Celebrating 50 years of Public Power
3 Letter from the Editor
When people come together for the greater good, there is no limit to what can be accomplished.

4 President’s Message
President and CEO Tom Keet speaks to why culture change and technological advancement are critical to success.

6 Ten Ways Public Power Works For You
It’s Public Power Month, and NPPD exists to serve our customers while improving their quality of life.

7 Street Sparkles at Christmas
Doniphan Senior Systems Analyst David Rhodes spreads Christmas cheer amid the pandemic.

10 Innovation Leads to Community Growth
Illuminate Nebraska is a new program bringing opportunity to high school students.

12 Polk County RPPD Tests Out New Tesla
Polk County RPPD can’t say enough good things about its newly-acquired electric vehicle.

13 A goEV Incentive is Waiting For You
NPPD debuts new electric vehicle incentives that make every aspect of the purchase more affordable.

17 Customer News
Meet the Nebraska Rural Electric Association’s new general manager and CEO, Dennis Houston.

18 Around the State
Here are the memorable achievements and inspiring awards making headlines across Nebraska.

19 We Will Remember
Fondly remembering NPPD teammates and retirees who recently passed away.

About the Cover:
Public Power Month is a time to celebrate all the benefits public power provides to Nebraskans. Our teammates ensure you receive reliable, low cost, sustainable energy. They are also your friends, family members and neighbors. They are working for you, and looking out for your best interests. They are football coaches, Red Cross blood donors and church choir members. In this photo, taken at a 2007 NPPD Energy Fest event, one such teammate brings excitement and joy to a young boy as they entertain an eagle’s view of the world from atop a bucket truck.

Stronger Together

The Henry Doorly Zoo is a “must” on our family’s yearly to-do list. One of the first visits we make is to the giraffes, who share their home with ostriches. While the two get along well, a more beneficial pairing in the wild takes place between ostriches and zebras. You see, ostriches, with their keen sense of smell, and zebras, with their excellent sight, make opportune partners when it comes to keeping predators at bay, day or night. They help each other out. They’re stronger together.

This issue of Energy Insight is filled with stories of folks doing the same. We’ve got your do-gooders — those teammates who are bringing cheer and holiday spirit to their communities, one festive LED light bulb at a time. We’ve got students who are solving very real problems in their hometowns and beyond with technology and tenacity. And, we can’t forget the events and programs connecting us to those around us and leaving a lasting mark on those who will come after us. Don’t miss the short stories on our summer Arbor Day tree planting ceremony, our Pennies For Power Program, and the more than $65,000 raised in community college scholarship funds during this year’s Wells Fargo Nebraska Open.

It’s a tribute to what can happen when people come together to achieve something bigger than themselves. These acts of selflessness and sincerity give way to opportunity, success and a chance to pay it forward. They build the engaged, supportive and strong communities in which we live and work. I can’t think of a better story to tell around the holidays.

Cheers to a safe and festive holiday season for you and yours.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!
Our readers are very important to us, and we want to make sure you’re getting the most out of the Energy Insight. Please take a moment to complete this survey, and let us know how we can improve the publication. https://nppd.wufoo.com/forms/energy-insight-readership-survey-2020
How do you feel on a top 10 day when you’re on fire and everything’s clicking? Powerful? Attractive? Relevant? Every conversation, action or decision is effortless, intentional and inspiring.

It’s hard to keep that kind of momentum going if you’re a business. It requires strategy, a clear vision and plenty of hands-on training and engagement. But, what if every day was a top 10 day at NPPD? Think of what that could do for our culture, customers and communities.

Earlier this year, NPPD’s leadership team set out to find the best path forward when it comes to a word almost everyone fears in some capacity: change.

Every direction we look, change confronts us. In legislative and environmental circles, it’s known as decarbonization. Hands down, technology is transforming our industry and the way we work and generate electricity. Perhaps most important is how it redefines what that could do for our culture, customers and communities.

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10 ways I work for you

Hello

My Name Is

Public Power

I SUPPORT THE STATE’S ECONOMY
Approximately 6,000 public power employees are dedicated to delivering your electricity. In fact, some locally-owned public power systems have served their communities for more than 100 years. When combined with other energy-related businesses, I add tens of thousands of jobs to the state’s economy.

