

Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

April 2022

Montana Balloon Experiment Recalled 33 Years Later

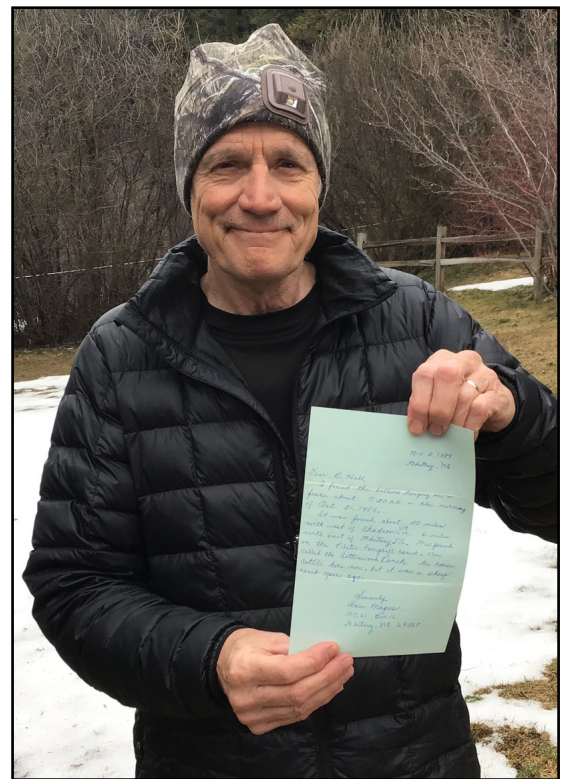
An activity that was fairly common back in the 80s and is not recommended by power companies today jarred a memory of a rural Hemingford woman. About a month ago Ann Mapes received a letter from a Montana man asking her if she remembered finding a balloon in a fence line near Whitney with a note attached 33 years ago. The envelope included a copy of a letter Ann had sent in response to Fifth Grade Teacher Bruce Hall at Potomac School, which was located about 20 miles from Missoula, Mont.

Hall, now 69, was visiting his three grandchildren in Gillette, Wyo. about a month ago and he related the balloon activity he had done with his students and decided to try the same with his grandchildren to see if they would get a response.

After Hall returned back to Montana he decided to look in a box of his teaching memorabilia and found the letter the students received from Ann over three decades ago. So on a whim, Hall wondered if he would be able to contact Ann. "I had no idea if she would be



Balloon Release Remembered

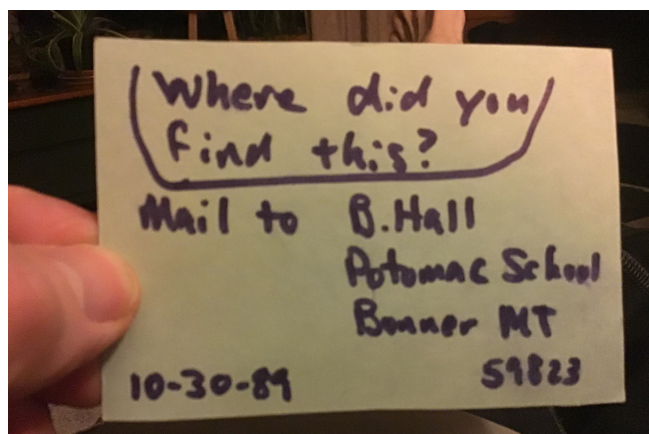


Left, Ann Mapes of rural Hemingford, holding a copy of the letters that transpired 33 years ago. Right, former Montana teacher Bruce Hall holding the original letter that Mapes responded with.

dead or alive," said Hall. After some research on the computer he was able to come up with an address although Ann and her husband Jim had moved out by Cottonwood School northwest of Hemingford.

He started with a letter to Ann followed up by a phone call a few days later. Ann really didn't remember writing the letter but recalls finding the balloon in a hog fence. The balloon was launched on Oct. 30, 1989 from Potomac, Mont. and she found it early the next morning near Whitney. That means the balloon travelled 770 miles in approximately 12 hours. Ann responded right away to the Fifth Graders and never gave it much thought after that.

