

# CUSTER

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

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

## Currents



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Remember and Honor

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Rose Hill Cemetery, Callaway, Nebraska  
Photo credits Tarin Burrows

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  
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Broken Bow, NE 68822

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

### Staff

<b>Rick Nelson</b> <i>General Manager</i>	<b>April Gross</b> <i>Customer Service Manager</i>
<b>Jamie Hurlburt</b> <i>Operations Manager</i>	<b>Dustin Miller</b> <i>Purchasing Manager</i>
<b>Alex Coleman</b> <i>Accounting Manager</i>	<b>Jason Chaplin</b> <i>Engineering Manager</i>

### Officers & Directors

<b>Brad Bartak</b> <i>Merna President</i>	<b>Wayne V. Licking</b> <i>Theadford Asst. Treasurer</i>
<b>John Blakeman</b> <i>Merna Vice President</i>	<b>Lloyd Ramsey</b> <i>Broken Bow Director</i>
<b>Greg Smith</b> <i>Milburn Secretary</i>	<b>Sadye Taylor</b> <i>Broken Bow Director</i>
<b>Tom Roberts</b> <i>Loup City Treasurer</i>	

#### POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:

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

#### Comments or Questions:

**Tarin Burrows**  
*Executive Assistant*

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## From the **GENERAL MANAGER'S** desk

**Electric generation and distribution are changing. Electric vehicles are coming.**

The super bowl was dominated by commercials about electric vehicles from about every manufacturer. A lot of what you saw for commercials in the NCAA basketball tournament was for electric vehicles. Ford will be manufacturing 600,000 electric cars and trucks by 2023. Chevrolet will be producing 1 million electric vehicles by 2025. School busses are being produced that are electric. Americans are being pushed and some Americans are wanting to have the latest and greatest electric vehicle.

Is this starting to feel a lot like the 1970s with long gas lines and the rush to produce gas vehicles with ever-increasing gas mileage? The EPA mandated vehicles in the 70s and 80s to have better miles per gallon - standards that favored the smaller cars and smaller engines?

It is my impression that in the late 1960s and early 1970s, people were concerned with the environment and how our actions were affecting the environment and the quality of life around us. With this movement, the EPA was born, and controls were established for lots of stuff that ended up in landfills and for emission standards. Styrofoam was a

bad thing because it never "broke down" and air pollution was an issue. There were lots of advances in technology in that period that used chemistry and technology to change everything we consumed.

The new paradigm shift is in how electricity is generated, distributed, and used in our everyday lives. This shift may have a detrimental effect on our landfills but be better for the air.

Today, groups seem to be turning a blind eye to some of the rare earth minerals that are used in making wind turbines and solar panels. This shift extends to the minerals used in batteries for not only electric vehicles but batteries that are being touted to save the environment by allowing utilities to produce less electricity from coal and natural gas. Batteries that have a short useful life that end up in a landfill. These same batteries have proven to sometimes have a thermal runaway and catch fire.

I'm not a chemist. I will let all that environmental, chemistry, and technology stuff stand for now. I am watching the evolution of technology, standards, and regulations closely. Let me remind our customers/owners of the evolution of vehicles during the last 80 years.

When cars were invented, free-spirited Americans were (continued on page 4)

### 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 9:00 a.m.(CDT) 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.

# New Faces & New Positions



Left to Right:  
Tristan Sawyer-Kociemba - Apprentice Lineman Construction Crew,  
Dan Mankle - Lead Lineman Sargent, and  
Brady Hendricks - Apprentice Lineman Sargent

In January, Custer Public Power District welcomed Tristan Sawyer-Kociemba and Brady Hendricks to the Custer Power Team, and Dan Mankle was promoted to Lead Lineman-Sargent after the retirement of Ron Baillie at the first of the year.

Tristan is a Custer Power Scholarship recipient. Tristan earned his Associate's Degree at Mitchell Technical Institute in South Dakota. He worked at North Central Public Power District at Creighton, Nebraska, before coming to Custer Power.

Dan Mankle began his career with Custer Power in 1990 working in the wiring department. In 1992, he moved to a position with the line crews and worked his way to become a journeyman lineman. In January, Dan was promoted to Lead Lineman at Sargent.

Brady is an Apprentice Lineman at Sargent. Brady received his Associate's Degree in Utility Linework from Northeast Community College in May of 2021. He worked for Brink Construction in Rapid City, South Dakota, before joining Custer Power.

Custer Public Power District would like to thank Tristan, Dan, and Brady for helping empower progress and keep the lights shining bright in the Custer Power service territory. ♦

On February 24, 2022, Sadye Taylor of Broken Bow took the Oath of Office to serve on the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors. Sadye was appointed to finish a term that will be on the November election ballot.

