

Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

December 2024

Legal Challenge Update and Possible Temporary Rate Increase

by **Chance Briscoe, General Manager**

As many of you know NRPPD issued a press release earlier this year announcing a separation from NRPPD's long-time wholesale power supplier, Tri-State Generation and Transmission in Colorado. As part of that press release there were also plans announced to implement a rate reduction in 2025 and beyond. Unfortunately, the legal process has not gone as smoothly as planned and NRPPD has not yet completed that separation. The impact of those legal challenges and the roadblocks Tri-State has continued to put up may force NRPPD into a temporary rate increase until the separation is finalized.

In 2019 Tri-State became jurisdictional under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). As part of their filing processes, Tri-State filed an early contract termination procedure. This procedure laid out the steps to terminate the power supply contract as well as the price of the early termination. Upon review and protest by NRPPD, and other Tri-State customers, FERC rejected Tri-State's method to determine the exit fee. One part of the proposed process FERC has accepted is to provide a two-year notice by a customer to exit.

NRPPD and United Power (an electric cooperative in Colorado) issued notices to exit in April of 2022 with an exit date of May 2024. During that two-year notice period the exit fee was to be finalized. At this time Tri-State is currently demanding NRPPD pay an exit fee in excess of \$30M even though Tri-State understands their calculation method has been rejected by FERC as being unjust and unreasonable. Tri-State's position is that NRPPD should just pay the unjust amount now and get a refund later if determined its due.

NRPPD's position is that we have complied with the

exit provisions of giving proper notice and paying the just and reasonable amount due at this time. Since there is no accepted amount, the effective amount currently is \$0, subject to an accepted amount later.

This portion of the dispute has been litigated in a Nebraska Federal court and the current stipulation is to continue paying Tri-State for power delivery until FERC makes their final determination. A ruling could come in days or months and there is no pressure NRPPD can force to get a decision by FERC.

The purpose of this whole process is to lower electric rates for NRPPD customers and we still plan to have a rate reduction when the process is over. Unfortunately, since we cannot predict when that will be, plans have to be made under the status quo. And unfortunately, the status quo under Tri-State is higher rates.

The 2023 average residential rate for rural customers in
(Continued on Page 2)



**NRPPD General Manager
Chance Briscoe**



Temporary Rate Increase--

(Continued from Page 1)

Nebraska was 10.7 cents per kWh. The average residential rate for Tri-State customers was 15.6 cents. NRPPD's 2023 average residential rate was 13.7 cents per kWh. While lower than the average Tri-State customer it was still almost 30% higher than the rest of Nebraska. This contrast is exactly why NRPPD has been working to terminate the contract and move to lower cost wholesale power supply.

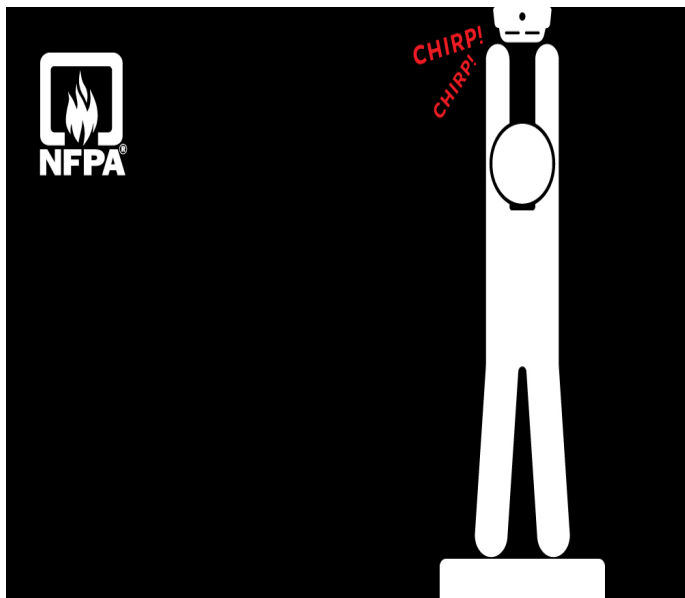
SINCE 2023 TRI-STATE has implemented a rate increase projected to be about 8-9% for NRPPD since July 2024 and into 2025. Since NRPPD cannot rely on a ruling at any particular time, NRPPD will have to consider an increase to cover the difference. This expected to be temporary and reversed upon a final ruling by FERC.