Interestingly enough, Bruce Hall and his wife do have Nebraska ties. "She received her undergraduate degree from UNO, a native Cornhusker. I attended both the UNO and Lincoln campuses but finished my teaching degree in Montana in 1983. Hall was born in Indiana, spent a few years



(Continued on Page 2)

Balloon Release--

(Continued from Page 1)

in Kentucky then back to Indiana then Nebraska and now Montana. "Our family moved around when I was young due to my dad being transferred. I consider Montana home after four plus decades and raising a family here," said Hall. "I taught in Potomac for 11 years then left teaching and helped to establish a not-for-profit Community Benefit Corporation in Bonner, Mont. where my wife and I have lived for 44 years. I was engaged in community development for 25 years."

Hall noted, "Things that fly captivate a kids imagination. I taught an aviation unit every year that included rocket club, rubber band flight, egg drops from aircraft as well as the balloon launch. One year the class



The Potomac Fifth Grade Class in 1989 in Montana under the direction of Mr. Bruce Hall was a small rural school just like many that used to be in Northwest Nebraska.

took what was called a discovery flight in a Cessna 172, I awarded individual discovery flights to several students over the years as well."

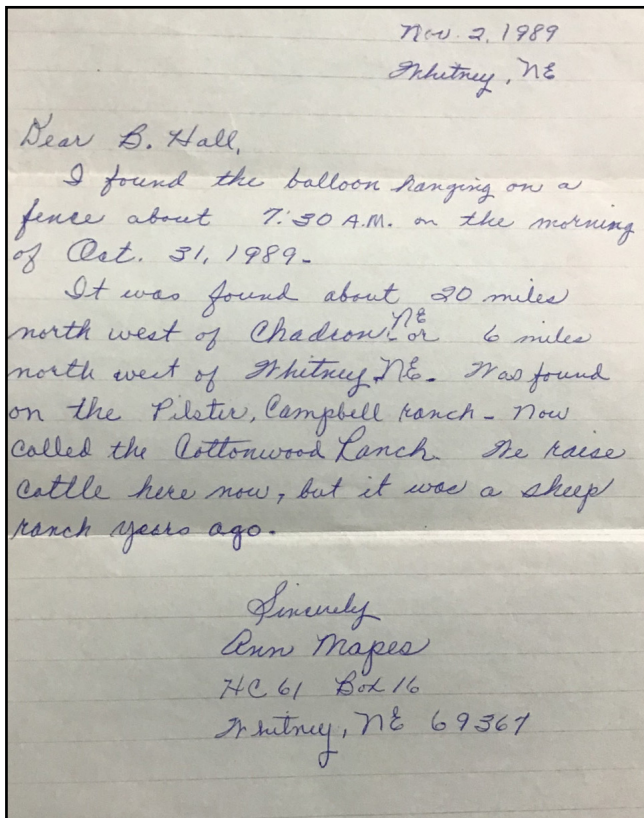
On the other hand, Ann and Jim Mapes lived in the Whitney area where they rented a place and worked there, 20 miles northwest of Chadron, for about three years before they moved six miles west of Cottonwood School northwest of Hemingford.

They just retired a few years ago and are now 86 and 83 respectively. After being engaged in agriculture all of their lives with Jim dropping out of school to work at the age of 14, they have more than earned their time to kickback. In addition farming, Ann spent quite a bit of time at District 30 on Mirage Flats cooking and driving the school bus, in addition to doing upholstery work. Jim made appearances at District 30 and many other schools as Santa for about 25 years.

Today, they continue to live out in the country and don't travel so much, but love to dance. Anyone that is familiar with the Mapes know they hardly ever miss a dance. "We've danced in the dirt, rocks, mud and about anywhere," said Ann. She has enjoyed conversing back and forth with her new acquaintance, Bruce Hall.

