

NEBRASKA

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Magazine

May 2022

Fort McPherson National Cemetery

Inside:

• A Passion for Public Power • Marketing
Local Companies Through Technology •
Eight Ideas for Summer Energy Savings

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+ DOES YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAVE MORE THAN ONE CAR?

If you live in a household with more than one car, an EV likely represents a big opportunity for your family to use an EV for commuting. Use your current gas-powered vehicle when it is not convenient to use an EV.

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Fort McPherson National Cemetery, located near Maxwell, Neb., is one of two national cemeteries in Nebraska. Cover photograph by Wayne Price



Wayne Price

Protect Yourself From the Sun

Farmers across Nebraska face many potential dangers in their line of work, from machinery injuries to hazardous chemical exposures, but one danger they can't see is the sun's ultraviolet rays. They spend many hours in the mid-day sun, which is a major risk factor for all skin cancers, including the most serious, melanoma. Farmers receive more ultraviolet radiation (UV) exposure than the general public for many reasons.

It is estimated that nearly 9,500 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with skin cancer every day, and nearly 20 Americans die from melanoma every day. The risk of melanoma can be reduced by protecting the skin from the sun and its harmful ultraviolet rays. Even on a cloudy day, up to 80% of the sun's ultraviolet rays can pass through the clouds.

Farmers need to be protective of their bodies when working outdoors. The American Academy of Dermatology suggests following these steps to protect your skin from the sun:

- Seek shade when appropriate. Avoid the sun's rays when they are the strongest between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. If your shadow appears to be shorter than you are, seek shade.
- Wear protective clothing, such as a long-sleeved shirt, pants, a wide-brimmed hat, and sunglasses, where possible. Ask for a cloth flap that can be secured to your cap or hardhat to protect the back of the neck.
- Generously apply a broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen with a Sun Protection Factor (SPF) of 30 or higher to all exposed skin. "Broad-spectrum" provides protection from both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays. Reapply approximately every two hours, even on cloudy days, and after excessive sweating.
- Use extra caution near water, snow, and sand because they reflect and intensify the damaging rays of the sun, which can increase your chances of sunburn.
- Avoid tanning beds. Ultraviolet light from the sun and tanning beds can cause skin cancer and wrinkling. If you want to look tan, consider using a self-tanning product or spray, but continue to use sunscreen with it.
- Know your spots and be aware of your skin and the moles you have. If you see any mole or spot on your skin that is changing, itching, bleeding or growing, see a dermatologist.



Dennis Herman

Dennis Herman is the General Manager of Highline Electric Association, headquartered in Holyoke, Colorado.

Rate Making at a Local Level

I'm a believer in the public power business model. One in seven Americans receives their power from a public power utility, either a public power district or a rural electric cooperative. One of the bedrock tenets that defines a public power utility is local control.

Local control comes from the governance structure utilized by public power utilities. The governing body of every public power utility is made up of directors that are elected from the utility's customer base by the utility's customers. That means the governing body of your electric utility is made up of your friends and neighbors; men and women in your community that are receiving the same service you're receiving and paying the same rates that you're paying, rates that are approved by the governing board.

There is some natural tension in rate making for any electric utility. This comes from the inherent tradeoff between affordability and reliability. In general, increasing investments in a utility plant increases service reliability. Increased investment also results in increased costs, that lead to higher rates.

It is in the balancing of these decisions that the locally controlled public power business model stands out. Public power directors provide guidance to the management of the utility in all major business decisions. This guidance includes the approval of long-range work plans that lay out capital expenditures over a multi-year planning horizon. Directors also approve annual capital and operating budgets.

In addition, the governing board oversees the rate setting process. This process starts with segregating various types of customers into different rate classes. A cost-of-service study is then performed to determine and allocate all the utility's expenses to the different rate classes. Management works with the board to set rates for each class that are sufficient to meet the expenses of the class and generate an operating margin. This margin is used to reinvest in the utility's plant and, in the case of rural electric cooperatives, allocated back to the consumers as capital credits.

It just makes sense to me that a governing board which personally feels the effects of their decisions will make decisions that are in the best interest of their fellow customers and themselves. I would rather trust these decisions to my neighbors that will live with the consequences of their decision than to a state or federal regulatory body that has no personal interest in the outcome of the decision.