I COST LESS THAN A LATTE
Think about how much electricity you use in 24 hours, yet an entire day’s worth of electricity for a homeowner in Nebraska is only $3.47. A fancy latte costs more than that. So does a drive-through meal and a dozen donuts. Electricity is a great value in this state. In fact, Nebraskans pay approximately $600 less per year in electricity than the U.S. average. That’s a lot of latte.

I AM YOUR POWER
Nearly everything around you relies upon electricity. I am the light above you as you read this. I am your phone charger, computer, coffee maker, and curling iron. I am the stoplight at the street corner and the emergency sign at the hospital. I make your Christmas tree sparkle and your stereo play your favorite song. I am always there when you need me. And I am happy to serve.

I PROTECT LAND AND WATER
I constantly monitor the air, soil and water around my power plants to make sure their quality meets industry standards and expectations. I am conservative in my use of the state’s waterways, sending 99% of the water I use downstream for others. I also am protective of the land by planting trees, practicing soil conservation, and restoring the environment to its original condition if disrupted by construction activities.

I AM 24X7, 365
Unless Mother Nature has anything to do with it, I am available to you 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year. To be there when you need me, I don’t put all my eggs in one basket. In other words, I use wind, community solar and water — when they are available — in combination with more constant fuel sources like nuclear, coal and gas, which can generate electricity around-the-clock in large quantities.

I AM A REFLECTION OF YOU
I exist to serve you and your neighbors, not a stockholder in some big, distant city. On top of that, decisions about the price of your electricity, my generation resources or the utility programs I offer are made locally by your community representatives, city council members or someone you may have voted for in a public election.

I SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITIES
I promote the growth and sustainability of communities and rural areas through economic development partnerships and technological advancements. I also pay more than $100 million in taxes or in-lieu-of taxes in the communities I serve each year. This money helps support local projects and lowers everyone’s tax burden.

I GO TO COLLEGE, TOO
Education is important to me. That’s why I am involved with Nebraska’s Community College System trade programs, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s research and engineering programs, and why I support higher education for my employees at these and other post-secondary institutions. My workforce is smart, professional, talented and committed to working for you in this state.

I HELP MORE MONEY STAY IN YOUR POCKET
I may offer you incentives for energy efficiency lighting or electric vehicles, or perform a complimentary energy audit at your home or business, but I also control my own operating costs so your electric rates remain among the lowest in America. I want you to have more money in your pocket. What other business encourages you - or even pays you - to use less of its product?

I HELP BRING ZERO CARBON GENERATION TO THE STATE
More than 60% of the energy delivered to you is generated using carbon-free resources — a rate that’s among the best in the region. From carbon capture and sequestration projects, resource planning to address global decarbonization strategies, and a seat at the table to discuss future legislative policy, I ensure our place as competitive leaders in the industry when it comes to decarbonization.

I PROTECT LAND AND WATER
I constantly monitor the air, soil and water around my power plants to make sure their quality meets industry standards and expectations. I am conservative in my use of the state’s waterways, sending 99% of the water I use downstream for others. I also am protective of the land by planting trees, practicing soil conservation, and restoring the environment to its original condition if disrupted by construction activities.

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7th Street Sparkles at Christmas
NPPD’s resident illumineer spreads holiday cheer

Merry – check. Bright – double check! If you’re in the Hastings area this holiday season, it’ll be hard to miss Doniphan Senior Systems Analyst David Rhodes’ house. For most of the year, it’s the kind of unassuming home typical to Midwestern neighborhoods. But each November, the humble abode transforms anew, illuminating the whole block with a dazzling array of yuletide-themed lights.

Just how many bulbs are we talkin’? Nearly 20,000 in total! It’s no wonder the dwelling has given East 7th Street a sparkling reputation, or that Rhodes himself has been dubbed famously wacky dad Clark Griswold’s greatest rival.

Rhodes and his wife, Debra, began organizing their over-the-top outdoor Christmas displays back in 2012. Fond memories of piling into station wagons to tour the town as children prompted them to reinvent that Christmas spirit and motivated upgrades for the Adams Central School District,” Rhodes explained. “She can hear and see things in the music I am likely to miss. She can and does keep the sequences very much on beat. This adds a professional quality to our productions.”