Oddly enough, both Ann and Bruce each have two adult sons. The Mapes credit their sons, Jim and Pete, for making it possible to farm as long as they did. Son Jim formerly owned Henkens Implement in Chadron and assisted his parents quite often with equipment repairs. While, Pete, who lives in Hay Springs and works for Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad assists with additional help around the farm.

Hall's two sons include one (40) that is a CRNA nurse anesthetist in Gillette, Wyo. and has three children. Their youngest son (36) is a Captain for Horizon Air as a regional carrier for Alaska Air. Prior to his aviation career he worked as a wireline engineer in the oil fields in North Dakota, Wyoming and Alaskan Slope.



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Easter Lily Care

How you grow an Easter lily depends on whether you're keeping it as a potted plant or want it in the garden. Houseplants should be kept by a window with bright, indirect light and protected from cold drafts and heat sources, including heaters, fireplaces, and appliances. If the pot is wrapped in decorative foil (as is common for the plants sold in the spring around Easter), either remove it or check often to make sure water isn't collecting under the pot and in the foil. Overwatering will kill a plant more often than underwatering.

Easter lily bulbs in the garden are typically much easier to care for than transplanted potted plants. The bulbs should be planted around 4 to 6 inches deep and spaced about a foot apart. Don't allow the soil around the bulbs to dry out, but also ensure that they have good drainage to prevent rot.

Once your Easter lilies grow tall, it's common for them to need staking to keep them upright. However, potted plants often don't reach their maximum size potential, so they might not need staking. Remove flowers once they fade and wither. And cut the whole stem down to the soil once the plant is done flowering and the stem and leaves have yellowed.

Light

Easter lilies prefer to grow in full sun to partial shade. Protection from strong afternoon sun is often necessary, as light that's too bright can scorch the foliage. If possible, position your Easter lily so its top portion is in full sun but the area toward the soil is in shade, as the plant likes its roots to remain cool. Some shorter plants around the lily or a layer of mulch over its roots can help to achieve this.

Soil

These flowers like a well-drained soil that's rich in organic matter, though they can grow in a variety of soil types as long as the drainage is good. They prefer a slightly acidic to neutral soil pH, but they can tolerate slightly alkaline soil as well.

Water

Easter lilies like even soil moisture. So water whenever the top inch of soil dries out. Never allow the plants to sit in water, but also don't permit the soil to dry out completely. It's ideal to water in the morning, so the foliage has time to dry in the sun. Otherwise the plant might have problems with mildew.

Temperature and Humidity

Easter lilies grow and flower best in mild temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit with nighttime temperatures dipping down to 55 to 60 degrees. They like an average humidity level and tend not to do well in very hot, humid climates.

Fertilizer

Use a slow-release, balanced fertilizer in the spring once new growth appears. If you don't have rich soil, it can be beneficial to do another fertilizer application in the summer.



Varieties of Easter Lily

There are several varieties of the Easter lily:

L. longiflorum 'White Heaven' is a classic pure white Easter lily that grows 2 to 3 feet high with 7-inch-long flowers.

L. longiflorum 'Nellie White' is the cultivar normally grown and sold by commercial growers for the Easter lily trade.

L. longiflorum 'Deliana' is a variety with creamy yellow flowers.

L. longiflorum 'Elegant Lady' features fragrant pink flowers and is sometimes known as the pink Easter lily.

L. langiflorum 'Trimphator' has white flowers with rosy pink centers.

Common Pests/Diseases

The Easter lily is susceptible to some pests or diseases. Occasionally a plant might have an aphid infestation, which can cause degraded foliage. Bring the infestation under control by hosing off the aphids with strong water blasts or by using insecticidal soap. Moreover, the plants are susceptible to the lily mosaic virus, which is spread via aphids and causes leaf discoloration and degradation. There is no cure for this disease, so affected plants must be dug up and destroyed before it spreads. There are also several types of bulb rot that can affect Easter lilies, along with botrytis blight and leaf scorch, and stem rot. To prevent these conditions, check your Easter lilies daily and perform remediations immediately.

