

# Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

April 2024

## Wrestling Just a Part of NRPPD Employee's Life

### Wrestling

/res(e)liNG/  
noun

1. the sport or activity of grappling with an opponent and trying to throw or hold them down on the ground, typically according to a code of rules.

For one Northwest Rural Public Power District employee, wrestling is just a part of life. If Brad Johnson wasn't competing on the mat, he was coaching some young grapplers, from almost toddler age to high school age in addition to cheering on his own.

Brad Johnson, current Planning & Staking Engineer at Northwest, was introduced to wrestling while he was in elementary school at Mirage Flats District 30. "My older brother Todd along with a bunch of the kids on the Flats wrestled, it was just what we did," Johnson explained. He started out in Federation and then moved up into Junior High and High School competition. He noted he only weighed 98 lbs. when he was a freshman and there were only four kids in the District in that bracket, so it made it easy to qualify for the State Tournament.

Even while he was in high school back in 1983, he began assisting Coach Bryant Ferrel in Hay Springs Junior Wrestling, making it nearly four decades of coaching. He was recently recognized at the Hay Springs Tournament on Saturday, March 9 for his dedication to wrestling. Hay Springs Chamber President stated, "In his 35th year of coaching, he stands as a testament to unwavering commitment and passion. His leadership has shaped countless wrestlers, including myself. Week after week, he selflessly volunteers his time with practices. His weekends are spent traversing the Panhandle and State



**The Hay Springs 2024 Hawk Junior Wrestling team recently honored Coach Brad Johnson with a plaque and a signed "thank you Coach". He is pictured her with the young wrestlers and his family on March 9 during their home tourney at Lister-Sage Community Center.**

to support our wrestlers in various meets, offering guidance in every match."

Heesacker went on to add, "His legacy will continue to inspire generations of wrestlers to come, reminding us all that true success is not measured solely by wins and losses but the lives we touch and the lesson we impart."

Johnson was presented a plaque and a framed "Coach" signed by all the current wrestlers.

Johnson says he's always enjoyed the sport and it's a way for him to give back to the community. While he claims to never have been the "head coach", he recalls several of his "fellow coaches" which included Ferrel, Ron Haag, Curt Hunter, Jim McCarter, Tom Housh, Brett DeHaven, Jim Jackson, Pat Coffing, Jared Todd, Chuck Blome, Jeff Strotheide, Chris McDonald, Trent Dierksen, Joey Johnson, Jake Johnson, Clint Blonien, Brad Beguin, Heath Peters, Mike Starke, Ava McKillip, Jake Lemmon and Brenton Abbott. Johnson is required to do a training course every year online and have a background check to qualify as a coach. He also served as a wrestling referee a few years.

His favorite part of coaching has been the kids and the people he has met along the way. One season, they had 42 wrestlers on the team. It wasn't until 2009, that Hay Springs was able to host their own meet at Lister-Sage Community Center.

In addition to coaching Federation, he coached high school wrestling at Hay Springs from 1995-1998. Then he had the oppor-

**(Continued on Page 2)**



**Brad Johnson**

## Wrestling Coach -

(Continued from Page 1)

tunity to coach with French Olson and Heath Peters.

In the following century, it wasn't long before he was taking his own three sons, Joey, Jake and Cooper to tournaments when they turned six. Joey and Jake went on to compete in school and ended up qualifying for the High School State Meet. Joey punched his ticket to state three years and ended up placing sixth his junior year in the 132 lb. bracket. Jake qualified two years, in the 145 lb. brackets.

Brad also had the opportunity to help on the floor at State Wrestling Tournament a few years.

Now that he is a grandpa, he has hopes of coaching his grandkids in a



The 2024 Hay Springs Federation kicked off their season in January. Front row from left, Blaine Opitz, Ozzy Sitting Holy, Parker Opitz, Colt Binger; middle row, Stran Dierksen, Rowdy Binger, Briggs Binger, Rayden Starke, Liam Milne, Conley Yanker; back row, Asst. Coach Ava McKillip, Asst. Coach Brenton Abbott, Bennett Anderson-Beguin, Kort Dierksen, John Wesley, Head Coach Brad Johnson and Asst. Coach Mike Starke. (NP: Kinley Swim, Rigger Binger and Britton Young)




It takes a lot of volunteers to set up for a wrestling tournament and to keep it running smoothly. Johnson recruited the Hawk Varsity and junior wrestlers to pitch in.

few years, who are now ages four and two. He enjoys watching the kids compete but confesses the hardest part is when you know they have tried their hardest to win, and still lose the match.

If being a grandpa hasn't aged him, he has now coached a three generation family - T.J. Scherbarth, Toby Scherbarth and Bryson Scherbarth. He has also coached several second generation wrestlers.

**JOHNSON WENT** to work at Northwest Rural on June 4, 1990 as an apprentice lineman. Born and raised in the Hay Springs area, he thought it was a good opportunity for work. He graduated from high school in 1985, went on to attend CSC for three years before moving on to Northeast Community College. His wife, Brenda is a nurse practitioner and together they have four children, Joey (Frankie), Jake (Camie), Mattie and Cooper. They also have four grandchildren (future wrestlers), Ryder, Knox, Taite and Lennen.