In 2017, the couple secured the top spot in the annual city of Hastings holiday lighting contest for the first time. It was the same year their 40-foot-long train and custom animations debuted. This win fueled their Christmas spirit and motivated upgrades for 2018 and 2019, when they began to transition from old school incandescent lights to more energy efficient RGB pixels. There were a lot of advantages to the switch.

“The days leading up to opening night tend to be very busy and stressful. As with any stage production, there are practice tests of various components and dress rehearsals of the entire show. Corrections occur as needed.” Rhodes said. “Opening night with the full show tends to be both a relief and a switch to looking for any burned out pixels, wind damage, vandalism or missing pixels stolen by hungry squirrels thinking they are nuts.”

During the holiday season, it will be hard to miss Doniphan Senior Systems Analyst David Rhodes’ house. For most of the year, it’s the kind of unassuming home typical to Midwestern neighborhoods. But each November, the humble abode transforms anew, illuminating the whole block with a dazzling array of yuletide-themed lights.

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“An RGB pixel is typically three LEDs – a red, a green and a blue – all combined into a single package. By varying the brightness of the three colors, thousands of colors can be produced,” Rhodes said. “Each pixel can also be controlled individually. This allows for the appearance of motion, pictures and even video to be combined, generating spectacular results. With this change, and in the spirit of the song, ‘12 Birds of Christmas,’ we added a 20-foot mega tree with a 36-inch-wide star, four dancing arches, eight 16-inch snowflakes, four 30-inch wreaths, two spinners and one eight-pointed star.”

While some traditional elements are being modernized, Rhodes is quick to respect one long-held belief – that Christmastime shouldn’t come too soon. “Many people complain about how early Christmas items are displayed on retailer shelves or Christmas music is played. I share those concerns,” said Rhodes, who won’t flip the ‘on’ switch until the weekend following Thanksgiving. “However, for some of us, the work to pull off an endeavor of this size takes months upon months.”

Rhodes commenced planning this year’s show all year round, inspired to recreate the same brand of electric joy when they grow up. Stranger things have happened.

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Visit this year’s display at 422 East 7th Street in Hastings, Nebraska. And, follow the Rhodes family on Facebook at “7th Street Sparkles at Christmas.”
To do so requires initiative, community engagement, and lots and lots of technology. Cole (age 18) is working on a device that connects to the end of farming equipment and relays signals to the tractor to help farmers identify how close they are to power lines. Come too close, and the device triggers NPPD to receive an electronic alert and put safety measures into place.

Then there’s Donovan (age 20), who positioned electronic sensors in wild bird boxes across Nebraska to help Central Community College identify and track the number, size, weight and location of the birds.

Finally, in 2019, Caden (age 16) created to scale models of walk-in bathtubs with a 3D printer so Penner Bathing Spas wouldn’t have to haul the enormous tubs to trade shows, saving thousands of dollars and hours of manual labor in the process.

There’s York Senior Energy Education Specialist Chad Johnson. “The kids learn technical workforce skills and experience massive professional growth through these connections.”

The Illuminate Nebraska concept is simple. Once a school signs up for the program, it receives a kit with checklists that help students identify a pressing community or business need. Then, it’s a six-step process to research the problem at hand, plan and execute a solution alongside their local utility or related business, and promote the project through public relations and event opportunities. Should a project prove viable, additional funding for material to create prototypes of potential solutions is available.

NPPD, in partnership with several statewide organizations, including career service organizations like Future Farmers of America, Future Business Leaders of America and the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO), is creating more than 500 resources and pieces of content for Illuminate Nebraska. In fact, a knowledge-based contract with UNO’s STEM Trails Center helps with content creation, as the Center’s similar-minded priority is to advance capacity, competency, innovation and literacy of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at all levels for the betterment of our communities.

Educators, community members, business owners can unite for each STEM concept. We need everyone to be engaged for a culture of innovation to thrive.

Funding for these efforts is also provided in part through a grant from the American Public Power Association.

From robotics programs to career fairs and statewide access to energy-related educational materials for students of all ages, NPPD is committed to providing kids with the education and opportunities they need for a successful future career in STEM.