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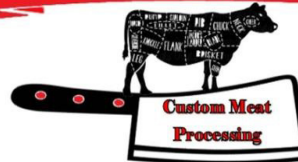


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NRPPD ENTERTAINMENT

Find Something to Celebrate in April!

April 1: April Fool's Day, Walk to Work Day, National Sourdough Bread Day, National One Cent Day.
April 2: World Autism Awareness Day, Peanut Butter & Jelly Day, National Handmade Day.
April 3: Geologists Day, National Chocolate Mousse Day, Find a Rainbow Day, World Party Day.
April 4: National Cordon Blue Day, Tell a Lie Day, National Hug a Newsperson Day.
April 5: National Caramel Day, Go For Broke Day, National Deep Dish Pizza Day, Wildlife Week.
April 6: New Beer's Eve, National Walking Day, Siamese Cat Day, Student-Athlete Day.
April 7: National Beer Day, Burrito Day, National No Housework Day, World Health Day.
April 8: National Zoo Lovers Day, Day of Silence, National Empanada Day.
April 9: National Cherish an Antique Day, Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day, Unicorn Day
April 10: National Siblings Day, Palm Sunday, Hug Your Dog Day, Farm Animals Day, Holy Week
April 11: Education & Sharing Day, National Cheese Fondue Day, Eight Track Tape Day, Pet Day.
April 12: National Library Workers Day, Licorice Day, Grilled Cheese Sandwich Day, Big Wind Day.
April 13: National Peach Cobbler Day, Scrabble Day, Thomas Jefferson Day, Make Lunch Count Day.
April 14: Maundy Thursday, National Dolphin Day, Gardening Day, National Look Up at the Sky Day.
April 15: Titanic Remembrance Day, Passover, Jackie Robinson Day, National Laundry Dry, Good Friday.
April 16: Husband Appreciation Day, National Librarian Day, Eggs Benedict Day, National Orchid Day.
April 17: Easter, National Cheese Ball Day, International Haiku Poetry Day, International Bat Appreciation Day.
April 18: Easter Monday, National Lineman Appreciation Day, Tax Day, National Animal Crackers Day.
April 19: National Garlic Day, Wear Pajamas to Work

Day, Undergraduate Research Week.
April 20: National Banana Day, Cheddar Fries Day, Pineapple Upside-Down Cake Day
April 21: National Bulldogs are Beautiful Day, Chocolate Covered Cashews Day, High Five Day, Tea Day.
April 22: Earth Day, National Jelly Bean Day, Orthodox Good Friday.
April 23: Shakespeare Day, World Book Day, Picnic Day, Take a Chance Day, Cherry Cheesecake Day.
April 24: National Pet Parents Day, Pigs in a Blanket Day, Skipping Day, Pinhole Photography Day.
April 25: National Zucchini Bread Day, Kiss and Make Up Day, Hug a Plumber Day, Telephone Day.
April 26: National Help a Horse Day, Kids & Pets Day, Pretzel Day, South Dakota Day.
April 27: National Babe Ruth Day, Prime Rib Day, Tell a Story Day, Administrative Professional's Day.
April 28: Great Poetry Reading Day, Superhero Day, Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.
April 29: National Peace Rose Day, Shrimp Scampi Day, Arbor Day, Hairball Awareness Day.
April 30: Adopt a Shelter Pet Day, Bugs Bunny Day, Hairstylist Appreciation Day, Oatmeal Cookie Day.

