

November/December 2023 VOL 5, ISSUE 6

# **NEWS** MAGAZINE

## Letter from the CEO

Chad Waldow looks to continue building on SPPD successes. — Page 2



**Scholarships** 

Information for High School Seniors interested in a career as a lineworker. — Page 7

## **Cover Photo**

Construction and Central City Crews work to remove old line along the Giltner Spur.

Powering A Brighter Future

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#### SPPD News Magazine (USPS23530) is published bimonthly by:

Southern Public Power District 4550 West Husker Highway PO Box 1687 Grand Island, NE 68802-1687

Subscription Rates: \$1.00/issue

Non Profit Periodical Postage paid at Grand Island. NE

## **POSTMASTER:**

Send Address changes to: SPPD News Magazine P.O. Box 1687 Grand Island, NE 68802 agroff@southernpd.net

# Letter from the CEO Waldow Looks to Continue Building on SPPD Successes

On October 2, I took over as the new President and **CEO of Southern Public** Power District. One of the first things I want to do is get to know the employees. During my first week at Southern I attended our annual Safety Training and was able to introduce myself to all the employees. I am looking forward to getting out to each of our service centers and meeting with the linemen and area managers at their home bases.

I appreciate the opportunity to work with our customers. the staff. and Board of Directors at the District. I also hope to meet many of you when I get out into the communities we serve. I will work hard to continue what Southern has done over the years and look to build on that success as your power supplier! We will continue to safely provide reliable electric service as economically as possible with ongoing respect for the environment.

I wanted to share my background, and my path to Southern. I grew up on a small farm in Northeast Nebraska just outside of



Southern Public Power District President/ CEO

Creighton. After high school, I attended Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE and completed the Utility Line Program. Following graduation, I was hired by North Central Public Power District as an Apprentice Lineman. I spent nearly 20 years there and ultimately became the Operations Manager. In 2015, I accepted the position of General Manager/CEO at Stanton County Public Power District in Stanton, NE. I worked there until this year when I accepted this position here at Southern.

As I moved through my

career, I realized that while I had a lot of experience and education on the operations side of the business moving up to management would mean needing a business background. From there, I went back and got my MBA from UNO. I also attended the Management Internship Program offered by NRECA. This

training is very specific to the power industry and management job functions.

I have 28 years of experience in this industry. all in the state of Nebraska and under the Public Power model. While this model is somewhat unique, it is the best business model in the

# Safety Demonstration



Bryan Satterly, Journeyman Lineman demonstrates what it would look like if a boom of of coming in contact with live power lines.

industry. The model focuses on the end-user and local control setting it apart from all other models.

I am honored to be the next leader of Southern Public Power District and look forward to building on the many successes achieved here over the past 86 years.

combine or auger wagon came in contact with the phase wire. Southern hosted a group of safety personnel from agricultural companies across the state to show first hand the dangers

# Employee Anniversary Milestones

Please join us in thanking the 15 SPPD employees pictured below. They have all reached an employment milestone in 2023. This group has provided a total of 280 years of service.





Ben Goracke Journeyman Lineman

Clint Mildenstein Rhodes Journeyman Lineman Engineering Supervisor

Rvan





Brian Neville Journeyman Lineman



Cody Rath Journeyman Lineman



Brian Welsh Journeyman Lineman







Adam Becker Mechanic



Myles Butt Journeyman Lineman



Tom Brenn Storekeeper



Kevin Hanev Electromechanical Specialist



Harley Scott Area Manager









Jim Frbes General Accounting Manager



Jeff Foster Area Manager





Jeff Chase Area Manager



Grant Hansen Project Technician

SUITHEBNDD CUN

# Power Pole Clutter

Flyers, satellite dishes, posters, basketball hoops, decorative lights, even hunting stands. You name it, someone has tried to staple, nail or tie it to a power pole. Here's a quick look at the dangers and pitfalls associated with unauthorized pole attachments.

#### Illegal

Many state and local laws and the National Electrical Safety Code prohibit any unauthorized items on poles. Utilities can face fines if these attachments aren't removed.

#### **Pole Damage**

Even small holes can allow moisture and insects past the pole sealant, which can shorten the life of the pole or weaken it and cause it to fall in a storm.



#### **Hinders Repairs** Posters and flyers can hide

identifying markers on poles and slow repair work.