Helping advance the effort is our partnership with Paige Wireless, whose LoRaWAN network and series of sensors, alerts and data collection provide students access to almost immeasurable ways to make a positive impact on others’ lives through technology. “Three years ago, a cheap, $24 ESP32 device (essentially a low-power chip microcontroller system with integrated Wi-Fi and dual-mode Bluetooth) unlocked Donovan’s future as he put the pieces of the puzzle together to build a connected catfish strike sensor,” said Johnson. “Donovan is now leading a National Science Foundation grant project at Central Community College. It’s an incredible testimony to what we can do when we do it together.”
Polk County Rural Public Power District General Manager Phil Burke was pleasantly surprised when he first stepped foot in the utility’s new Tesla Model 3. Prior to its purchase, his team researched many electric vehicles (EVs), from the Audi e-tron to the Kia Niro, but the price points just didn’t fit their needs.

“When we started this process, we wanted something realistic – a vehicle customers could see themselves in,” Burke said. “Most people view EVs as a novelty – a small, underpowered box that works for short trips around town. We wanted to change that attitude by selecting a car with good drivability and distance range.”

When new EV incentives became available that allowed Burke to take $16,000 off the purchasing price of an EV and installment of a public charger at Polk County RPPD, they knew it was the Tesla in which they were most interested.

“We’ve been really impressed with it,” he said. “It’s snappy – handling like a sports car, yet comfortable, fully functional and fun to drive. Not to mention, it has a 320-mile range.”

It was the great range that sold Polk County, based out of Stromsburg, on the Model 3. The vehicle will be put into the utility’s fleet and used weekly for meetings in surrounding communities, including Kearney and Grand Island.

Though battery technology will only continue to improve and new models, including trucks and mid-sized vehicles, will become available in upcoming years, Burke noted that for now, those in outstate, rural Nebraska areas must pick their route more carefully to ensure they get from A to B.

“Ninety-five percent of our driving is on Highway 81 and in more populated areas. It’ll easily allow us to put miles on the road and see how the car performs under different circumstances,” said Burke. “The Model 3 can stand up to day-to-day driving and be easily driven by our workforce.”

The vehicle’s numerous features make it easy to do so. Auto steering, adaptive cruise control and cameras that spot nearby vehicles allow for enhanced safety measures, and a high-tech touch screen assists the driver in everything from helping to open the vehicle doors or glovebox, or locating nationwide charging stations.

For as high-tech as the vehicle is, Burke says he was initially overwhelmed by the simplicity of the dashboard.

“The first questions that popped through my mind were, ‘What do I do? How does regenerative breaking work? How do I know it’s running?’” said Burke. “But, those questions all disappeared once I started driving.”

While much computer learning is necessary to know what the vehicle is truly capable of, you don’t need to know it all to get in the vehicle and enjoy the drive. Instead, Burke noted the technology in time has only helped enhance the experience.

As for maintenance of the vehicle, the first year alone requires just the replacement of windshield wipers.

“Thanks to the newly available incentives, EVs are more attainable than ever, they’re easy to operate and maintain, and they’re the future of driving,” said Burke. “We’re excited to get customers into the driver’s seat as we take the Tesla into our communities in the next year to car shows, county fairs and the Swedish Festival in June.”

For more information, contact Chad Pinkelman 402.563.5084 cjpinke@nppd.com or visit nppd.com/goEV

Whether you plan to buy an electric vehicle or already lead the charge, a goEV incentive is waiting for you.

Nebraska Public Power District
Always there when you need us
Together with your local public power utility.
Houston named new NREA general manager and CEO

The Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) named Dennis Houston as its new general manager and CEO. Prior to the transition, Houston worked within the Chamber of Commerce industry. He brings 25 years of association and organizational leadership to NREA from his experience in rural Nebraska and Colorado. Houston said he looks forward to bringing those skills to rural Nebraska to make a difference and create the future of the NREA alongside his peers.

Houston previously served as CEO of the Norfolk Nebraska Chamber of Commerce that was recognized as the National Chamber of the Year under his leadership. He was the state vice chair of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce Executives. He also served as state chair of the Colorado Chamber of Commerce Executives and CEO of the Parker Area Chamber of Commerce.

Columbus / Kathy Fadschild, Communication Specialist / kfadschild@nppd.com

More than $65,000 was raised during this year’s Wells Fargo Nebraska Open, held at Elks’ Country Club in Columbus this September. The tournament is the second largest in the state, and NPPD has coordinated it over the last 29 years to raise more than $1.7 million in funds for the Community College Foundation to help students attend one of five college seasons were canceled. Fourteen women saw some firsts this year as players from UNL Men’s Golf, UNO Women’s Golf and UNL Women’s Golf.