NRPPD is still working through the forecast for 2025 but a temporary increase could be as high as 10-12%. Keep in mind, NRPPD has not implemented a rate increase since 2021. During that time there have been cost pressures from the COVID pandemic, the supply chain issues, and the inflationary pressures of the last couple years.

Also, you may recall about 10 years ago NRPPD did a rate re-alignment resulting in reduced residential rates. The average rate in 2014 was 17.4 cents per kWh compared to 13.8 cents per kWh in 2024 through September. If a 12% rate increase were necessary it would increase to 15.4 cents per kWh, still 11% lower than rates were in 2014 and very comparable to Tri-State customers' average of 15.6 cents in 2023.

If implemented, you will see an increase applied to the bill you receive the first part of February 2025. Again, this is meant to be temporary! NRPPD and your Board of Directors are working hard to provide rate relief and this adder would be removed as soon as possible. Then NRPPD can begin to analyze the additional rate reduction planned upon final separation from Tri-State.

Thank you for your understanding during this process and we look forward to continue providing you with excellent service going forward and hopefully at a lower price soon!



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*~ by Jim
Manternach*

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Three Tips Stressed for Winter Farm Safety

1. Continuously Monitor Weather Conditions

It's important to know when to delay operations as conditions like high wind, extremely low temperature, snow, ice, and sleet increase the risk of accidents occurring. As well, most locations have limited daylight hours during winter months, which makes preparing in advance critical.

Monitor the weather throughout the day. This will give you insight into a variety of developing weather conditions before they become severe. By keeping track of conditions, you'll know in advance what the best course of action will be to take care of people, animals, crops, and equipment.

There are free services available to help with continuous monitoring like the National Weather Service, including its Severe Weather Monitor, and free weather apps for iPhone and Android.

2. Understand the Signs and Symptoms of Cold Weather Illnesses

One of the most significant ways in which cold weather can negatively impact risk on the farm is that it increases the chances of hypothermia and frostbite.

These conditions occur when the body is unable to maintain a normal temperature, leading to a range of symptoms including numbness, tingling, and loss of consciousness. With this in mind, wind chill is an important factor to consider when planning outdoor work.

The National Weather Service has a Wind Chill Chart that

can assist you with planning outdoor work. You should also consider the physical demands of the work being performed in cold conditions to ensure there are periods to take a break and warm up out of the elements.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has additional information on cold weather illnesses that will help you plan, equip, and train.

3. Have Warm Clothing and Cold Weather Gear

Farmers and their workers should take steps to stay warm, such as wearing warm clothing, taking frequent breaks to warm up, and staying dry. Adding layers of clothing gives options as both temperature and physical labor can impact how warm you feel while working.

You lose a lot of heat through your head in extreme cold. Wear headgear that covers your head and ears and provides protection for your face. A quality jacket with a hood is worth the investment. If possible, wear water-resistant boots. Insulated and heated clothing, gloves, socks, and boots are options to consider and will help protect from hypothermia and frostbite.

4. Take Caution When Operating Equipment

Another way in which cold weather can increase risk on the farm is by making it more difficult to operate equipment. Cold temperatures can make equipment hard to start and difficult to operate.

In addition to being slow to start, equipment may not run as **(Continued on Page 5)**

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Farm Safety--

(Continued from Page 4)

long. Cold weather can cause batteries to lose power more quickly, which can make it challenging to keep equipment running while you work. It's helpful to ensure equipment is fully charged before heading out into the field, and having a portable battery charger can be handy.

It may be tempting to work more quickly when the weather is cold so you can hurry back indoors, but pay close attention to how your equipment is managing weather conditions and practice patience as needed. Farm equipment can become dangerous to operate on ice and snow. Braking can become difficult, roads can be slick, and traction can become sporadic. Further, loads can become unbalanced quickly.

Pre-plan trips with equipment and make sure the weather conditions allow for safe travel and operation.

5. Properly Store and Inspect Unused Farm Equipment

You may not have a need to use some farm equipment and tools during the winter months. To mitigate risks, farmers should take steps to protect their equipment from the cold, such as storing equipment in a warm, dry place. This will help keep it in good working order.

Winter is an ideal time to perform maintenance. Even if you do not plan to perform any maintenance, periodically check your equipment throughout the season to ensure it is kept safe from moisture, cold, and critters that could damage it.

A farmer's job is never done. When you take the equipment out for the first time in the spring, it's important to inspect it before use to ensure it has not suffered any cracks or corrosion. For example, if farm machinery contains springs that cracked on a cold night, they may have exploded, which can cause injury.