Sadye and her husband Andy are both natives of Broken Bow. Sadye is owner/partner and manager of Russell Title & Escrow in Broken Bow. Andy and his cousin Matt Taylor, own and operate Taylor Heating & Cooling. Sadye and Andy have two daughters Mesa and Hazen, and a Corgi named Rio.

Sadye has been attending Custer PPD board meetings throughout the last year and is honored to serve on the Custer PPD Board and is excited to be a voice of the district.

Sadye stated, "Public Power has a long, successful history and plays a special role in Nebraska. I intend to stay up-to-date on key issues and trends within the industry, so publicly owned utilities continue to serve people across the area, preserving this valuable asset and the local control it provides."

Custer Public Power District would like to say "Thank You" to Sadye for accepting the director seat and representing the customers/owners of the Custer Public Power District. ♦



Left to Right:  
General Counsel - Attorney Dave Jarecke & Sadye Taylor

# ENERGYWISE<sup>SM</sup>

Use less. Spend less. Do more.

# IT PAYS



to make energy-efficient choices

## Financial incentives are available

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

### Residential

- High Efficiency Heat Pump
- 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



→ **Rebate Program**

For more information: Contact Custer Public Power District at 308-872-2451 and ask for Customer Service Manager April Gross or visit our website at [www.custerpower.com](http://www.custerpower.com) and look for the rebate program link.

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

( continued from page 2) told that we could drive from coast to coast, from sea to shining sea. In the 50s and 60s, Americans were encouraged to see what this great nation had to offer, from great cities to great parks. Americans drove all over each state and devised trips that took us all over America.

When I was young, our family took a trip to Mount Rushmore. It was in the middle of the summer and the car overheated. We had to wait to let the car cool down in the summer sun. By the time the sun went down, our family was able to continue with the trip.

Or in the 1970s, if you are old enough, you can remember the once new Pacer-type car that caught fire and would explode when hit by another vehicle.

As cars evolved, engine cooling systems got better, and safety standards were mandated. So, we are evolving again with electric vehicles? Americans still have the desire when we buy a car to be able to travel from coast to coast. Americans are programmed to travel freely.

Just as early cars evolved with combustion engines, electric cars are evolving. Electric cars will get better. Electric vehicle driving range will get better. Battery life will get better. The charging will get faster.

Just like cars becoming more efficient on miles per gallon and the safety being better. All this doom and gloom will go away with electric vehicles, just like it did with the inception of the combustion car.

The range anxiety we have today with batteries in EV cars will go away. Americans will start driving EV cars to get places. Americans will evolve from the need to “fill up” to drive coast to coast like in the 1950s and 1960s to “charging” to get where we need to go in the future.

The new fast chargers of today will be yesterday’s technology in several years. What is

a fast charger? It is an EV charger that will charge a vehicle in 20 to 30 minutes. It will give you enough charge to get you - either where you're going or to get you to the next charger.

Isn't that what we do with gas vehicles? How far can we get on a tank of gas is the same thinking as to how far we can get on a charge.

Custer Public Power District is evolving, too. Custer Power is being pushed in some ways but also because Custer Power needs to.

Custer Power is installing a fast charger in Thedford to help with range anxiety and give everybody a chance to get where they want to go and be fully charged. Custer Power will have a fast charger at Thedford to get you to your home or on to the next charge. We'll have one in the Custer Power service territory to get you where you want to go.

The district office in Broken Bow also has an EV charger, but not a fast charger.

Custer Power has incentives that help our customers/owners be more efficient from the home, the ranch, the farm, and even with electric vehicle chargers and cars.

Custer Public Power District wants to be a part of this electric evolution even if it's a small little chunk of it. Lots of things will change in the next 10 years, let alone the next 50 years. That's when customers/owners will look back at this article and think about how much electric generation, distribution, and vehicles have evolved from the 2020s. ♦



Photo credits-Terri Licking



## Prepare Your Home and Yourself to Handle the Heat

Extremely hot temperatures are uncomfortable, inconvenient, and expensive. The Energy Education Council has tips to help you prepare your home and yourself to handle the heat. These tips will help you stay cool and save money when temperatures rise.

"The time to prepare for high summer temperatures is before the heat arrives," says April Gross, Customer Service Manager for Custer Public Power District. "Small preparations around the house can add up to big energy savings."

Preparing for hot temperatures does more than save you money. Simple preparations can also help keep you safe. Heat is a major weather-related killer in the United States, killing hundreds of people each year. The Energy Education Council has the following tips to help you prepare for rising temperatures:

- Seal cracks around the house. Weather stripping and caulking will help maintain your home's temperature.
- Use a programmable thermostat. Set it at a higher temperature when you will be away from home and a more comfortable temperature when you are at home.
- Update your window treatments. Curtains, blinds, and awnings reduce solar heat gain.
- Clean off ceiling fans, and make sure they are circulating air in the correct direction for the season. During warm months, ceiling fans should be operating in a counter-clockwise direction. Also, retrieve portable fans from storage. Fans create a cooling effect at less cost than air conditioning.
- Prepare your air conditioner. Air must be able to circulate around your air conditioner, so clear weeds, leaves, and other debris around your air conditioner. Replace the filter and continue to replace the filter monthly throughout the home cooling season.