This distinction becomes even more clear when you compare the public power model with the investor-owned utility (IOU) business model. In the case of an IOU the regulators must also weigh the impact of every decision on another group of stakeholders: the stockholders in the company. The decisions don't get any easier when you must consider affordability, reliability and now profitability for outside investors. I'm more than happy to place the decisions affecting my utility in the hands of local directors, that are elected by me and my fellow consumers.

The Fort
McPherson
National
Cemetery was
established on
March 3, 1873.



Nebraska is home to two National cemeteries built to serve the burial needs of military veterans and their family members. Fort McPherson National Cemetery is located south of Maxwell, Neb. and Omaha National Cemetery is in Sarpy County, Neb.

Jason Dolan serves as the director for both cemeteries, which are overseen by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Built in 1863, Fort McPherson was established near present-day Maxwell, Neb., to ensure peace along the western frontier between the immigrants traveling along the Oregon Trail and the Native American inhabitants. The troops originally stationed at the post provided military protection from hostile Native Americans during the construction of the railroad.

The fort was named for Major General James McPherson. The West Point (Army college) graduate

served as the chief military engineer for General Ulysses Grant during the Civil War. He led his first military campaign during the Battle of Raymond (Mississippi). The Union soldiers eventually won the battle, after overcoming a slow start. McPherson died in 1864 during a fight for Atlanta.

The fort was built south of the Platte River at a strategic location at the mouth of the Cottonwood Canyon. The troops stationed at the fort, including George Armstrong Custer, who would later be killed in 1876 at the Battle of Little Bighorn in Montana, launched a number of campaigns against Indian tribes in the region.

A post cemetery was established, and in 1873, Fort McPherson National Cemetery was established on 20 acres southwest of the fort, and 50 remains were moved to the new site.



Establishment of the cemetery afforded the space to relocate remains from the cemeteries abandoned when the number of settlers decreased. Burial records testify that life on the frontier was full of hardships and dangers similar to battlefield camps during times of war.

The cemetery lodge was built in 1876 and rehabilitated in 1951 and 2000. About one mile southeast of the cemetery a monument marks the site of the flagstaff of the old military post and another monument marks the route used by the Pony Express over the Oregon Trail, which passes through the cemetery.

The cemetery features a number of buildings including the cemetery lodge and a columbarium (a building which houses urns). Hundreds of individuals are buried

Continued on Page 8

Notable Burials



Sergeant Emanuel Stance was born in Louisiana in 1848 and he enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1866. Stance joined Troop F, 9th Cavalry, and spent most of his career on active frontier duty in the Southwest. Sergeant Stance received the Medal of Honor in May 1870 for unquestioned courage. However, he had a volatile personality and drove his men hard. Stance was demoted to private and restored to rank several times. In 1885 Troop F was posted at Fort Robinson, Nebraska. There, Stance was murdered on Christmas Day 1887, likely by his own men. In 1947, his remains were transferred from Fort Robinson to Fort McPherson National Cemetery.



Spotted Horse was a Pawnee Indian Scout for the U.S. Army in the Northern Plains during the Indian Wars. He was killed by a Brule Sioux on August 14, 1862, and interred at Fort Kearny. In November 1873, Spotted Horse was reinterred at Fort McPherson National Cemetery.

From Page 7

here including several Medal of Honor recipients, Indians, Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th and 10th cavalry, and the last surviving Civil War veteran in Lincoln County.

Fort McPherson National Cemetery is the final resting place for four recipients of our nation's highest award for valor in military combat, the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force that can be bestowed upon an individual serving in the Armed Services of the United States. Recipients receive the Medal of Honor from the president on behalf of Congress. It was first awarded during the Civil War and eligibility criteria for the Medal of Honor have changed over time.

The Army abandoned the fort in 1880. The cemetery, however, has been maintained ever since. The cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 5, 2012.

The cemetery has a digital carillon system that rings

during the week to mark the time of day and plays selected devotional music on the weekend.

Approximately 250 miles to the east is the Omaha National Cemetery, a 236-acre cemetery in Sarpy County, Neb. The cemetery was dedicated August 6, 2016 with first burials taking place on September 27, 2016. The cemetery includes an administration building, a maintenance building, an honor guard building, a flagpole assembly area, a memorial walkway, committal shelters, and a public information center with an electronic gravesite locator, and restrooms.