On the Go mobile application. This award highlights organizations dedicated to giving back to communities, and it emphasizes social responsibility. It also recognizes utilities that have brought technology center stage by taking active steps to improve the customer relationship. NPPD’s vendor, Smart Energy Water, submitted the application based on the District’s innovative solution to engage with customers through a web portal and app, and NPPD was selected from not just electric utilities, but oil and gas utilities as well. To date, the solution has proven to be immensely successful, with 25,000 users, or 28% of NPPD’s total retail customer base, already using both. The portal and app allow residential customers to view and manage their bill pay, report outages and receive updates, and compare energy usage to better save electricity and money in the future. It offers 24/7 availability to NPPD.

On Oct. 2, NPPD was recognized by the Nebraska Latino American Commission (NLAC) for empowering Latino communities in the state and addressing issues of diversity that have helped create a stronger Nebraska for everyone. As recipients of the 2020 Visionary Award, the District was singled out as an organization that embodies the spirit of the NLAC’s mission. The honor was presented at a Hispanic Heritage Month celebration in the Nebraska Capitol Rotunda. Director of External Affairs & Corporate Communications Courtney Dentlinger delivered acceptance remarks, while Diversity and Inclusion Manager Yesenia Peck was there both representing NPPD and as NLAC’s commissioner. Peck credits educational and programming efforts as reasons why NPPD stood out to the NLAC board. This includes many past and ongoing initiatives, from partnering with the Department of Education and the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce on the Nebraska Latino Youth Summit (held virtually this year on Oct. 13) and promoting various other diversity committees and conferences to helping small, Latino-owned businesses navigate the challenges of COVID-19. The Latino-Hispanic community is the second largest population in Nebraska, which means most folks are NPPD customers. This group is also the fastest growing population in Nebraska, so they represent a significant market sector for NPPD and a source of future labor. Supporting Latino-Hispanic neighbors makes NPPD stronger all around as a public power provider that builds meaningful relationships with customers, as an employer that sees diversity as essential to workplace success and innovation, and as a business that works to positively impact all residents of the state.

SAP, a market leader in enterprise application software, with hundreds of thousands of customers across the globe, recently recognized NPPD’s commitment to technology by awarding the District its Purpose Driven Utility Award this year due to NPPD’s new Retail customer web portal and NPPD On the Go mobile application. This award highlights organizations dedicated to giving back to communities, and it emphasizes social responsibility. It also recognizes utilities that have brought technology center stage by taking active steps to improve the customer relationship. NPPD’s vendor, Smart Energy Water, submitted the application based on the District’s innovative solution to engage with customers through a web portal and app, and NPPD was selected from not just electric utilities, but oil and gas utilities as well. To date, the solution has proven to be immensely successful, with 25,000 users, or 28% of NPPD’s total retail customer base, already using both. The portal and app allow residential customers to view and manage their bill pay, report outages and receive updates, and compare energy usage to better save electricity and money in the future. It offers 24/7 availability to NPPD.

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Twenty-one Columbus teammates on July 25 lent a hand in building Habitat for Humanity homes for two, well-deserving families. These are the ninth and tenth houses NPPD teammates have built throughout the years as part of this effort, which equates to more than 70 people who now can own their own home and secure a better life for their families. Throughout the day, teammates painted internal and external walls, caulked, put finishing touches on the sheds and conducted general cleanup.

NPPD’s Pennies For Power Program was created in 2002 to provide monetary assistance to retail customers having difficulty paying their electric bills. Currently, 4,978 customers support the program via their monthly payment. Similarly, NPPD’s Pennies From Power Program provides a way for teammates to contribute to the same effort from their monthly paychecks. Currently, 98 teammates make contributions in this manner. The combined generosity of these men and women has helped 4,271 households since the program’s inception. From January to December 2019, NPPD applied $30,550 to 206 customers’ accounts. From January to September 2020, NPPD applied $49,750 to 332 customer accounts. While NPPD typically shuts down disbursements from June through September to rebuild the fund, due to generous donations during the pandemic, NPPD was able to keep the program open throughout the year to help families affected by COVID-19.

