Line Technician Chris Clausen, Kearney Line Technician Spencer Frederick and Norfolk Journey Line Technician Chad Sedlacek, as well as apprentices Tyler Meins of South Sioux City and Lukas Cox of North Platte. The journeymen team received perfect scores on three events and had deductions on two events, placing 65th overall. Tyler secured perfect scores on all four of his climbing events and scored an 80 on the written test. He ended up in 21st place. Lukas produced perfect scores on three of his climbing events and one deduction on the fuse changeout. He scored an 80 on the written test and took home 56th place.

Chris and Spencer work on an alley arm insulator changeout.

The Ogallala office recently hosted third grade students from the local Prairie View Elementary School. Nearly 50 students participated and learned from our linemen about bucket trucks, breakers, and what it takes to climb utility poles.

The Ogallala Volunteer Fire Department.

Norfolk Operations Center / Becky Hahn, Customer Contact Specialist / bahahn@nppd.com

Customer Service Support Specialist Kristi Singletery graduated in April from the Keith County Leadership class. Throughout the seven-month program, the class enhanced its local leadership skills while learning about the county’s many important industries. They also completed a project aimed at enhancing or giving back to the community. In Kristi’s case, she raised money for the Ogallala Volunteer Fire Department.

Kristi Singletery (back left)

Payten Magnussen, daughter of Norfolk Advanced Metering System Administrator Deanna Magnussen and her husband, Mark, signed with the Brier Cliff Chargers for their 2019-2020 season. Payten is an academic all-conference and all-state recipient and four-year varsity starter at Norfolk High School. She plans to major in biology and has aspirations to work in the medical field.

On May 6, at 11:34 a.m., the Norfolk Centralized Customer Care Center took its 4 millionth phone call. The Center began operation in April of 2000 and is open 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week. It has 34 customer contact and dispatch specialists on hand to take the floor during alternating shifts. These employees help direct and answer questions on bill payment arrangements, energy efficiency tips, irrigation set-up, outages, health and human services assistance, customer accounts and much more. Customer Contact Specialists Deb Avery, Kelly Reese, Denise Wade, Julie Winklaback and Diane Zerbe and Meter Data Controller Kelly Sanne were recognized for working at the Center since it opened 19 years ago.

Payten (front center) with family and BCU/Norfolk H.S. head softball coaches

Payten, Mark Magnussen (center) and Norfolk volunteer firefighters.

Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department.

Kearney Operations Center / Tim Arlt and Robyn Tweedy congratulate Care Center teammates.

Payten is raising funds for the Ogallala Volunteer Fire Department.

Ogallala V olunteer Fire Department.
Relaxation in store for Kuker

Cooper Nuclear Station Assistant Michelle Kuker retired from NPPD April 30 after more than 21 years of service. She began her career as a security officer in 1998. A retirement reception was held for Michelle Feb. 27 at Cooper’s Classrooms H&I. CNS Operations Manager Jason Willis acted as master of ceremonies, presenting Michelle with her retirement document and a CNS photo signed by colleagues. Special guests in attendance included Michelle’s husband, John. A pizza party for Michelle was also held on-site so the entire CNS team could stop by and wish her well. Michelle plans to spend her retirement relaxing with family and friends.

Harpham retires after 32 years with the District

Cooper Nuclear Station Supervisor Joseph Harpham retired from the District April 5 after 32 years of service. Joseph began his NPPD career as a welder/pipefitter in 1987. His retirement reception was held April 5 at Arbor Manor in Auburn. Joseph received a 32-inch television and NPPD tie tack emblem as his parting gift from NPPD.

Klassen Kilowatts meet the third Monday of every month at 12:30 p.m. CDT. The next meetings are June 15, Aug. 19 and Sept. 16. Locations to be determined.

Linda Holmstedt, (308) 530-1337, lmholms@gmail.com

Kearney Area Retirees have no meetings currently scheduled this summer.

Pat Butler, (308) 627-5266, patdiane@buddler@yahoo.com

The Cooper Nuclear Retirees meet the second Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m. at Cafe Metro in Auburn. The next meetings are June 11, July 9 and Aug. 13.

Jon Warren, (402) 740-8875, Lnjwarren@gmail.com

Columbus Energizers meet the third Thursday of every month at 8 a.m. at Stack-n-Streak. The next meetings are June 20, July 18, Aug. 15 and Sept. 19.

Marge Prokupek, (402) 564-0348, mkproku@frontiernet.net

NPPD Antiques meet the first Monday of every month. The next meetings are July 1, Aug. 5 and Sept. 2 at 8:30 a.m. at Country Cooking in Beatrice.

Low Voltage Panhandlers meet June 18, Aug. 20 and Oct. 15 at Perkins Restaurant starting at 9 a.m.

Pam Carpenter, (402) 366-7152, evlc_pamc@yahoo.com

Norfolk Customer Services Leader Cindy LaCroix, 62, passed away April 9. Cindy began her District career in 1976 as a voucher clerk in Columbus. In 1978, she moved to Norfolk as a general clerk before becoming a customer services representative in 1998. After a temporary assignment on the Choice Project Team in 1999, she was promoted to a customer care center supervisor in 2000. The position was later reclassified as a customer services leader. Cindy left NPPD on long-term disability in 2018. She is survived by her husband, Gene; son, Jason; step-son, Taven; parents, Jim and Rose Weldon; sisters, Kelley (Dan) Schaecher and Sherril Jo (Bob) Wehrs; brother, Scott (Michelle) Weldon; and many nieces and nephews.


Cindy LaCroix

Retired Cooper Nuclear Station Security Officer Steven Howard, 56, passed away April 17. Steven began his NPPD career in 2002 and retired in 2018.


Retired Cooper Nuclear Station Senior Nuclear Projects Manager Verne Wolstenholm, 77, passed away April 19. Verne began his NPPD career in 1964 and retired in 1997.


Retired Scottsbluff Substation Technician Thomas Kolling, 68, passed away March 31. Thomas began his District career in 1972 and retired in 2015.