Burial options include placement of caskets and urns. Casketed interments can take place in one of the 2,900 pre-placed double-depth crypts or in one of the 400 traditional sites. Inurnment of cremated remains can be placed in one of the 1,800 above ground columbarium niches, in one of the 1,200 in-ground plots or in the ossuary.

There are also two state run Veterans cemeteries in Nebraska: the Nebraska Veterans Cemetery at Alliance and the Nebraska Veterans Home Cemetery in Grand Island.



Above: The cemetery lodge was built in 1876 and is used as an office today.

Top right: The Omaha National Cemetery, a 236-acre cemetery in Sarpy County, Neb., was dedicated August 6, 2016.

Bottom right: The cemetery includes several committal shelters.

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Legislative Session Concludes in Lincoln

The Legislature has adjourned for the year. In most years, the Legislature does not have much discretionary funds to appropriate. Often, a bill may experience “death by fiscal note.” This is a simple way of stating that a bill did not advance simply because the state did not have the funds to finance the program or idea the bill created. This year, however, between state revenues that exceeded projections and federal American Recovery Program Act dollars (ARPA), the Legislature had a tremendous amount of debate on how to allocate additional funds they had at their disposal. Urban economic development, correctional reform, tax relief, state recreation and economic development all garnered a great amount of attention and debate on the floor of this year’s session. Ultimately, senators passed a \$900 million tax relief package which combines cuts in individual and corporate income taxes with additional property tax relief and a phasing out of the state’s taxes on Social Security benefits. They also appropriated more than \$1 billion in federal ARPA dollars towards more than 40 projects intended to ease the impact of COVID on our state.

In total, the senators passed more than 120 bills, not including the bills that were amended into other bills or the dozens of bills that were included within the updates to the state’s budget or approved as part of the ARPA request bill. They held extensive debate on correctional reform, handgun regulation, abortion, rural broadband and many other issues of vital importance to our state.

The NREA had a successful year in that we were able to advocate for the successful adoption of LB 804 (Hughes) which provides the necessary support needed for the NE Power Review Board member who serves on our regional transmission organization. We were also able to see the adoption of LB 847 (Wishart) which allows public power districts to use design build contracts when engaged in construction

projects. LB 1099 (Bostelman) which will work to establish Nebraska as a national hydrogen hub and LB 1100 (Bostelman) which will study the feasibility of advanced nuclear generation in Nebraska both passed. NREA was also able to successfully advocate for the protection of public power on a number of other measures that attempted to diminish the tenants of our all public power model.

As the session concludes, the NREA government relations department will turn its focus to Interim Studies. These studies are intended to address legislative issues that need further study prior to passage or to evaluate existing law to determine if changes are needed. More than 85 interim studies have been introduced this year. There is no set protocol as to how a committee handles an interim study. Some studies can receive a public hearing while others involve meetings with senators and impacted parties on proposed legislation.

Below are some of the interim studies the NREA will be tracking between now and the 2023 session.

LR355 (Bostelman)--Interim study to examine and review Chapter 70 of the Nebraska Statutes relating to power districts and corporations

LR363 (Bostelman)--Interim study to examine the reprocessing and recycling of spent nuclear fuel

LR376 (M Hansen)--Interim study to determine whether reports of the resistance of public agencies to fulfill public record requests are representative of a broad statewide issue or represent isolated incidents

LR394 (J Cavanaugh)--Interim study to examine potential changes to Nebraska's net metering policy

LR401 (Friesen)--Interim study to review the administration of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act

Meet the Watch That Shook Up Switzerland

A watch that revolutionized timekeeping at a price equally as radical.

In the history of timepieces, few moments are more important than the creation of the world's first Piezo timepiece. First released to the public in 1969, the watch turned the entire industry on its head, ushering in a new era of timekeeping. It's this legacy that we're honoring with the *Timemaster Watch*, available only through Stauer at a price only we can offer.

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“[Piezo timepieces]...it would shake the Swiss watch industry to its very foundations.”
—Foundation For Economic Education

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A Passion For Public Power

Cuming County Public Power District director named as Nebraska representative on National Rural Electric Cooperative Association board

Greg Strehle of West Point, Neb. has a passion for public power. He worked for Cuming County Public Power District for 35 years and he currently serves as president on the board of directors at the district, a seat he was elected to in 2011.