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Northwest Rural Territory Activities

Gordon-Rushville Mustangs

Sat., April 2 Track (V) at Bayard, 8 a.m.
 Tues., April 5 ACT - 11th Grade
 April 7-8 State FFA Convention
 Thurs., April 7 Track (V) at Mitchell, 8 a.m.
 Sat., April 9 Track (MS) at Chadron Invite, 8 a.m.
Mon., April 11 Board of Education Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
 Tues., April 12 Track (MS) at Bayard Invite, 8 a.m.
 Thurs., April 14 Track (MS-V) WTC at Morrill
 Boys Golf at Bridgeport, 8 a.m.
April 15-18 Easter Break
Tues., April 19 Dental Screening PM at HS
 District Music at Alliance
 Thurs., April 21 Boys Golf at Alliance, 8 a.m.
 Track (MS) at Bennett Co. Invite, 11 a.m.
 Fri., April 22 GRMS Quiz Bowl in Gering
 Track (V) at Chadron, 1 p.m.
Sat., April 23 Prom Night
 Mon., April 25 State Journalism at Norfolk
 Tues., April 26 Track (MS-HS) Best of the West
 at Scottsbluff, 3 p.m.
Thurs., April 28 Spring Play, 6 p.m.
 Boys Golf at Chadron, 8 a.m.
Fri., April 29 Spring Play
 Boys Golf at Chadron, 8 a.m.
Sat., April 30 Spring Play, 7 p.m.
 Youth VB Tournament, 7 a.m.
Mon., May 2 FFA Banquet, 5 p.m.

Tues., May 3 Track (MS) at Morrill Invite, 8 a.m.
 Spring Concert, 6 p.m.
 Thurs., May 5 Boys Golf at Kimball, 8 a.m.
 Fri., May 6 Track (MS-HS) at Valentine Invite, 8 a.m.
Sat., May 7 Graduation Ceremony, 9:30 a.m.
Mon., May 9 Board of Education Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
 Tues., May 10 Boys Golf at Bayard, 8 a.m.

Crawford Rams

April 6-8 FFA State Convention
 Wed., April 6 Golf at Sidney, 9 a.m.
 Thurs., April 7 Track (V) at Mitchell
 Sat., April 9 Track (JH) at Chadron
 Mon., April 11 Track (JH) at Bayard
 Tues., April 12 Golf at Mitchell, 9 a.m.
 Thurs., April 14 Track at Alliance Invite
April 15-18 NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
 Wed., April 20 District Music at Alliance
 Thurs., April 21 Golf at Alliance, 9 a.m.
 Fri., April 22 Track at Chadron, 2 p.m.
Sat., April 23 Prom, 6 p.m., Legend Buttes Golf Course
 Tues., April 26 Track Best of the West in Scottsbluff
 Thurs., April 28 Golf at Chadron, 8 a.m.
Spring Concert (JH-HS), 6 p.m.
 Fri., April 29 Track (JH-HS) at Morrill PanCo, 10 a.m.
Mon., May 2 Activities Banquet, 6 p.m.
 Tues., May 3 Track (JH) st Morrill
Wed., May 4 Seniors Last Day
 Golf at Gering, 9 a.m.
Thurs., May 5 Honor's Night (Academic Program), 6 p.m.
 Fri., May 5 Track at Bayard (B-C-D)



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NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

Sat., May 7 **High School Graduation, 1 p.m.**
 Mon., May 10 Golf at Bayard, 9 a.m.

Hemingford Bobcats

Sat., April 2 FCCLA State Officer Prep
 April 3-5 FCCLA State Leadership Conference
 April 6-9 FFA State Convention
 Thurs., April 7 Track (V) at Mitchell
 Fri., April 8 Golf (V) at Hay Springs Tri, 1 p.m.
 Sat., April 9 Track (V) at Bayard C-D Invite
 Track (JH) at Chadron Invite
 Track (JH) at Bayard Invite
Tues., April 12 **Elementary Springs Concert, 6 p.m.**
 Thurs., April 14 HS Golf at Bridgeport Invite
 Track (V-JH) WTC at Morrill
April 15-18 **NO SCHOOL - Easter Break**
 Tues., April 19 HS Golf at Morrill Invite
 Wed., April 20 District Music at Alliance
Thurs., April 21 **Famous Nebraskan Night, 5:30 p.m.**
 Fri., April 22 Track (V) at Chadron Twilight Invite
 Teacher Inservice, 2-4 p.m.
 Sat., April 23 State Science Olympiad
 HS Golf at Alliance Invite
 Prom, 8 p.m.
 Tues., April 26 HS Golf at Crawford Triangular
 Track (V-JH) Best of the West at Scottsbluff
 Thurs., April 28 HS Golf at Chadron Invite
 Fri., April 29 Track (V-JH) PAC at Morrill