Hats off to Columbus teammates who didn’t let COVID-19 affect their generosity this summer. Realizing the need was high, colleagues raised a record amount of $6,890 for the Columbus 2020 Can Care-A-Van campaign, which gives donations back to the local food pantry. The total contributions were equivalent to 13,780 pounds of food! The giving spirit was truly amazing and shows the generosity NPPD has for those less fortunate. NPPD was also recognized for being the Columbus area Industrial Leader for the 2020 Can Care-A-Van campaign.

NPPD teammates finish the external build.

2020 Nebraska Open participants gather for a friendly photo opportunity.
KITCHEN KAPERS

You probably have heard the story concerning the famous Waldorf Astoria Red Cake. The story claims that a lady from the Midwest asked for the recipe and the Waldorf chef gave it to her – and then charged her $300 for it, or $500, or $200, all according to the person telling the story.

The recipe was given to me free, so I’ll share it with you. This is a very beautiful cake and quite festive for the holiday season. The contrast between the bright red cake and the white frosting is striking. Used as a centerpiece on a buffet, flanked by poinsettias or holly, it makes an unusual contributor to any holiday meal.

**WALDORF ASTORIA RED CAKE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2 C sugar</td>
<td>1 tsp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 C butter or margarine</td>
<td>2/3 C sifted cake flour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 eggs</td>
<td>1 tsp. vanilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 oz. red food coloring</td>
<td>1 tsp. vinegar</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 tsp. cocoa</td>
<td>1 tsp. soda</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 C buttermilk</td>
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Cream sugar and butter. Add eggs. Make paste of food coloring and cocoa. Add to above mixture. Add buttermilk and salt alternately with flour and vanilla, beating after each addition. Mix vinegar and soda and add to cake batter. Bake in two 9” pans at 375° for 35 minutes.

**WHITE FROSTING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 C milk</td>
<td>2 C powdered sugar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Tbs. flour</td>
<td>1 tsp. vanilla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 C sugar</td>
<td>12 walnut halves (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 C butter or margarine</td>
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Combine milk, flour and sugar in a saucepan and boil until thick; then allow to cool. Cream butter and powdered sugar until fluffy; add vanilla. Add cooled milk mixture and blend well. If necessary, add small amount of additional powdered sugar to make spreading consistency. Frost cooled cake. You may garnish with walnut halves, if you wish.

Enjoy a throw-back recipe from the May 1970 issue of The Dispatcher, a predecessor magazine to the Energy Insight. It’s the perfect cake for any upcoming holiday festivity.

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**Miller writes collection of short stories about life**

Retired Columbus Senior Communication Specialist Mark Miller is still writing in his spare time, with a new book just released this year.

"In Bright Sunshine," is a collection of 14 short stories, taken from among the more than 80 stories he’s written over the years. This is his first book, although he’s had stories published in literary journals and other publications, including the story, “Hog Wild,” which won the prestigious Marie Sandoz/Prairie Schooner Short Fiction Award, presented by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Although he’s not entirely sure where stories “come from,” Miller says he’s mostly drawn to incidents/observations of the world around him. “I’ve discovered I’m probably not creative enough to make up things whole cloth,” he says with a smile. “So I usually just take a little from here and a little from there – things I’ve seen or experienced, people I’ve met and characters I wish I’d meet – and blend it all together. Hopefully, there’s a realism found there, and something readers can relate to and enjoy.”

When asked to describe his “style” of writing, Miller hedges somewhat. “I think my style is hard to pin down,” he says. “In this book, for example, some stories are straightforward and some are a more fluid, lyrical, almost stream of conscience. The fun, for me, is how to craft a story, how to put ideas and incidents together and see where they go. Everything has to fit. That’s the trick, I think, trying to put things together just right. I guess you could call that ‘The Three Bears’ logic.’”

Miller admits he likes to read a lot, and that’s probably what gave him the writing bug to begin with. He cites the “regulars” as influencing him as a youngster: Steinbeck, Hemingway, Ursil, Tolkien. “I really enjoyed reading Vonnegut,” he says, “as did most of my generation. His casual style made me think I could do that writing thing, too. I may have been delusional, and I realize I never lived through the bombing of a packing house, but I loved his irreverence and heart.”

