

# CUSTER

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

With Area Service Centers in Sargent,  
Callaway, Stapleton and Thedford

# Currents

## Featured Articles from Mullen Public Schools

**Mullen and the Corona Virus**  
*by Samantha Moore on page 5*

**Life on a Ranch Near Mullen**  
*by Hanna Marshall on page 5*



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Newsletter of the

### Custer Public Power District

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, McPherson, Logan and parts of Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry, Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

#### Custer Public Power District Newsletter

is published bimonthly by:

Custer Public Power District  
P.O. Box 10  
625 E South E Street  
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Phone: (308)872-2451  
1-888-749-2453

Website: [www.custerpower.com](http://www.custerpower.com)

### Staff

Rick Nelson <i>General Manager</i>	April Gross <i>Customer Service Manager</i>
Jerry Spanel <i>Operations Manager</i>	Dustin Miller <i>Purchasing Agent</i>
Cheryl Taylor <i>Director of Finance &amp; Administration</i>	Jason Chaplin <i>Field Engineer</i>

### Officers & Directors

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Brad Howard  
*Litchfield  
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#### POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:

Custer Public Power District  
P.O. Box 10  
Broken Bow, NE 68822

#### Comments or Questions:

Tarin Burrows  
*Executive Assistant*

Follow us on:



## From the GENERAL MANAGER'S desk

"WOW, here we go with a new year and a new look for the magazine." We are so excited to get this off the ground so we can focus on you, the customer-owner.

I cannot wait to show you what we have coming in future issues - stories from our service territory, articles from our school kids, and articles ideas that are submitted by you - the customer.

This year is going to be a big change for everybody. We have some new people in positions and additional changes in the near future.

We are starting work on our transmission line from Dunning to Seneca. This project will be a little painful for customers in these areas because it will take some outages to get this work done. We have a weekly call with both contractors to ensure we have great communication and can plan accordingly. I am very excited to get these line sections built. Back in November, if you lived in Mullen, we had to take a planned outage to repair the line to prevent an unplanned outage in bad weather.

Along with a new year comes the discussion on, "What are

our electric rates going to do this year?". I am excited to let you know that Custer PPD will not see an increase in revenue in 2021. We are continuing changes within rate classes to better align ourselves with the price signal we get from our wholesale supplier.

You will also see the continuation of the Production Cost Adjustment (PCA) in 2021. We are very excited to be able to pass this along to you. Once again, the true meaning of public power is only keeping what we need to operate the system and make capital improvements. The PCA is coming from Nebraska Public Power District in the form of a reduction in our wholesale power costs because of having margins over and above what they need to operate and provide stable rates.

I do believe that 2021 will be the last time we see this adjustment to our wholesale power bill, but every little bit helps.

We at Custer Public Power District want to wish everybody a joyous new year in 2021.

*Respectfully,*

*Rick Nelson, General Manager*

### Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m.(CST) in the main office in Broken Bow at 625 E South E on HWY 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Theadford, Nebraska.



## Attention High School Seniors in the Custer Public Power District Area

Custer Public Power District is seeking applicants for the **CPPD Utility Line Scholarship**.

This Scholarship is for 1 or 2 Year Full Tuition

### Requirements for the Scholarship:

- High School Graduate
- Parents or guardians are customers of Custer Public Power District

Applications for the Utility Line Scholarship are available on CPPD's website at [www.custerpower.com](http://www.custerpower.com) or contact Tarin Burrows at 308.872.2451 or [tburrows@custerpower.com](mailto:tburrows@custerpower.com)

The Custer Public Power District Scholarship Fund is administered by:  
Directors and Staff of CPPD

**Deadline for submitting your application is March 5, 2021**

## Custer Public Power District 2021 Projects

Custer Public Power District will be involved in several projects in 2021 which include a new transmission line build from Dunning to Seneca.

### Snapshot of the Dunning to Seneca new transmission line project:

- Thedford to West of Halsey has poles set and the contractor is moving forward.
- Thedford to Seneca has a portion of 3-phase built between Mullen and Seneca.
- Thedford to Seneca has some poles set.
- In the coming months there will be outages in the Mullen and Seneca area.
- There should be minimal outages on the Thedford to West of Halsey portion.
- The last line segment will be from Dunning to West of Halsey.

Additional updates will be shared as this project moves along. There will be press releases to come in the following months.

### Additional projects include:

- The copper replacement on part of the Haumont Substation.
- Dunning east or Circuit 2 from Duning to Brewster.
- Communication equipment
- New business software.
  - ◆ Our current software is over 30 years old and even with updates is outdated technology.
  - ◆ A new look for the statements you receive.