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NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

Gordon-Rushville Mustangs

Mon., Dec. 2 District One Acts, tba
 B WR (MS) at Bayard, 9 a.m.
 G BB (MS) at Hemingford, 2 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 3 GES K, 2, 4 Concert, 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 5 WR (V) at Chadron, 2:30 pm.
 WR (MS) at Bennett Co., 4 p.m.
 G BB (MS) vs. Valentine, 4 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 6 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Hemingford, 3 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 7 WR (V) at Broken Bow, 9:30 a.m.
 G&B BB (JV-V) at Ainsworth, 1 p.m.

Dec. 9-10 Lion's Club Vision & Hearing Screen

Mon., Dec. 9 B WR (MS) at Mitchell, 9 a.m.
 G BB (MS) at Cody-Kilgroe, 4 p.m.
 School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 10 G&B BB (V) vs. Crawford, 5 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 11 GES & RES Noon Dismissal

Thurs., Dec. 12 G-B WR (V) Tri vs. Chad./Valentine, 5 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 13 G-B BB (JV-V) at Chadron, 4 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 14 G-B WR (V) Invite, 9:30 a.m.

Mon., Dec. 16 Middle School Winter Concert, 7 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 17 G-B BB (V) at Hyannis, 5 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 19 GRHS Holiday Concert, 6 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 20 End of Second Quarter, 12 p.m. Dismissal
 G-B BB (JV-V) at Bennett Co., 3:30 p.m.
 B WR (V) at Valentine, 4 p.m.

Dec. 21-Jan. 6 Winter Break - NO SCHOOL

Sat., Dec. 21 B WR (V) at Valentine, 9 a.m.
 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Kimball, 1 p.m.

Dec. 22-26 NSAA Moratorium

Tues., Jan. 7 First Day of Classes - Noon Dismissal
 B BB (JV-V) at Valentine, 5 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 8 FFA D12 Floral, Sales, Ag Mgmt Welding

Thurs., Jan. 9 G-B WR (V) vs. Hay Springs, 5 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 10 G-B BB (JV-V) at Mitchell, 3 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 11 Speech at Scottsbluff Invite,

Crawford Rams

Mon., Dec. 2 WR (JH) at Bayard 9 a.m.
 1-Act at Leyton (Districts)

Thurs., Dec. 5 **Pep Rally, tbd**
 WR (V) at Hemingford, 4 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 6 **G&B BB (JV-V) vs. Bayard, 4 p.m.**

Sat., Dec. 7 WR (V) at Mullen Invite, 9:30 a.m.
G BB (JH) vs. Sioux County, 7 p.m.
G BB (JH) vs. Lusk, 4 p.m.
WR (V) vs. Hay Springs/Bayard, 5 p.m.
School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 10 G&B BB (JV-V) at Gordon-Rushville, 3 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 14 WR (V) at Gordon-Rushville, 9:30 a.m.
 G BB (JH) at Hay Springs, 10 a.m.
 G-B BB (JV-V) at Garden Co., 3 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 16 G BB (JH) at Morrill (PanCo), 9 a.m.

Tues., Dec. 17 **G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Minatare, 5:30 p.m.**

Fri., Dec. 20 **End of Second Quarter**
Early Dismissal 12:30 p.m.
 G-B BB (JV-V) at Niobrara Co., 4 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 21 WR (V) at Hot Springs, 9 a.m.

Dec.23 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break

Jan. 3-4 G-B BB (V) at Sioux Co., tba.



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NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

Tues., Jan. 7 School Resumes
 Thurs., Jan. 9 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Edgemont, 4 p.m.
 Fri., Jan. 10 WR vs. Hemingford, 6 p.m.