Sat., April 30 HS Golf WTC at Gordon CC
Mon., May 1 **Seniors Last Day**
 HS Golf PAC at Alliance
 Track (JH) at Morrill Invite
 Tues., May 2 **Honors Day, 10 a.m.**
Thurs., May 5 **FFA Banquet, 6:30 p.m.**
 Track (V) at Bayard B-C-D
 Fri., May 6: **Graduation, 2 p.m.**
Sat., May 7 **School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.**
Mon., May 9 HS Golf at Bayard Invite.
 Tues., May 10

Chadron Cardinals

Sat., April 2 Track (V) at Ogallala Invite, 10 a.m.
 Tues., April 5 Track (MS) Girls at Gering; Boys at
 Scottsbluff, 2:30 p.m.
 Wed., April 6 Golf (V) at Sidney Hillside, 9 a.m.
 Booster Club Mtg., HS Commons, 6 p.m.
 Track (V) at Mitchell Invite, 9 a.m.
Thurs., April 7 **Track (MS) at Chadron Invite, 9 a.m.**
Saturday, April 9 Golf at Mitchell Scenic Knolls, 9 a.m.
 Tues., April 12 **Elementary Vocal Music Concert (1st-2nd),**
 6 p.m., HS Auditorium
 Track at Alliance Invite, 9 a.m.
 Thurs., April 14 **Sweet Singation - Cardinal Singers &**
 HS Choir, 7 p.m., HS Auditorium
 Tues., April 19 Boys Golf at Morrill Rolling Greens, 9 a.m.
 Track (MS) at Alliance, 3:30 p.m.
 Band Concert (HS), 7 p.m., HS Aud.
 Thurs., April 21 Boys Golf at Alliance Skyview, 9 a.m.
 MS Concert (7th-8th), 7 p.m., HS Aud.

(Continued on Page 8)

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NRPPD AREA ACTIVITIES

(Chadron continued from Page 7)

Fri., April 22 Track - Chadron Twilight Meet, 2:30 p.m.
Sat., April 23 Track (MS) at Alliance, 9 a.m.
Mon., April 25 Golf at Scottsbluff Country Club, 9 a.m.
Tues., April 26 Track - Best of the West at Scottsbluff
Thurs., April 28 Golf at Ridgeview Country Club, 9 a.m.
MS Vocal Concert (6th), 6 p.m., HS Aud.
Fri., April 29 Track (V) at Sidney, 9 a.m.
Sat., April 30 Track (MS) at Scottsbluff, 9 a.m.
Mon., May 2 Track (V) at Alliance, 3:30 p.m.
Tues., May 3 6-12 Band Concert, 7 p.m., HS Aud.
Wed., May 4 Golf Invite at Gering Monument, 9 a.m.
Booster Club Mtg, 6 p.m., Commons
Fri., May 6 Track (V) at Bayard, 8:30 a.m.
 Track (MS) at Gering, 10:30 a.m.
Tues., May 10 Track (V) at Ogallala, 10:30 a.m.

Hay Springs Hawks

Sat., April 2 Youth VB Games at Home
 Track (V) at Bayard C-D Meet, tba
Tues., April 5 6th-7th-8th Grades Music Concert
 April 6 FFA State Convention at Lincoln
Thurs., April 7 Track (V) at Bennett Co. in Martin, 9 a.m.
Fri., April 8 Golf (V) at Gordon-Rush Meet, 1 p.m.
Sat., April 9 Track (JH) at Chadron High, 9 am.
 Track (V) at Bayard Meet, 9 a.m.
Mon., April 11 Track (JH) at Bayard Meet, 9 a.m.
 FBLA State in Kearney