“I’ve held just about every job there is at the power district,” he said. “Everything except accounting.”

He started working for Cuming County PPD in 1975 as a lineman, taking correspondence courses in utility lineman training in the evenings and working with his mentor Gerry Ridder, a lineman at the district, during the day. Over the years Strehle went on to serve as a meter reader, operations manager and customer service manager. He even served as the interim general manager at the district when it was working to hire a new manager to replace Cecil Woodka in 1998.

Strehle retired from the district in 2010 and decided to run for the board the following year.

“I had customers who called me and said ‘Don’t waste your knowledge.’,” he said. “I thought I might run for the board one day but I really didn’t think it would be so soon.”

Safety and Reliability are two areas that he is focused on as a director.

“Safety is always first,” he said, as a priority for keeping both linemen and the public safe around electricity.

In 2020 Strehle completed the Gold Credential Certification, the highest level a Board member can receive from the NRECA.

To earn the Gold Credential, Board members must complete 136 hours of training, covering topics like power grids, power supply, cash flow, by-laws and communications.



As a prerequisite for earning Gold Certification, Board members must also complete courses leading to Cooperative Credential Director and Board Leadership Credential.

He is also the Nebraska representative on the board of directors of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He was elected to this position last year and attended his first NRECA Board Meeting held in March in Nashville, Tenn. He replaced Randy Papenhausen, a Cedar-Knox Public Power District director, who served on the NRECA board since 2015.

Strehle represents Cuming County PPD on the Nebraska Rural Electric Association board, where he holds the position of vice president.

Strehle and his wife, Rita, live on a farm in Cuming County near the Elkhorn River. They have seven children and 25 grandchildren.



Marketing Local Companies Through Technology

The 2022 MarkeTech conference will be held on June 21-22 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska. GROW Nebraska will bring in expert speakers, vendors, exhibitors, entrepreneurs, and businesses alike for the 12th annual MarkeTech Conference. The conference will be packed with hand-ons workshops and sessions geared to help business owners learn to grow, scale, and develop their business through marketing and technology. Keeping true to the purpose of MarkeTech, this conference will allow Nebraska's business owners and surrounding states to have access to expert speakers at an affordable price, making it a national experience unlike no other.

To kick off MarkeTech, Maria Elena Duron will return to Nebraska for the first time since 2018 to bring her wealth of knowledge in all aspects of digital

initiatives for any sized business. Duron is a digital marketing professional with over 18 years of experience. She works to ensure that businesses understand their ideal customer and how to succeed online. Duron helps both small and large businesses recognize where their customers spend time, how they make decisions, and how to identify best practices for customer conversions.

As an experienced speaker, Duron also has been awarded the Excellence in Small Business Award and Person of Vision Award for the state of Texas by the Texas Governor's office. Duron is recognized by the Grow with Google Program and certified to speak professionally with Google.

"We are so excited to welcome Maria Elena Duron back to Nebraska to share her digital marketing expertise with Nebraska business owners and entrepreneurs. It's an incredible opportunity to be able

Readers of the *Nebraska Magazine* can receive a **\$50.00** discount by entering the code **NREA22** at marketechconference.com.

to host a conference with big speakers that can share their experiences with our local communities across the state,” commented GROW Nebraska Founder and CEO, Janell Anderson Ehrke.

During the keynote session, attendees will hear from Duron on how zero party data works with personalization, and why the concept is important for engaging customers.

“If people don’t know you exist, they can’t do business with you,” comments Duron.

Attendees will also learn how to produce the best customer experiences to nurture conversions and analyze trends in customer engagement. Duron will also cover several other topics in sessions throughout the conference including Connections that Convert and Get your Local Business on Google Search and Maps.

Other speakers from all over Nebraska will be in attendance offering their expertise in the industry including: Marty Jarvis of Russ’s Market stores, Donald Everett Jr. of Runza, Lori Cody of Inspirata, David Lano of Control Yours, and many more experienced marketing and technology professionals.

Conference attendees can not only expect to gain the expert advice from speakers in marketing and technology, but also an experience like no other. MarkeTech is the only conference of its kind being offered in Nebraska, bringing in experienced individuals while staying local. Attendees will learn how to get into big box retailers like Whole Foods and Russ’s Market, benefit from networking opportunities, and have the ability to discover new vendors, as the exhibit hall will be jam-packed with goods and services for business owners and entrepreneurs to explore.