Hemingford Bobcats

Sun., Dec. 1 One Act Soup Supper Public Perf., 6 p.m.
 Mon., Dec. 2 B WR (JH) at Bayard, 9 a.m.
G BB (JH) vs. Gordon-Rushville, 2 p.m.
 Wed., Dec. 4 ASVAB Testing (Juniors), 8 a.m.
 District One Act at Ainsworth
 Thurs., Dec. 5 G BB (JH) at Hyannis, 2 p.m.
 B WR (V) at Hemingford Invite, 2 p.m.
 G WR (V) at Alliance Invite, 2:30 p.m.
 Fri., Dec. 6 B WR (V) at Custer Invite, 9 a.m.
 G WR (V) at SW School in Bartley, 11 a.m.
 G&B BB (JV-V) at Gordon-Rushville,
 3, 4:30, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Dec. 7 G&B BB (JV-V) vs. Hyannis, 1, 2:30, 4, 5:30
 Mon., Dec. 9 B WR (JH) at Mitchell Invite, 1 p.m.
G BB (JH) vs. St. Agnes, 4:30 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 10 Elem. & HS Vocal & Band Concert, 6 p.m.
Thurs., Dec. 12 G BB (JH) vs. Bridgeport, 2 p.m.
 Fri., Dec. 13 G-B WR (V) at Niobrara Co. Invite, 9 a.m.
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Bridgeport, 4, 4, 5:30, 7 pm
 Sat., Dec. 14 G-B WR (V) at Gord-Rush Invite, 9 a.m.
G BB (JV-V) vs. Oelrichs, 1, 3:30 p.m.
Mon. Dec. 16 G BB (JH) at Morrill, 9 a.m.
Tues., Dec. 17 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Hay Springs,
3, 4:30, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
Wed., Dec. 18 Winter Picture Day
Thurs., Dec. 19 G-B BB (JV-V) vs Mitchell, 3, 4:30, 5:30, 7 pm
Fri, Dec. 20 End of Second Quarter
FFA Gift Exchange

Sat., Dec. 21 G-B WR (V) at Sidney Invite, 9 a.m.
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Leyton, 2, 3, 5, 6 p.m.
Dec. 23-Jan. 6 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break
Mon., Jan. 6 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Niobrara Co.,
3, 4:30, 6, 7:30 p.m.
Tues., Jan. 7 Start of Third Quarter
Wed., Jan. 8 FFA District Contest
Thurs., Jan. 9 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Garden Co.,
3, 4:30, 6, 7:30 p.m.
 Fri., Jan. 10 G WR at Sidney Invite, 2 p.m.
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Lingle Ft. Laramie,
3, 4:30, 6, 7:30 p.m.
 B WR at Crawford, 6 p.m.
 Sat., Jan. 11 B WR at Hyannis-Sandhills, 9 a.m.
 G WR at Garden Co., 9 a.m.


Chadron Cardinals

Tues., Dec. 3 G BB (7th-8th) at Hot Springs, 4:30, 5:30 p.m.
 Wed., Dec. 4 One Act Districts at Sidney
Thurs., Dec. 5 G WR (V) Chadron Invite, 2:30 p.m.
B WR (V) vs. Gering (Dual), 6 p.m.
 Fri., Dec. 6 G&B BB (JV-V) at Sidney, 4, 4, 5:30 & 7 p.m.
 Sat., Dec. 7 G&B BB (C) Conf. at Sidney, tbd
 G&B WR (V) at O'Neill Invite, 8:30 a.m.
 B WR (MS) at Summit Arena in Rapid, 9 a.m.
 Mon., Dec. 9 B WR (MS) at Mitchell Invite, 1 p.m.
G BB (7th) vs. Gering, 4 p.m.
 G BB (8th) at Gering, 4 p.m.
Tues., Dec. 10 Gr. 6-12 Music Concert, HS Aud., 7 p.m.
 Thurs., Dec. 12 G-B BB (C) at RC Christian, 4 p.m.
G BB (7th) vs. Alliance, 4, 5:30 p.m.



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NRPPD ACTIVITIES

Fri., Dec. 13 G BB (8th) at Alliance, 4 p.m.
G-B WR Tri. at Valentine Invite, 5 pm MTN
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Gord-Rush, 4, 4, 5:30, 7 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 14 G-B WR (V) at Gord-Rush, 9 a.m.
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Gering, 4, 4, 5:30, 7 p.m.

Dec. 16-17-19 G BB (7th) at Mitchell, tba
Dec. 16-17-19 G BB 98th) at Gering, tba
G-B BB (C) vs. Alliance, 4, 5:30 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 17 G-B BB (C) at Sioux Co., 4:30, 6 p.m.
Chadron JV vs. Sioux Co. V
Kindergarten Concert, 7 p.m., HS Aud.

Thurs., Dec. 19 **6-12 Band Concert, 7 p.m., HS Aud.**

Fri., Dec. 20 G WR (V) at Valentine, 12 p.m.
G-B BB (JV-V) at Alliance, 4, 4, 5:30, 7 p.m.
End of Quarter

Sat., Dec. 21 **B WR at Valentine Invite, 8 a.m.**
G-B BB (C-JV-V) vs. Douglas - Box Elder, 11:30, 11:30, 1, 1, 2:30, 4 p.m.