Another important part of preparation is becoming knowledgeable. Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. If you or someone else experiences heavy sweating and weakness, immediately seek a cool environment, drink water, and apply a cold compress. If these symptoms progress to high temperature, vomiting, and unconsciousness, seek emergency medical attention.

Try to prevent heat-related illnesses by seeking out cool environments, drinking lots of water, and wearing light clothes. For more information on the safe and efficient use of energy, visit [EnergyEdCouncil.org](http://EnergyEdCouncil.org).

# RECIPES

## SOUTH-OF-THE-BORDER CHOPPED STEAK SALAD WITH CREAMY TAPATIO HOT SAUCE™ DRESSING

*Courtesy of Beef It's What's For Dinner*

**BEEF.**  
IT'S WHAT'S FOR DINNER.®

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 beef Top Sirloin Steak (about 1 pound)
- 4 teaspoons taco seasoning mix, divided
- 2 to 4 teaspoons Tapatio Hot Sauce™, divided
- 2 teaspoons packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup reduced-fat ranch dressing
- 1 package (5 to 6 ounces) mixed salad greens
- 1 (15 ounce) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 cup diced mangoes
- 1/2 cup crumbled queso fresco cheese, divided
- 1/2 cup frozen corn, thawed and charred
- 1/4 cup toasted pepitas or sunflower seeds
- 1/4 cup tortilla strips
- 1/4 cup diced red onion



1. Combine 3 teaspoons taco seasoning, 3 teaspoons Tapatio Hot Sauce™ and brown sugar in food-safe plastic bag; mix to combine. Place beef Top Sirloin Steak in same plastic bag; turn steak to coat. Close bag securely and marinate in refrigerator 30 minutes.

**Cook's Tip:** You may use more or less Tapatio Hot Sauce™ for a spicier or more mild pepper flavor.

2. Meanwhile, combine remaining 1 teaspoon taco seasoning, remaining 1 teaspoon Tapatio™ Hot Sauce and ranch dressing in medium bowl, mixing until well blended. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

3. Remove steak from marinade. Place steak on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 7 to 11 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 8 to 13 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness, turning occasionally.

4. Dice steak into 1/2-inch cubes. Season with salt, as desired. Combine steak, salad greens, beans, mangoes, 1/4 cup queso fresco, corn and dressing in large bowl; toss gently to mix. Garnish with pepitas, tortilla strips, onions and remaining 1/4 cup queso fresco, as desired.

**Cook's Tip:** To toast seeds, place in dry skillet over medium heat. Cook, stirring frequently, 3 to 5 minutes or until fragrant and golden brown.

### SAFE HANDLING TIPS:

Wash hands with soap and water before cooking and always after touching raw meat.

Separate raw meat from other foods.

Wash all cutting boards, utensils, and dishes after touching raw meat.

Do not reuse marinades used on raw foods.

Wash all produce prior to use.

Cook beef until temperature reaches 145°F for medium rare steaks and roasts 160°F for ground beef

Refrigerate food promptly.

## Brown Butter Pecan Cookies

*Courtesy of Lucille Wolford shared from the recipes of Mary Korte*



### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup butter, well browned (Not Margarine)
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 teaspoon maple flavoring
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 cup chopped pecans

### 1. Brown butter and cool.

Tips: Place butter in a small saucepan over medium heat. Let the butter melt, bubble, and foam. Once it starts to foam, pay close attention because it can easily burn and have a bitter taste. The trick is to listen to the butter as it is bubbling and making the sputtering noise. When the pan goes quiet, cook a little bit longer than remove from the heat. At this point the water has cooked off of the butter and you are left with the milk solid and buttery goodness. Allow the browned butter to cool.



### 2. Pour over the sugar, eggs, and maple flavoring. Mix in the nuts and dry ingredients.

### 3. Form into rolls, approximately 2 1/2 inch in diameter then chill. You can freeze the roll if desired.

### 4. Slice into 1/4 inch slices and bake at 375\* for 10 minutes.

## 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



## Onion Patties

### "Better than Onion Rings"

*Courtesy of Lucille Wolford shared from the recipes of Phyllis Whitechat-Lierman*

### INGREDIENTS:

- 3/4 cup flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornmeal
- 2 1/2 cups finely chopped onions
- salt to taste



### Cooking oil for frying.

1. In bowl mix all dry ingredients. Stir in milk. (Add more milk if too thick.)
2. Add onions and mix.
3. Drop by spoonful into skillet and fry until brown.

## OFFICE HOURS

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

Office will be closed May 30 for  
observation of Memorial Day.

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



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