Tues., April 12 Boys Golf at Mitchell, 9 a.m.
Wed., April 13 Hawk Talk, 8 a.m., HS Senior Center
Thurs., April 14 Student Council UNL Visit
 Golf (V) at Bridgeport, 9 a.m.
 Track (V) at Alliance, 9 a.m.
 Track (JH) at Geirng, 9 a.m.
Sat., April 16 **NO SCHOOL - Easter Break**
Mon., April 18 Golf at Morill 9 a.m.
Tues., April 19 **Pre-Contest Music Concert, 7 p.m.**
 District Music Contest
Wed., April 20 Track (JH) at Bennett County in Martin, 12 p.m.
Thurs., April 21 Track (V) at Chadron Twilight Meet, 2:30 p.m.
Fri., April 22 Track (JH) at Chadron, 9 a.m.
Sat., April 23 Golf at Alliance, 9 a.m.
Tues., April 26 Track Best of the West at Scottsbluff
Wed., April 27 Track (JH) at Scottsbluff, 10 a.m.
Thurs., April 28 Golf at Chadron Ridgeview, 9 a.m.
Fri., April 29 Track (JH-V) at Morrill Invite, 9 a.m.
Sat., April 30 **Prom**
Mon., May 2 Golf at Alliance Meet, 9 a.m.
Tues., May 3 Golf at Gering, 9 a.m.
 Track (JH) at Morrill, 9 a.m.
Fri., May 6 Music - 4th-5th Spring Concert, 7 p.m. HS Aud.
 Music Trip to Omaha
Tues., May 10 Track (JH-V) at Valentine Meet, 9 a.m.
 Golf at Bayard Meet, 9 a.m.



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- A strong academic record
- An interest in meeting new people



Recipes



Do you have a recipe you would like to share with our readers?

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The Best Lemon Bars

- 1 cup butter, softened
- ½ cup white sugar
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ cups white sugar
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 lemons, juiced

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

In a medium bowl, blend together softened butter, 2 cups flour and 1/2 cup sugar. Press into the bottom of an ungreased 9x13 inch pan.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes in the preheated oven, or until firm and golden. In another bowl, whisk together the remaining 1 1/2 cups sugar and 1/4 cup flour. Whisk in the eggs and lemon juice. Pour over the baked crust.

Bake for an additional 20 minutes in the preheated oven. The bars will firm up as they cool. For a festive tray, make another pan using limes instead of lemons and adding a drop of green food coloring to give a very pale green. After both pans have cooled, cut into uniform 2 inch squares and arrange in a checker board fashion.

* * * * *

Easter Nest Cupcakes

- 1 (15.25 ounce) package chocolate cake mix
- 1 ¼ cups water
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 (10 oz.) package sweetened flaked coconut
- 1 (16 oz.) can prepared chocolate frosting
- 1 cup egg-shaped chocolate candies (such as peanut

M&Ms®), or as needed

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Line 24 cupcake cups with paper liners.

Beat cake mix, water, vegetable oil, and eggs in a mixing bowl using an electric mixer, on low speed until mixture is moistened, 30 seconds. Increase speed to medium and beat until batter is smooth, 2 more minutes. Fill prepared cupcake cups about 2/3 full with batter.

Bake cupcakes in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into a cupcake comes out clean, 18 to 23 minutes. Remove cupcakes from oven and turn oven heat up to 400 degrees F. Let cupcakes cool.

Spread coconut into a large, shallow baking pan or onto a baking sheet; toast in the hot oven until coconut is golden brown, about 7 minutes. Cool.

Cut a piece out of the top of each cupcake to leave a hollow depression about 1/2 inch deep and 1 1/2 inches across. Discard cut-out portions. Frost cupcakes with chocolate frosting and cover frosting with toasted coconut. Place 3 egg-shaped candies in the small depression on top of each cupcake.