Dec. 23-Jan. 6 **NO SCHOOL**

Sat., Jan. 4 **G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Scottsbluff, 4, 4, 5:30, 7 pm.**

Tues., Jan. 7 G-B BB (JV-V) at Hot Springs, 4, 4, 5:30, 7 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 8 FFA District Contest at Scottsbluf

Thurs., Jan. 9 G BB (JV) at Lakota Teach, 4 p.m.
G-B WR at Alliance Dual, 6 p.m.

Jan. 10-11 G-B WR (V) at Douglas Invite, 11:30 a.m.

Sat., Jan. 11 Speech at Scottsbluff, 8 a.m.
G-B BB (JV) vs. Mitchell, 2 p.m.

Hay Springs Hawks

Mon., Dec. 2 B WR (JH) at Bayard Invite, 9 a.m.

Tues., Dec. 3 **G BB (JH) vs. Oelrichs, 5 p.m.**

Thurs., Dec. 5 G WR (V) at Chadron Invite, 2:30 p.m.

Fri., Dec 6 **G BB (JH) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 11 a.m.**
G&B BB (V) at Cody-Kilgore, 5, 6:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 7 B WR (V) at Mullen Invite, 9:30 a.m.
G-B BB (V) at Arthur Co., 3, 5 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 9 **Board Meeting**

Tues., Dec. 10 **G&B BB (JV-V) vs. Morrill, 2, 3:30, 5, 7 p.m.**

Wed., Dec. 11 **All School Health Screening**
Hawk Talk, 8 a.m., Senior Center

Thurs., Dec. 12 **Santa Soup Cookoff & the Night, the Lights Music Concert**

Sat., Dec. 14 G-B WR (V) at Gord-Rush Invite, 9 a.m.
G BB (JH) vs. Crawford, 10 a.m.
G BB (JV-V) at Bridgeport, 4, 5 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 16 G BB (JH) PanCo at Morrill, 9 a.m.

Tues., Dec. 17 **G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Hemingford, 3, 4:30, 6, 7:30 p.m.**

Thurs., Dec. 19 **G-B BB (V) vs. Creek Valley at Chappell, 5, 6:30 p.m.**

Last Day of Semester

Fri., Dec. 20 G WR at Valentine Invite, 12 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 21 G-B WR at Sidney Invite, 9 a.m.

Dec. 23-Jan. 5 **NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break**

Sat., Dec. 28 G WR at North Platte Invite, 9 a.m.

Fri., Jan. 3 G-B BB (JV-V) at Bayard, 3, 3:45, 4:30, 6 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 4 G-B BB (V) at Banner Co., 1, 2:30 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 6 School Resumes
Oregon Trail Honor Band

Tues., Jan. 7 **B BB (JH) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 1:30 p.m.**
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 3, 4, 5, 7 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 8 **Hawk Talk, 8 a.m., Senior Center**
Quarterly Assembly, 3:15 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 9 G-B BB (V) at Oelrichs, 4, 6 p.m.

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Recipes



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Peppermint Mocha Cookie Bars

White Chocolate Frosting:

- 1/2 cup white chocolate chips
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- 1/8 teaspoon peppermint extract

Cookie Bars:

- 2 tablespoons instant espresso powder
- 2 tablespoons hot water
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/4 cup firmly packed dark brown sugar
- 1 large egg, at room temperature
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract
- 1/2 cup dark chocolate chips
- 1/4 cup finely crushed peppermint candy canes, plus more for decorating

Place white chocolate chips, heavy cream, and 1/8 teaspoon peppermint extract into a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave at 50% power in 30 second intervals, stirring after each interval, until melted and combined. Place mixture, uncovered, in the refrigerator until completely chilled, about 1 hour.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Line an 8x8-inch square pan with enough parchment paper to have overhang on all sides.

In a small bowl or measuring cup, stir espresso powder and hot water together until dissolved.

In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa powder, salt, baking soda, and baking powder until thoroughly combined.

Beat butter, white sugar, and brown sugar together in a large bowl until light and fluffy. Add in egg and beat until thoroughly combined. Add in espresso mixture, vanilla extract, and 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract and mix until combined. Pour in half of the flour mixture and mix until just combined. Add in remaining flour mixture and mix until just combined—dough will be somewhat thick. Stir in chocolate chips and crushed

candy canes. Spread dough into the prepared pan in an even layer.