In his free time he enjoys watching his grandkids and helping his kids. In addition to coaching, he is also involved in the Hay Springs Post 238 Sons of the American Legion.



**Julie's Hay Town GRILL**

Julie & Dana Haugen

638-7100 • 119 N. Main • Hay Springs

**HOURS:**  
Tues.-Sat.  
11 a.m.-2 p.m.  
5 p.m.-8 p.m.  
(Until 10 p.m. During Summer)

**Daily Specials!**  
Watch their FB Page

TAKE-OUT



**Burkinshaw Fencing, LLC**

Ryan Burkinshaw  
(605) 430-3912  
Hay Springs, Nebraska

- Farm/Ranch • Temporary Construction
- Commercial • Residential

--Licensed & Insured--





Lineworker  
Appreciation Day  
April 18, 2024

**Lineworkers go  
above and beyond.**

Brad Johnson  
STAKING PLANNING ENGINEER  
Erik Persons  
METERMAN  
Matt Anderson  
WAREHOUSEMAN  
Craig Housh  
LINEMAN

Abe Young  
FOREMAN  
Darren Drabbels  
SUB-FOREMAN  
Terry Knapp  
SERVICEMAN  
Kelly Troester  
LINEMAN

Toby Rasmussen  
LINEMAN  
Cole Coss  
LINEMAN  
Brenton Abbott  
LINEMAN

**HAIL DAMAGED  
ROOF?**  
Call  
**308-360-1049**  
224 N. Gibson  
Hay Springs



**INSURED • LOCAL REFERENCES**  
*Free Estimates - Insurance Claims*

**WRECK-A-MENDED  
BODY WORKS**  
*Free Estimates • Custom Painting*  
**(308) 282-2005**  
Steve & Valli Petersen  
701 South Main • Gordon



**Countryroad Shot:  
Dawes  
County**

**Bethel Road  
between Chadron  
and Crawford  
May 2017**

*~ by Jim  
Manternach*

*If you are interested  
in a print, you can  
contact Jim at  
jmm@millcomps.com  
or his website  
www.jimphoto.com*



**HAY SPRINGS**  
LUMBER & HARDWARE

*Under New Ownership -  
Caleb & Sammy Milne*

**130 N. Main • 308-638-4404**

*Complete Builders Supply,  
Sentry Hardware  
Free Estimates*



**BEGUIN PROPANE**

*Propane Delivery  
Tank Rentals & Sales*

**Ask About Our  
"KEEP FULL PROGRAM"**

**Robbie Beguin, Owner (308) 360-3579**  
Hwy. 20 & 280th Lane - Gordon  
beguinpropane@gmail.com

Major to Minor  
Mechanical Work  
**Tractors, Truck &  
Car Repair**

- Vehicle & Farm Tires
- Batteries • Oil
- Grease • Bolts

SERVICE CALLS- HAULING

5631 Hwy. 87 • Hay Springs  
youngsrepairinc@gpcom.net



**Your Panhandle Area Bee Keeper**

*"Proudly Serving the Sheridan County  
Area for Over 20 Years"*

**Bees • Honey  
Pollination**

Hay Springs  
**308-282-7535**  
Cell: 719-429-2535



# WIN ME!

Northwest Rural Public Power District customers can enter our Beneficial Electrification drawing for a chance to win an electric Smoker!  
**Masterbuilt 40-inch Electric Smoker**

Northwest Rural Public Power District customers can enter our Beneficial Electrification drawing for a chance to win a Masterbuilt 40-inch Digital Electric Smoker! Also, you will get BBQ accessory kit and BBQ Sauces to go with the Smoker.



**ELECTRIFY AND SAVE**

Drawing May 13 - Mother's Day!

**To submit Your name, go to nrppd.com or stop by Northwest Rural PPD!**

**NORTHWEST RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT**  
5613 Hwy 87, Hay Springs

**C.R. Packing, LLC**



Open Mon-Fri.  
7 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Closed  
Wednesdays