## Employee Years of Service Recognition

Custer Public Power District would like to thank Jerry Spanel, John Croghan, Dan Mankle, Zach Hammond, and Alex Meeks for their years of service. This year's employees began their careers as apprentice lineman working their way to journeyman. Operations Manager Jerry Spanel started as a lineman on the construction crew, moved to Substation Tech and Foreman Technician, and most recently is serving as Operations Manager. John Croghan serves as a lead lineman at the Stapleton Service Center. John apprenticed under retired Lineman Don Slingsby. Dan Mankle started in the wiring department and moved into the lineman position at Sargent. Zach Hammond and Alex Meeks are both scholarship recipients and came to work for Custer Public Power District after finishing utility lineman school. They have both completed their apprenticeship and are now journeyman. Thank you for your years of service to Custer Public Power District and to the customer-owners.

### **Jerry Spanel 45 Years**

Operations Manager



### **Dan Mankle 30 Years**

Journeyman Lineman -  
Sargent



### **Zach Hammond 5 Years**

Journeyman Lineman -  
Broken Bow



### **John Croghan 40 Years**

Lead Lineman - Stapleton



### **Alex Meeks 5 Years**

Journeyman Lineman -  
Broken Bow





## Mullen Public Schools Home of the Broncos

the schools to you with articles from students in our service territory.

The Custer Public Power District has 13 schools in it's 8000 square miles of service territory. The Custer Power STEM trailer usually makes its rounds during the school year but COVID-19 has put a temporary stop to going to each school. This year, Custer Power would like to bring

### Mullen and the Corona Virus

By *Samantha Moore*

Has the Coronavirus and masks impacted you and your town? In Mullen, Nebraska it has impacted us in a couple of ways. There have been positive and negative impacts on the citizens of Mullen, Nebraska.

Living in a town with the population of around 600 you pretty much know everyone and what they are doing. We're kind of like a small family if you really think about it. Everyone has their own opinion about masks and there is no way that anyone wakes up in the morning and is excited to wear a mask. Some people think that masks don't work and then there are some people that think they do work. Honestly, I feel like no one knows so there just trying to make rules to try and help us.

For example, the health department says if we wear a mask during school we don't need to quarantine if we have been near someone in our school that has tested positive. So, the less people we have to quarantine the bigger chance we don't have to go into online schooling. I will tell you my personal opinion; last year when we had to do online schooling, I wanted to drop out because it was just so difficult. It wasn't just students that thought it was hard, teachers also had trouble with it.

I think the students in our school realized how bad online schooling was and will do

what the health department thinks is best for us just so we don't have to go online again. The students also want winter sports too so there's a lot of us that would do anything to keep our chances of participating in winter sports. I believe that some of the citizens of Mullen think it's stupid that we have to wear them in school, but if they understood how we felt for online schooling and a possibility of missing winter sports they should understand that.

It is your personal choice and opinion and hopefully you don't get judged by that. I just wish people would think about others and what could possibly happen if we didn't wear masks and everyone had to quarantine. We would lose winter sports, we'd have to go home and do online learning, and we wouldn't get to see our friends just like last year which was not fun. ♦

### Life on a Ranch Near Mullen

By *Hanna Marshall*

I hear about kids that say they wake up only minutes before the bell rings at school and I can't even imagine how that would be. Living 30 miles out of town, 10 miles on highway and the rest on oil and gravel, there is no way that I can wake up unprepared to go to school. I was raised to always be 15 minutes early to everything just in case something were to go wrong or if I was running late. I leave my house at 7:00 to make it to school on time at 8:00. On a good day, it takes me about 30 minutes to get to town. On snowy and icy days, it can take

up to an hour and a half. Some of the struggles with living out of town is that if I forget something at home, I can't have someone run it up for me. There have been many instances where I needed something but I just have to figure it out on my own. This is why I make a checklist for myself before I leave the house to make sure that I have everything. Sometimes, I am lucky enough to have one of my neighbors that is coming into town bring it, but that doesn't happen very often.

When I was a kid, we would have a suburban come out to our house and pick up my brother and I, along with my neighbors. We would have to wake up extra early for this because it takes a long time to get all of the kids! We would usually leave the house at 6:30 to make it to school on time. My brother and I were really good about watching for the bus and getting out there right away. Some of the neighbor kids took FOREVER to get out to the bus. Our driver would have to honk and even go knock on their door before the kids would come out.

Living out of town definitely has its flaws when it comes to going to school every day, but I wouldn't trade living on a ranch for anything. I constantly have so much fun being around animals and being able to have my own space. We are able to go outside and not worry about our neighbors. I am forever thankful that I get the opportunity to do so. Yes, it would be nice to live next to your school, but always look at the good! ♦

# Plugged In

## ENERGY SAVINGS PLAN FOR THE FAMILY



There are several easy ways you and your family can save energy at home! Print this page, assign each energy-saving task, then place it on your fridge so your family can work together to save energy – and money.

WAY TO SAVE ENERGY	ASSIGNED TO:
Turn off lights in empty rooms.	
Replace any incandescent and/or CFL bulbs with LED bulbs.	
Turn off electronics that aren't in use (TVs, gaming consoles, etc.).	
Unplug phone chargers that aren't in use.	
Turn off ceiling fans in empty rooms.	
Adjust the thermostat when you leave the house. (Set it higher in the summer and lower in the winter.)	
Once a week, make a meal that doesn't require cooking in the kitchen. (Make PB&Js or cook outside.)	
Make sure all doors and windows and closed when the air conditioner or heater is running.	