Bake in the preheated oven until the bars look just set, 25 to 30 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool completely in the pan, about 30 minutes.

Remove chilled white chocolate mixture from the fridge. Whip on medium-high speed with an electric mixer until mixture holds stiff peaks. Spread white chocolate frosting in a thin even layer over the top of the cooled bars and sprinkle with additional crushed candy canes. Cut into 16 bars.

* * * * *

Big Soft Ginger Cookies

- 2 tablespoons white sugar
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup molasses

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Set 2 tablespoons sugar in a small bowl; set aside.

Sift together flour, ginger, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves, and salt in a bowl.


Beat butter and remaining 1 cup sugar in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in egg, then stir in molasses and water. Gradually stir the sifted ingredients into the molasses mixture until well combined.

Use floured hands to shape dough into 24 walnut-sized balls. Roll each ball in the reserved sugar until coated. Place cookies 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheets, and flatten slightly with the bottom of a glass.

Bake in the preheated oven for 8 to 10 minutes, switching racks halfway through.

Remove from the oven and allow cookies to cool on the baking sheets for 5 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely.

* * * * *



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TAKE-OUT

December Major and Important Days in History

Dec. 1: **1955** -- The birth of modern American civil rights movement occurred as Rosa Parks was arrested in Montgomery, Ala., for refusing to give up her seat for a white man and move to the back section of a municipal bus. Her arrest resulted in a year-long boycott of the city bus system by African Americans and led to legal actions ending racial segregation on municipal buses throughout the South.

Dec. 2: **1859** -- Abolitionist leader John Brown was executed for treason in Charles Town, West Virginia, following his raid on the U.S. Arsenal at Harper's Ferry.

Dec. 3: **1993** -- Britain's Princess Diana announced she was stepping out of the public spotlight, desiring more privacy amid unyielding attention from the tabloid press and 'paparazzi.'

Dec. 4: **1791** -- The Observer, now the oldest Sunday newspaper in the world, was first published in Britain.

Dec. 5: **1492** -- Haiti was discovered by Christopher Columbus. Walt Disney was born in Chicago, Ill. He passed in 1966.

Dec. 6: **1492** -- The island of Hispaniola was discovered by Christopher Columbus. Today the island is divided between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. **1973** -- Gerald Ford was sworn in as vice president under Richard Nixon following the resignation of Spiro Agnew who pleaded no contest to charges of income tax evasion.

Dec. 7: **1941** -- The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, was attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead.

Dec. 8: **1941** -- A day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States and Britain declared war on Japan. **1980** -- Former Beatle musician John Lennon was assassinated in New York City.

Dec. 9: **1992** -- Buckingham Palace announced the separation of Prince Charles and Princess of Wales, Diana. Birthday -- American industrialist Clarence Birdsey was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. He developed a method of deep freezing foods and was one of the founders of General Foods Corp.

Dec. 10: **1898** -- The Treaty of Paris was signed between American and Spanish representatives following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. Birthday -- Poet Emily Dickinson was born in Amherst, Mass. Her poetry became known only after her death when her sister discovered nearly 2,000 poems locked in her bureau.

Dec. 11: **1901** -- The first transatlantic radio signal was transmitted by Guglielmo Marconi from Cornwall, England, to St. John's, Newfoundland.

Dec. 12: **1998** -- The House Judiciary Committee approved a fourth and final article of impeachment against President Bill Clinton, charging him with making false statements in answers to written questions from Congress.

Dec. 13: **1577** -- Francis Drake departed Plymouth, England, in the Golden Hind on his voyage around the world. **1991** -- North and South Korea signed a treaty of reconciliation and nonaggression which formally ended the Korean War, although actual fighting had ceased in 1953.

Dec. 14: **1799** -- George Washington died at Mount Vernon. **1918** -- British women voted for the first time in a general election and were allowed to run for office.

Dec. 15: **1791** -- The Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution) became effective following ratification by

Virginia. **1964** -- Canada adopted a new national flag featuring a red maple leaf on a white background.

Dec. 16: **1835** -- A massive fire erupted in New York City, destroying more than 600 buildings, causing an estimated \$20 million in damages. **1944** -- American big-band leader Glenn Miller disappeared in a small plane over the English Channel and presumably killed. Best remembered for Moonlight Serenade and In the Mood.