For more information about MarkeTech 2022 or to register, visit marketechconference.com.



Above: Maria Elena Duron will be speaking at the 12th Annual MarkeTech Conference in Kearney, Neb.

MarkeTech
where marketing and technology meet

Spring is traditionally the time of year we turn our attention to sprucing up things both inside and outside our homes. And with May being National Electrical Safety Month, it's also a good time to make sure your home not only looks nice, but is safe from dangerous electrical hazards.

To keep yourself and your family safe from these dangers, have a professional electrical safety inspection of your home and grounds every ten years. Here are some things to keep in mind:

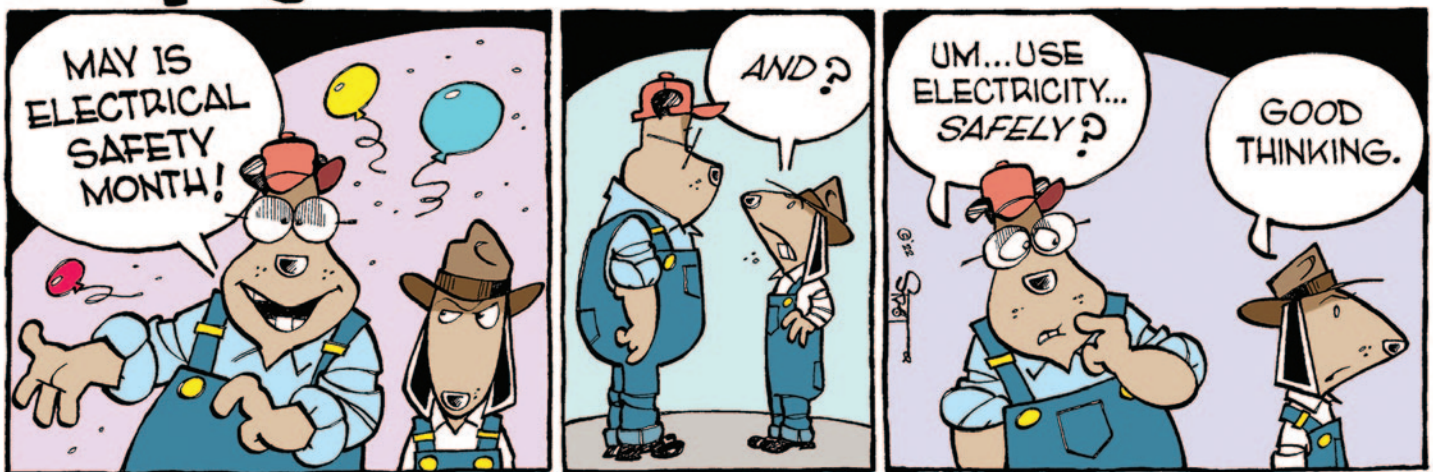
1. Water and electricity are a potentially deadly combination. Avoid using power tools outdoors in wet grass or other wet or damp areas.
2. Keep appliances like hair dryers and radios away from the sink, tub, or pool, and make sure all outlets near a water source are equipped with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI). That includes outlets in bathrooms, kitchens, unfinished basements, and garages, and near swimming pools and hot tubs. Make sure your outdoor receptacles are GFCI protected and that they are housed in weatherproof covers.
3. Don't overload an outlet. Simply put, each household outlet is rated for a safe amount of current, typically 15-20 amps. Plugging too many household appliances into the same outlet can start a fire or create a shock hazard.
4. Check all power and extension cords for cracks or



fraying. Those that are showing wear, and those that have been taped over in the past, should be replaced immediately. Never, under any circumstance, run extensions under carpets, rugs, or furniture, where you are unable to see their condition. When using an extension cord outdoors, be sure its rated for outdoor use.

5. Make sure all outdoor tools and appliances are unplugged when they're not in use.
6. All outlets that have loosefitting plugs or are cracked or have broken parts, and those that are hot to the touch, are potential fire hazards and should be immediately replaced. Switches that are cracked or are hot to the touch should similarly be replaced.

Murphy



Field Dress For Success

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Q : What steps can I take this summer to keep my home cool while saving on my energy bills?

A : A hot home and high energy bills can take away from summer fun. Here are nine tips to prepare your home for high summer temperatures.