* * * * *

Easter Ham Glaze

- 1 cup water
- 1/3 cup honey
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon ground mustard
- 1 tablespoon granulated garlic
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- ¼ teaspoon ground ginger

Combine water, honey, brown sugar, mustard, garlic, onion powder, cloves, and ginger in a saucepan. Mix to combine.

Warm saucepan over low heat until sugar and honey are melted together and sugar is dissolved.

Cook's Note: You can use your microwave to dissolve the brown sugar and honey.

* * * * *

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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Spring Forward With Outdoor Safety Tips

With the arrival of spring, there are some specific things to look out for regarding electric safety. Remember, you can't see, smell or hear electricity, so it's very important to take these precautions seriously.

Call before you dig

Spring is prime time for landscaping projects and "honey do" lists around the home. Remember to contact Iowa One Call at least two business days before you dig to any depth so underground utilities can be properly located. It's the law, and it could just save your life! Buried utility lines are everywhere, and an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without calling 811 first.

Put safety first in the field

As you head into the fields to plant, always make sure to keep a 10-foot clearance between your equipment and power lines. Take time to study where all overhead power lines, poles and guy wires are located on your property and inform your workers about them. Plan your route between fields and on public roads so that you avoid low-hanging power lines; never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. When moving large equipment or high loads near a power line, always use a spotter to help make sure that contact is not made with a line.

If equipment comes into contact with a power line, assume the line is energized and deadly. The operator should NOT get off the machinery unless in immediate danger. If the operator touches the ground and the equipment at the same time, he or she will become a channel for electricity. Instead, the operator should stay on the equipment and contact the local electric utility or 911 immediately to report the incident so electricity can be shut off safely before exiting.

When thunder roars, go indoors

Spring storms will be here soon, so remember that there is no safe place from lightning when you're outside. It's important

to be aware of weather forecasts and watch for developing thunderstorms as lightning can strike many miles ahead of a storm front. If you hear thunder, seek shelter immediately because it indicates lightning is within 10 miles of you. Safe shelters include inside a building or in an enclosed metal-topped vehicle. Authorities warn against outdoor activity until 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder is heard.

Stay away from downed power lines

Spring and summer weather can bring storms and lead to downed power lines. Assume any wire lying on the ground is carrying electricity and stay away from it. If you spot a downed wire, immediately call your local police and your electric co-op. Keep others from getting near the downed wire until help arrives. Never attempt to drive over a downed power line.

Move over or slow down on the road

We need your help in keeping our line workers, engineers and maintenance workers safe on Iowa's roadways. If you see any vehicle stopped on the side of the road with flashing lights activated, you are required by law to move over or slow down, preferably both. Please give our employees room on the road; their jobs are hazardous enough already.

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Bits 'n Pieces...

Middle Age in a Nutshell

- Who cares if it looks good? I'm comfortable.
- Has anyone seen my phone?
- The scale... that cannot be right!
- Did I already take my vitamins?
- Huh, I wonder how I got this bruise?
- Why is the print on these instructions so tiny?
- \$5 for a box of cereal? They raise the price and shrunk the box... such a racket!
- Software update again? I don't like updates.
- Who in the world is calling me at 9:30 p.m.?
- Sorry, I forgot what I was going to say.
- Wait! What did I come in here for?
- I could've sworn that was my password!

* * * * *

Take the Older than Dirt Quiz -- Do you remember?

- Blackjack chewing gum and Teaberry.
- Wax Coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water.
- Candy cigarettes.
- Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles.
- Coffee shops or diners with table-side jukeboxes.

- Home milk delivery in glass bottles with cardboard stoppers.
- Party lines on the telephone.
- Newsreels before the movie.
- P.F. Flyers
- Butch wax.
- TV test patterns that came on a night after the last show and were there until TV shows started in the morning. (There were only three channels if you were lucky).
- Peashooters
- Howdy Doody.
- 45 RPM records.
- S&H green stamps.
- Hi-fi's
- Metal ice trays with levers.

* * * * *

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Public Power District

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web page: <http://www.nrppd.com>

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