



# NEWS MAGAZINE

## New Managers

Introducing SPPD's new  
Manager of Operations and  
Manager of Engineering  
— Page 2

## Spring Storm Cleanup

Take a look at how spring storms  
affected the SPPD district.  
— Page 4

## Cover Photo

Central City and Grand Island  
crews worked with Union Pacific  
to string new line over the  
railway. — Photo by Matt Lovejoy



# SPPD Promot

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*Southern Public Power District welcomes two new managers to the executive staff. Both managers have been promoted internally from their previous positions at Southern. Zeb Graham has worked for Southern for 25 years, and started as the Manager of Operations on May 6. Travis Dahlin has worked for Southern for 13 years, and started as the Manager of Engineering on June 10.*

## Zeb Graham:

**Q:** Tell us about your professional background and experience.

**A:** After completing two years of school at Northeast Community College in Norfolk Nebraska, I started my career here at Southern Power as an Apprentice Lineman in Central City. Once I completed my Apprenticeship, I became a Journeyman Lineman and from there I was a Crew Foreman. For the last 10 years I was the Maintenance Supervisor in Central City.

**Q:** What were your previous roles, and what did you enjoy most about them?



**Zeb Graham**  
**Manager of Operations**

**A:** When I first started my career at Southern I really enjoyed the hands-on training and how everyday was a different experience. I've created a lot of lasting relationships over the years and have a lot to be thankful for. With my past position as the Maintenance Supervisor I had the privilege to meet a lot of our customers first hand and help them with their electrical needs. It's a total group effort with all the employees at Southern Power in trying to exceed the customer's expectations on the service we provide them. I enjoyed the camaraderie amongst the employees and the trust we put in each other on a daily basis.

# tes New Managers

**Q:** What are you looking forward to most in your new role?

**A:** With my new role I am very excited to work on helping all of our employees reach their full potential within our company. I'm also excited to be part of helping streamline some of our processes and increase communication amongst all departments. I am very passionate about the safety of our employees, and I feel like everyone is excited for what's in store for our Safety Program moving forward. Another thing I am excited to be part of is making sure we reach our goals as a company and making sure everyone is on the same page. I feel like my past experiences have really helped me to appreciate how much goes into the service we provide each and every day to our customers. I'm really excited for the opportunity to work with everyone and to let them know how important they are to our team at Southern!

## **Travis Dahlin:**

**Q:** Tell us about your professional background and experience.

**A:** I went to school for land surveying and civil engineering. After graduating I worked for a private engineering firm and the Nebraska Department of Transportation before starting my career at Southern.

**Q:** What were your previous roles, and what did you enjoy most about them?

**A:** I was hired as a staking engineer. For my first three years I worked on designs and layouts for distribution projects. I enjoyed meeting with customers for new services/projects and working with them to figure out the best layout for their needs. For the last ten years I have been working on our district wide 69kV sub-transmission line conversion. I have enjoyed working on the



**Travis Dahlin**  
**Manager of Engineering**

designs of these larger projects and substations that include different permits and easements between Southern and our customers or other entities.

**Q:** What are you looking forward to most in your new role?

**A:** I'm looking forward to the opportunity to lead the engineering department and working with the other departments at Southern to enhance the efficiency and reliability of Southern's electric system.

# Spring Storms Cause D

Thunderstorms and winds have wreaked havoc across the state this spring. All areas of the Southern district dealt with the effects of the damage caused by these storms.

In all, SPPD linemen have replaced 98 distribution poles (including feeder lines, transformer poles, and meter poles), and 32 Sub-transmission poles. Crews have worked diligently with each storm to restore services to customers. Despite the number of poles damaged within the district, we have been more fortunate than neighboring districts.

The effort of all SPPD employees has been paramount in making it possible to restore power to SPPD customers after these storms.

“It’s a total team effort from our Warehouse employees, customer service team, operations personnel and linemen in the field,” said Zeb Graham, Manager of Operations. “There are countless hours that go into storm restoration and our employees are always answering the call.”

The preparation taken by warehouse employees to ensure materials are on hand before the storms has been a true benefit to ensuring timely repairs can be completed.



*Above: May storms knocked down sub-transmission and distribution lines in the Central City area. - Photo by Todd Barger*

*Right: Linemen from the Funk Area repair damaged lines after storms in early June swept through the area. - Photo by Zach Larson*

## Pole Damage by Service Area

### Grand Island Service Area

- 25 Distribution Poles
- 2 Sub-transmission Poles

### Funk Service Area

- 20 Distribution Poles
- 10 Sub-transmission Poles

### Hastings Service Area

- 7 Distribution Poles

### Central City Service Area

- 37 Distribution Poles
- 20 Sub-transmission Poles

### Franklin Service Area

- 9 Distribution Poles

# Damage Across District



# Parade Season is Here!



*Above: Trevor Kluck drives a Southern bucket truck through the parade at Auroran Days on June 22.*

*Right: Children of Southern employees look forward to spending time with their parents and helping toss candy to parade goers at the Cairo Cornstalk Festival on June 8.*



Does your community put on a parade in the summer or fall? We'd love to participate! Have your parade committee reach out to Amanda Groff at [agroff@southernnpd.net](mailto:agroff@southernnpd.net) to add us as a parade entry!