Service Your AC Unit

Air conditioning (AC) units work by moving air over fins or coils that contain refrigerant. When the coils or fins get dirty, the unit doesn't work as well and uses more energy.

Whether you have a portable unit, central AC or a ductless/mini-split, get your system ready for summer by cleaning the filter, coils and fins. If you are tackling this yourself, always disconnect power to the unit.

Central AC systems have two sets of coils: one inside and one outside. Both should be cleaned annually. If you hire a professional, they can check refrigerant levels during the process.

Thermostat Settings

Keeping your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature will save you money. If you aren't home during the day, increase your thermostat 8 to 10 degrees. There's no need to cool an empty house.

Keep Your Cool

Before heading to the thermostat, turn on a fan in the room you're in, change into lighter clothing and drink something cool. This may be enough to make you comfortable without spending more to cool your home. Finding the balance between comfort and savings is key.

Lock Windows

After opening your windows at night or in the morning

to let in fresh air, ensure your windows are closed and locked. This reduces gaps that allow air to flow through and cause drafts. If your locks don't form a tight fit, add weatherstripping. Most products are easy to install.

Weatherstripping and Curtains

Covering and sealing windows may seem like a wintertime efficiency practice, yet these help in the summer, too. Windows are typically the least-insulated surface in a room. Add weatherstripping to form a tight seal and curtains you can close during the hottest times of the day to block out the sun.



Keeping your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature will save energy and money. Photo Source: Mark Gilliland, Pioneer Utility Resources

Cook Al Fresco

Keep your home cool or your AC from working overtime by cooking outside. My grill has an extra burner on the side that lets me do stovetop cooking outside, too.

Add Insulation

Even in the summer, adding insulation can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your air conditioning system. As a general rule, if you can see the joists in the floor of your attic, you need more insulation.

Add Shade Outside

Several years ago, we planted a hedge on the south side of our home. I was surprised by how much cooler it made the house in the summertime. Planting trees and shrubs strategically around your home can shade the roof, walls and pavement, reducing heat radiation to your home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, tree-shaded neighborhoods can be up to 6 degrees cooler in the daytime than treeless areas. Before buying a tree or shrub, check with your city or utility about free tree programs.

Applying a few of these ideas to your home will help keep you comfortable and provide summer energy savings.

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- Easy quick-release rear wheels, footrests and anti-tippers
- Flip-back armrests for the ability to roll up close to a desk or table
- Folds for convenient transportation and storage
- Dual braking system featuring manual locks and handbrakes
- **FREE** stylish and comfortable back and seat cushions

knowledgeable product expert will answer any questions you have. The So Lite™ Wheelchair comes with a one-year manufacturer's warranty and our exclusive home trial. We'll even give you **FREE** back and seat cushions. Don't wait . . . Call now.

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Dish Out Happiness with Tasty Treats

When celebrating with family, there is nearly nothing better than passing a light and sweet dessert around the table.

Homemade ice cream is a hallmark of many family events from birthday celebrations and pool parties to warm weather holidays spent basking in the sunshine. Completely customizable with an array of fruits or other tasty mix-ins plus toppings of your choice, it's a perfect way to put a grin on loved ones' faces.

At your next outdoor event, try an option like Cheesecake Ice Cream with Fruit Swirls from Milk Means More. It's a simple solution you can make a couple days in advance with your favorite fruit flavor such as blueberry, raspberry, cherry, strawberry, peach or apricot. Plus, this recipe serves a crowd, making it perfect for serving up smiles.

Simple to make and easy to eat, this sweet dessert of Simple Macaroons is a crowd favorite. With a fresh kick of lemon zest and crunch of shredded coconut, they are a bite-sized, delicious way to end your meal.

With sweet honey and vanilla, the flavors come together to create something sweet but not overpowering. It's a small, crumbly bite that's perfect for sharing.

Find more sweet treat recipes for any holiday at Culinary.net and MilkMeansMore.org.



Simple Macaroons

- 1 large egg
- 2 1/4 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- grated lemon zest
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/4 cups shredded coconut
- 5 ounces dark chocolate, melted

Preheat oven to 375 F.

In bowl, whisk egg. Add honey, vanilla, lemon zest and salt; whisk. Stir in coconut until completely coated with egg mixture.

Using 1 1/2-inch ice cream scoop, make 15 balls, transferring each to

parchment-lined baking sheet, spacing about 2 inches apart.