Dec. 17: **1903** -- After three years of experimentation, Orville and Wilbur Wright achieved the first powered, controlled airplane flights. They made four flights near Kitty Hawk, N.C., the longest lasting about a minute.

Dec. 18: **1916** -- During World War I, the Battle of Verdun concluded after ten months of fighting in which 543,000 French and 434,000 German soldiers were killed.

Dec. 19: **1732** -- Benjamin Franklin first published Poor Richard's Almanac containing weather predictions, humor, proverbs and epigrams, eventually selling near 10,000 copies per year.

Dec. 20: **Birthdays** -- American industrialist Harvey S. Firestone (1868-1938) was born in Columbiana County, Ohio. He founded Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. and was a close friend of Henry Ford and Thomas Edison.

Dec. 21: Winter begins in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere today is the beginning of summer.

Dec. 22: Birthday -- "Lady Bird" Johnson (1912-2007) was born in Karnack, Texas (as Claudia Alta Taylor). She was beside her husband Lyndon Johnson on board Air Force One when he was sworn in as the 36th President following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Dec. 23: **1987** -- Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager set a new world record of 216 hours of continuous flight around the world without refueling.

Dec. 24: **1990** -- On Christmas Eve, the bells of St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow rang for the first time since the death of Lenin.

Dec. 25: **Christmas Day**, commemorating the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Although the exact day of his birth is not known, it has been celebrated on Dec. 25 by the Western (Roman Catholic) Church since 336 A.D.

Dec. 26: **Boxing Day** in the United Kingdom and many other countries, a day of gift giving when boxes of food, clothing and other gifts are traditionally given to employees, tradespeople and other service providers.

Dec. 27: **1945** -- The International Monetary Fund was established in Washington, D.C.

Dec. 28: **Birthdays** -- Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) the 28th US President was born in Staunton, Virg. (as Thomas Woodrow Wilson). He served two terms from 1912 through 1921.

Dec. 29: **1890** -- Members of the US 7th Cavalry massacred more than 200 Native American (Sioux) men, women and children at Wounded Knee Creek, S.D.

Dec. 30: **1903** -- In Chicago, a fire inside the Iroquois Theater killed 588 persons, eventually resulting in new fire safety codes for theatres.

Dec. 31: **New Year's Eve**, the final evening of the Gregorian calendar year, traditionally a night for merry-making to welcome in the new year.



*Hope all is well
with you and your
family.
Hope your
Christmas is
merry and bright.*

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NRPPD ENTERTAINMENT

Christmas One Liners....

- Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? A mince spy!
- What's every elf's favorite type of music? Wrap!
- What do you call a reindeer ghost? Cari-boo!
- What do gingerbread men use when they break their legs? Candy canes.
- What kind of ball doesn't bounce? A snowball.
- What kind of photos do elves take? Elfies!
- What do snowmen eat for lunch? Iceberg-ers.
- What do you call a greedy elf? Elfish.
- Why did Frosty's girlfriend break up with him? He was a total flake!
- What's every parent's favorite Christmas Carol? Silent Night.
- What do you call a snowman with a six-pack? The abdominal snowman.
- What's the Grinch's least favorite band? The Who!
- Which one of Santa's reindeer has the best moves? Dancer!
- What's worse than a reindeer with a runny nose? A snowman with a fever!
- What did one cranberry say to another at Christmas? 'Tis the season to be jelly!
- Why wouldn't Ebenezer Scrooge eat at the pasta restaurant? It cost a pretty penne!
- What is a Christmas carol that you can sing to

- fruits on the happy event? "Have Yourself A Berry Little Christmas."
- Why do reindeer like Mrs. Claus so much? She sleighs.
- Why did the snowman get lost? He didn't snow his way home.
- Why is it always so cold around Christmastime? Because it's Decembrrr.
- What did the icy road say to the truck? Want to go for a spin?
- Why are elves such great motivational speakers? They have plenty of elf-confidence.
- What do you call a Christmas rom-com about bread? Loaf Actually.
- How did Mary and Joseph know Jesus' weight when he was born? They had a weigh in a manger.
- What is it called when a snowman has a temper tantrum? A meltdown.
- Did you hear about what happened to the man who stole the advent calendar? He got 25 days.
- What's a dog's favorite Christmas treat? Candy canines.
- How many letters are in the Christmas alphabet? 25—there's noel.




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