Miller says he generally writes three types of stories: Boy Meets (Almost Never Gets) Girl, Nebraska Stories (Life on the Plains), and Science Fiction. There are examples of all three in his new book. “I just write lots of different stuff,” he says. “Hopefully, there will be something readers like.”

Here is a sampling of what a few of the “In Bright Sunshine” stories are about:

- “Green Canteen” – Boy Scouts canoeing the Loup River; “Burger Glitch” – in the future, McDonalds uses a mind-reading device to tell its customers what they really want; “Well Healed Cut” – a young boy meets a girl and things don’t go exactly as planned; “To Give Blood” – a story within a story about writing a story as a man donates blood to the Red Cross; “Iambic Pentameter” – a college road trip ... and discovery, humiliation and realization; “The Plowman” – a Nebraska story about harvesting wheat, life and death; and “Scops” – a story about Genoa’s Main Street as seen through memory.

Miller has plans to hold book signings at various locations, if and when the current coronavirus situation allows. Until then, he asks those interested in a copy of his book to mail him $20 with a return address, and he will send a book back. Miller’s address is: 47962 North 390th Ave., Genoa, NE 68840.

“I really enjoyed the years I spent at NPPD telling the public power story,” Miller says. “It is definitely a story worth telling. What you will find in my book is different from the blogs and columns I wrote for NPPD, but the one constant, I hope, is I’ve always tried to write with readers in mind. That certainly will never change. I really work hard to write something readers will find entertaining in the end.”
Klassy Kilowatts meet the third Monday of every month at 12:30 p.m. CDT. Locations to be determined.
Linda Holmstedt, (308) 530-1337, lholmst6@gmail.com

Kearney Area Retirees have no meetings currently scheduled this fall.
Pat Budler, (308) 627-5266, patdianebudler@yahoo.com

Cooper Nuclear Retirees meet the second Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m. at Cafe Metro in Auburn.
Jon Warren, (402) 740-8875, Lnjwarren@gmail.com

Columbus Energizers meet the third Thursday of every month at 8 a.m. at Country Cooking in Beatrice.
Pam Carpenter, (402) 366-7152, evlc_pamc@yahoo.com

Low Voltage Panhandlers meet every other month on the third Tuesday at Perkins Restaurant at 9 a.m.
Upcoming meetings are in December and February.
Marge Prokupek, (402) 564-0348, mkproku@frontiernet.net

Sheldon Station Area Has-Beens meet the third Wednesday of each month at 8 a.m. at Stauffers Cafe in Lincoln (5600 S. 48th St.)
Chuck Forsgren, (402) 525-1127, chuckfjo@necrr.com

NPPD Antiques meet the first Monday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at Country Cooking in Beatrice.

Celebrating the life of former NPPD CEO Bill Mayben

Retired NPPD President and CEO William “Bill” Mayben, 82, passed away July 28 in Denver. An electrical engineer by trade, Mayben began his career at RW Beck and Associates, which eventually landed the longtime Colorado resident in Columbus, Nebraska. He would end his tenure at RW Beck as managing partner and CEO, transitioning to the helm of NPPD in 1995. Mayben officially retired in 2002, the same year he received the Donavan Award recognizing his contributions to the electric utility industry and public power.

Mayben is survived by his daughters, Krischa Jones (Kurt), Julie Arce (Fausto) and Sara Mayben (Jeff Vanis); stepson, Joshua Young (Kimberly); and grandchildren, Nathan Quist, Fausto Joseph Arce, Grace Arce, William Jones and Camron Young.

Robert Fulton
Retired Cooper Nuclear Station Security Officer

John Willis
Retired Cooper Nuclear Station Shift Technical Engineer

Rodney Fosbinder
Retired Canaday Power Station Plant Technician

Ted Swanson
Retired Kearney Meter Technician

Not pictured

Ray Eriksen
Retired Columbus Inspector

Mayben is survived by his daughters, Krischa Jones (Kurt), Julie Arce (Fausto) and Sara Mayben (Jeff Vanis); stepson, Joshua Young (Kimberly); and grandchildren, Nathan Quist, Fausto Joseph Arce, Grace Arce, William Jones and Camron Young.

John Willis
Retired Cooper Nuclear Station Shift Technical Engineer

Rodney Fosbinder
Retired Canaday Power Station Plant Technician

Ted Swanson
Retired Kearney Meter Technician
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

50
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