Bake macaroons 10-12 minutes, rotating halfway through, until coconut starts to brown on edges.

Transfer sheet to wire rack and let cool.

Before serving, drizzle with melted chocolate or dip bottom sides of macaroons in melted chocolate to cover bases. Refrigerate 15 minutes to set.



Cheesecake Ice Cream with Fruit Swirls

- 12 ounces cream cheese, cut into cubes**
- 3/4 cup sugar**
- 1 cup sour cream**
- 3/4 cup half-and-half**
- 2 teaspoons vanilla**
- 1 1/4 teaspoons lemon juice, divided**
- 1 dash salt**
- 1/3 cup blueberry, raspberry, cherry, strawberry, peach or apricot fruit spread**

In large mixer bowl of electric mixer, beat cream cheese and sugar on medium speed until fluffy. Add sour cream, half-and-half, vanilla, 1 teaspoon lemon juice and salt. Beat on low speed until combined then beat on medium speed until smooth. Cover and refrigerate 2-24 hours, or until cold.

Pour cream cheese mixture into 1 1/2-quart ice cream freezer. Freeze according to manufacturer's directions.

In small bowl, stir fruit spread and remaining lemon juice.

Spoon about one-third of ice cream into 2-quart food storage container. Spoon about half of fruit spread mixture in dollops over ice cream. Repeat layers. Top with remaining ice cream. Cover and freeze 4-24 hours.

Oven French Toast with Nut Topping

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 loaf French bread, cut in 1" slices 8 large eggs 2 cups milk 2 cups half & half 2 teaspoons vanilla 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon 1/2 teaspoon mace | Topping: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3/4 cups butter, softened 1 1/3 cups brown sugar 3 tablespoons dark corn syrup or honey 1 1/3 cups coarsely chopped pecans or walnuts |
|--|--|

Heavily butter 13 x 9-inch pan. Fill pan with bread slices to within 1/2 inch of the top, set aside. In blender, mix eggs, milk, half & half, vanilla, cinnamon, and mace. Pour mixture over bread slices. Refrigerate, covered, overnight. Make topping by combining all ingredients; set aside until time to bake toast. Spread topping over toast; bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes until puffed and golden. (Shield top with foil if top browns too quickly.) Yield: 8-10 servings. My Grandma Connie Runge's recipe.

Emily Bashtovoi, Sidney, Nebraska

Beef and Broccoli Salsa Rollups

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/2 lb. ground or shredded beef 1/4 cup diced onions 1 small tomato, diced 1 cup broccoli florets 1/2 cup shredded or cubed cheddar cheese 1-2 hardboiled eggs, diced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/2 cup salsa (mild, medium or hot, according to taste) 4 medium flour tortillas 1 avocado, pitted and sliced lengthwise sour cream, optional |
|--|--|

Cook the beef and onions in an oiled or nonstick skillet until well done but not crisp. Optional: add taco spices or salsa as it cooks. While the meat is cooking, mix the diced vegetables in a bowl with the cheese and eggs. Warm the tacos in a hot pan and place each on a plate. Spoon 1/4 of the meat onto each tortilla in a line down the center. Spoon veggies on top of the meat, with more salsa. Place 3-4 slices of avocado on top. Add spoon fulls of sour cream between the avocados, if desired. Wrap the tortilla around the filling and serve. Serves four.

Roberta Peters, Gurley, Nebraska

Grandma Marie's Chocolate Chip Cookies

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 cup brown sugar 1 cup white sugar 1 cup margarine – I prefer Parkay 2 eggs 1 teaspoon baking soda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 teaspoon vanilla 1 teaspoon salt 2.5-3 cups flour, measure and level 1 package chocolate chips |
|--|---|

Mix sugars and soft margarine well, add eggs and mix well. Mix dry ingredients and then add package chocolate chips (and nuts if desired). Mix well and drop by teaspoonful on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 for 12-15 minutes, less for softer cookie. Recipe note: Grandma's original recipe calls for 6 oz of chocolate chips, but let's be honest, the more chocolate chips the better! Also, I have played around with the flour – 2.5 to 3 cups. Less flour makes for a flatter cookie. I remember Grandma's cookies as being very large, flat, soft and chewy!

Jackie Kathol, Hartington, Nebraska



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