# TIPS TO BEAT THE SUMMER PEAK

When we all work together to lower energy use during peak hours, we can lock in lower electricity rates, so everyone saves. Here are a few simple ways to save during peak summer hours.

- 1** Raise the thermostat a few degrees.
- 2** Use ceiling fans (in occupied rooms) to feel cooler.
- 3** Avoid using major appliances.
- 4** Close drapes and blinds to block heat from the sun.
- 5** Turn off and unplug non-essential electronics and lights.



## Time to Tune-Up Your Cooling System

Beat the heat this summer, by making sure your cooling system is running properly. Regular tune-ups on your cooling system are important in ensuring efficient performance, and ultimately, savings in your cooling costs this summer.

Systems that have been neglected can yield a savings of 5 to 15 percent in energy costs, sometimes more, if you invest in a tune-up. Doing a yearly tune-up can also help extend the life of your unit.

Southern Public Power District offers a \$30 EnergyWise incentive to homeowners that have their cooling

**ENERGYWISE**<sup>SM</sup>  
Use less. Spend less. Do more.

system tuned-up by an HVAC contractor. Qualifying systems include any residential central cooling system that has been installed for at least one year, such as air conditioners, air source and water source heat pumps.

This incentive is available to residential customers. To learn more about this incentive and access an application, log onto our website at [southernppd.energywisenebraska.com/residential/](http://southernppd.energywisenebraska.com/residential/).

# Monster Cookie Icebox Cake

## Nutrition Information:

YIELD: 10 Servings, Calories per Serving: 595, Prep Time: 10min., Chill Time: 4 hrs., Total Time: 4 hrs, 10 min.

## Ingredients:

- 3 cups Whipping Cream
- 1/2 cup Powdered Sugar
- 2/3 cup Creamy Peanut Butter (don't use natural)
- 16 Oatmeal Cookies (may vary depending on the size of cookies)
- 1/3 cup Whole Milk (or milk of choice)
- 1/4 cup Mini Semi Sweet Chocolate Chips
- 1/4 cup Mini M&M's

## Instructions:

- In the bowl of a stand mixer or large mixing bowl, add the whipping cream and icing sugar. Whip until soft peaks form.
- While that's mixing, warm your peanut butter in a microwave safe bowl until just barely warmed and liquid. Heat in 10 second increments so as not to over warm it. It's important to not have it hot as this will prevent your cream from whipping up.
- Pour in the warmed peanut butter and whisk until stiff peaks form. Set in the fridge. \*See notes
- Cover the inside of a 9x5 loaf pan with cling wrap or

parchment paper. I prefer cling wrap. Make sure you leave some overhanging as you'll need to be able to lift it out of the pan. \*\*See notes

- Pour the milk into a small bowl that you can dip the cookies easily.
- Dip each cookie so it's covered in the milk. Shake off the excess milk gently and then place on the bottom of the pan until it's covered. Depending on the size of your cookies, you may need to break some in half to cover the pan properly.
- Spread 1/3 of your whipped cream over top of the cookie layer (\*\*see notes for other layer options). Then sprinkle 1/3 of your chocolate chips and m&ms on top of the cream. Repeat this 2 more times. You should finish with a cream layer with the chips and m&ms on top. \*\*\*See notes for step by step
- Cover with cling wrap and set in the fridge for at least 4 hours or in the freezer for at least 2 hours. If placing in the freezer, it will be more like ice cream cake and you may need to let it sit for a minute before you can cut it. I prefer to eat it out of the freezer.
- Store covered in the fridge up to 3 days or in the freezer for up to 1 week and enjoy!

## Notes:

- \*As we're adding warm peanut butter to the cream, it will get soft. Placing it in the fridge for a minute helps it from getting too soft. If you don't have room, this step isn't necessary.
- \*\*If you just want to serve the cake straight out of the pan, you absolutely can! It will be messy though but I've done it before. If you want to do it this way, you don't need to cover the pan at all.
- \*\*\*You can do 4 layers of cookies if you prefer. You would do everything the same, just an extra layer of each. Only spread 1/4 of the whipped cream between each layer.

## Layers Go:

1. Cookies
2. Cream
3. Chocolate chips and M&Ms
4. Cookies
5. Cream
6. Chocolate chips and M&Ms
7. Cookies
8. Cream
9. Chocolate chips and M&Ms

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<https://livslittlemuffins.com/monster-cookie-icebox-cake/#recipe>