### Gloves

Staples, tacks and nails can puncture a lineworker's insulated rubber gloves and expose them to electric shock.

#### Boots Objects can cause a worker to fall if they snag their boots.

#### **Climbing Hooks**

Nails and tacks can impede climbing hooks from sinking into the wood.

#### Dangerous

A person who gets too close to energized lines while attaching an object can be electrocuted.

#### Distraction

Some materials posted on poles, like mirrors or holiday decorations, can be a distraction to drivers.

## **Attention High School Seniors:**

#### Lineworker Scholarship Application Period is Open

Southern Public Power District has opened its 2023 application period for Utility Lineworker Scholarships. This program offers scholarships to students attending an accredited utility line study program. Scholarships amount to \$2,500 for students pursuing a oneyear program, or \$3,000 for those attending a two-year program.

Applicants must currently reside within Adams, Franklin, Hall, Hamilton, Kearney, Merrick or Phelps Counties in Nebraska. Scholarship winners will be required to serve a 12-week summer internship with SPPD

in cooperation with the school attended. The deadline for scholarship applications is April 1, 2024. The application form can be accessed from SPPD's website.

We encourage potential students to reach out to the program of their choosing as soon as possible. These programs can fill up quickly, and it is best to enroll in order to assure a spot will be ready for the next academic year.

To learn more about our scholarship program, please contact Shannon Peard at Southern Public Power District at speard@southernpd.net.

## United States Postal Service Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

UNITED STATES Statement of	Ownership, Manageme	ent, and Circulation	13. Publication Titl	
POSTAL SERVICE . (All Periodicals Pu	blications Except Requ	a. Filing Date	Southern Public	Power District News Magazine
			15. Extent and Na	ture of Circulation
them Public Power District News Magazine	2850 5. Number of Issues Published Annually	09/06/2023 6. Annual Subscription Price		
Venthiv	6	\$6.00	a. Total Numb	er of Copies (Net press run)
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			c. Total Paid D	listribution [Sum of 15b (1), (2), (3), an
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talen Public Power District, 4000 W Husker Hwy, Gland Island,	NE 00003		the Mail)	(3) (e.g., First-Class Mail)
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	14. Issue Date for Circu	lation Data Below	
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	Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date	
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c. Total Print Distribution (Line 15f) + Paid Electronic Copies (Line 16a)	•	11295	11303
d. Percent Paid (Both Print & Electronic Copies) (16b divided by 16c × 100)	•	100	100
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Publication of Statement of Ownership			

## Holiday Office Closures

All SPPD offices will be closed for the holidays according to the schedule below:

- Thursday, November 23
- Friday, November 24
- Monday, December 25
- Monday, January 1

# French Toast Casserole

Prep: 15 minutes, Cook: 30 minutes, Total: 45 minutes, Nutrition Information: YIELD: 8 Servings, Calories per Serving: 407

#### Notes:

**Bread**: French Toast casserole is best with white bread. Regular sandwich bread will not work as well. Use French bread, challah bread, brioche bread, or Texas toast. It's best to use bread from the deli & bakery area of the grocery store.



**Milk:** Do not use any milk lower in fat than whole milk. You want the thickness and the fat to help the bread soak it up so the casserole does not end up soggy. You could use halk & half if wanted for a richer taste.

#### Ingredients:

- 10 cups large cubed white bread
- 21/2 cups Whole milk
- 6 large eggs
- 11/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 11/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 4 TBS. salted butter (softened)
  - 1 cup light brown sugar

#### Instructions:

- Preheat oven to 350°.
   Prepare a 9x13 baking dish by spraying it really well with cooking spray.
- Spread the cubed bread evenly into the prepared baking dish.
- In a mixing bowl combine the milk, eggs, cinnamon, and vanilla extract. Stir together with a whisk until it's combined well. Set this

bowl aside.

- In a separate smaller bowl, combine the softened butter and brown sugar. Stir together to form a crumbly mixture.
- Pour the milk and egg mixture over the cubed bread. Use your clean hands or a spoon to very gently stir and coat all the bread cubes in the milk mixture. Sprinkle the brown sugar crumble over the top.
- Bake for 30-40 minutes or until the middle of the pan is set.
- Let the French toast casserole cool for 5-10 minutes so it can set. Serve with powdered sugar, syrup, and fresh berries.

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