## Increasing Your Brain Power: Fun Energy Facts

Did you know that although Americans account for 4.25 percent of the world's population, we use at least 17 percent of the world's energy? Hold the (cell) phone!

Fossil fuel sources (coal, petroleum, natural gas) provide the most energy; they 'fuel' 80 percent of our nation's energy consumption. Nuclear electric power accounts for 8 percent and various types of renewable energy provide 11 percent (numbers rounded by the U.S. EIA).

Most Americans own cars, so getting around in them accounts for a large part of our energy use. Less than 10 percent of Americans use public transportation. Worldwide, more than 20 percent of energy consumed is used for transportation.

Here are some other energy facts:

- Heating and cooling our homes accounts for about half of the average utility bill.
- To help reduce your utility bill, find (and fix) sources of air leaks in your home and replace inefficient windows, especially those that are single-paned. Energy-saving related fixes

and tweaks add up to a more efficient home, thus saving on energy costs. (These are only a few ways to use less energy. Home energy audits can also shed light on sources of inefficiency.)

- Lighting accounts for approximately 10 percent of home utility bills. Like your dad always said, don't light an empty room. Also, put high-efficiency light bulbs to work for you.

- The typical U.S. family spends \$2,200 or more on home utility bills each year.

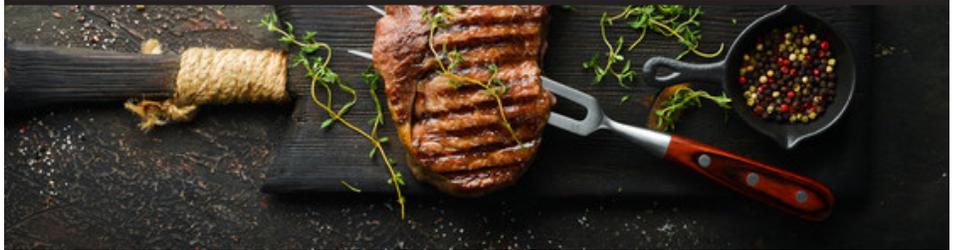
- Using a smart or programmable thermostat to adjust your thermostat 10 degrees for 8 hours a day could lower your heating and cooling costs by 10 percent per year. (Don't heat and cool an empty house.)

- Despite previously being touted as energy saving, closing vents in unused rooms can put a strain on your HVAC system, which typically uses more energy, not less.

For more information on ways to save energy in your home or about a home energy audit, contact Customer Service Manager April Gross at 1-888-749-2453.♦

Sources: Energy Resource Center, energy.gov, Energy Information Administration.

# RECIPES



## Sweet, Salty, Spicy Party Nuts

By Chef John

### Ingredients

- 1 cup untoasted walnut halves
- 1 cup untoasted pecan halves
- 1 cup unsalted, dry roasted almonds
- 1 cup unsalted, dry roasted cashews
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ½ cup white sugar
- ¼ cup water
- 1 tablespoon butter



*If you are wanting a little more than nuts, you can add pretzels, raisins, M&Ms, and popcorn to make a trail mix. The skies the limit with this recipe. It is perfect for a Super Bowl Party.*

### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil and lightly coat with cooking spray.

Combine walnut halves, pecan halves, almonds, and cashews in a large bowl. Add salt, black pepper, cumin, and cayenne pepper; toss to coat.

Heat sugar, water, and butter in a small saucepan over medium heat until the butter is melted. Cook for 1 minute and remove from heat. Slowly pour butter mixture over the bowl of nuts and stir to coat.

Transfer nuts to the prepared baking sheet and spread into a single layer.

Bake nuts in the preheated oven for 10 minutes. Stir nuts until the warm syrup coats every nut. Spread into a single layer, return to the oven, and bake until nuts are sticky and roasted, about 6 minutes. Allow to cool before serving.

*Recipe can be found online at <https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/230159/sweet-salty-spicy-party-nuts/>*

## Share Your Recipes

Earn a free gift if we publish your recipe.

Mail to: Custer Public Power District  
Att. Tarin Burrows  
P.O. Box 10  
Broken Bow, NE 68822



# OFFICE HOURS

Custer Public Power District will be closed on New Years Eve.

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST

For after hour emergencies  
call 1-888-749-2453.



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to qualified customers that help cover costs related to a variety of energy-efficient upgrades.

### Residential

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- Cooling System Tune-up
- Attic Insulation
- Heat Pump Water Heater

### Commercial

- Prescriptive & Custom Lighting
- Variable Frequency Drives
- HVAC Systems
- Industrial Process Incentives

### Agricultural

- Corner Pivot Variable Frequency Drive
- Irrigation Pump Efficiency
- Hog Heat Mats

Contact us for more information.

**Custer Public Power District**  
at 308-872-2451 or  
1-888-749-2453

In partnership with our supplier, Nebraska Public Power District, we deliver energy to you.