Owners  
Cheriee Kershaw  
& Ryan Gehrt


**308-282-0090 • Clinton**  
Visit Our Facebook Page at CR Packing  
c.r.packing@outlook.com

**PINE RIDGE**  
SERVICE CENTER




547 2nd St.  
Crawford, NE 69339  
308-665-2313

**CHADRON**  
CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM  
**POLARIS**  
OF CHADRON

**can-am** 

**GMC**  
OF CHADRON

 **Bobcat**  
OF CHADRON

**KIOTI**  
TRACTOR

WWW.CHADRONMOTORS.COM



# NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

## Gordon-Rushville Mustangs

**Mar. 29-Apr. 1 Easter Break**  
 April 3-6 FFA at Nebraska State Convention  
 Thurs., April 4 HS TR at Mitchell, 9 a.m.  
 Sat., April 6 MS TR at Chadron Invite, 9 a.m.  
 Mon., April 8 MS TR at Bayard, 9 a.m.  
**Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**  
 Tues., April 9 B Golf at Mitchell, 9 a.m.  
 Wed., April 10 Junior ACT Day  
 Thurs., April 11 Boys Golf at Bridgeport, 9 a.m.  
**Rushville Elementary Spring Concert, 6 p.m.**  
**Fri., April 12 GRMS 8th Grade CO2 Tournament, 1 p.m.**  
 Sat., April 13 Track (V-MS) at WTC in Mitchell, 9 a.m.  
 Mon., April 15 WNCC Accuplacer, 8 a.m.  
 Tues., April 16 Boys Golf at Morrill, 9 a.m.  
 Wed., April 17 District Musica Contest at Alliance, 8 a.m.  
 Thurs., April 18 Boys Golf at Alliance, 9 a.m.  
 Track (MS) at Bennett Co., 12 p.m.  
 Fri., April 19 Track (V) at Chadron, all day  
 Tues., April 23 Track (MS-V) Best of the West at Scottsbluff  
**April 25-27 GR HS Spring Play**  
**Thurs., April 25 GES Kindergarten Parent Meeting, 6 p.m.**  
**Fri., April 26 4th Grade Field Trip**  
**GES Kindergarten Round Up, 8:30-11 a.m.**  
 Sat., April 27 Track (V) at Lusk  
 Boys Golf at WTC - Kimball, 9 a.m.  
**Mon., April 29 GRMS Spring Band-Choir Concert, 6 p.m.**  
**GRHS Spring Concert, 7 p.m.**  
 Tues., April 30 Track (MS) at Morrill, 9 a.m.

Thurs., May 2

May 3-5

Fri., May 3

Mon., May 6

Tues., May 7

Thurs., May 9

Sat., May 11

GES 1, 3, 5 Spring Concert, 6:30 p.m.  
 Boys Golf at Kimball, 9 a.m.  
 GRMS Spring Concert, 7 p.m.  
**9 Ft. BB Tourney, GRHS Host, all day**  
 Track (MS-V) at Valentine, 9 a.m.  
**GRHS Athletic Awards Ceremony, 6 p.m.**  
 Boys Golf at Bayard, 9 a.m.  
 Track at NSAA Districts  
 Boys Golf at Valentine, 9 a.m.  
**GRHS Graduation, 10:30 a.m.**

## Crawford Rams

**March 29-Apr. 1 NO SCHOOL - Easter Break**  
 April 3-5 FFA State Convention in Lincoln  
 Wed., April 3 Golf at Sidney, 9 a.m.  
 Thurs., April 4 HS Track at Mitchell, 9 a.m.  
 Sat., April 6 JH Track at Chadron, 10 a.m.  
 HS Rodeo at St. Libory  
**Prom**  
 Mon., April 8 JH Track at Bayard, 9 a.m.  
**Board Meeting, 6 p.m.**  
 Golf at Mitchell, 9 a.m.  
**Thurs., April 11 FFA Meeting, 7:30 a.m., Mrs. Koerber's Room**  
 April 13-14 HS Rodeo at Arthur  
 Sat., April 13 Track (V) at Alliance, 9 a.m.  
 Mon., April 15 FFA World Food Prize Nebraska Youth Institute  
 in Scottsbluff, 8 a.m.  
 Tues., April 16 Golf at Morrill, 9 a.m.  
**JH-HS Springs Music Concert, 6 p.m., Aud.**  
 Wed., April 17 District Music  
 Fri., April 19 Golf at Alliance, 9 a.m.

# DAVIS Repair



## Tractor & Farm Equipment Repair

Specializing in John Deere  
 Roller Chain • Baler Belting - Guards & Sickle Sections  
 Nathan Davis, Owner  
 212 N. Scott • Hay Springs • (308) 430-2615



- Feed
- Grain
- Fertilizer
- Chemical & Animal Health Care

Knowledge • Commitment • Success

Hemingford • Hay Springs • Gordon  
 308-487-3317 - [www.farmcoop.com](http://www.farmcoop.com)

1520 West 6th Street  
 Chadron, NE 69337

Phone  
 308-432-3221



On Farm  
 Tire  
 Repair!

# Tommy's

Chadron, NE CAR LOT

JAMIE ROES  
 JERRY PIERCE

920 E. Third - Chadron  
 Toll Free: 1-888-363-3636 • 432-3636

[www.tommyscarlot.com](http://www.tommyscarlot.com)  
[tommyscarlot@hotmail.com](mailto:tommyscarlot@hotmail.com)

# NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

April 20-21 Track (V) at Chadron Twilight, 2 p.m.  
 HS Rodeo at McCook  
**Mon., April 22 FFA Banquet, 6 p.m., Gym**  
 Tues., April 23 JH-HS Track Best of the West in Scottsbluff  
 Thurs., April 25 Golf at Chadron, 9 a.m.  
 Fri., April 26 JH-HS PAC Track Meet at Morrill, 10 a.m.  
 Sat., April 27 HS Rodeo at Hyannis  
 Sun., April 28 HS Rodeo at Arthur  
 Mon., April 29 PAC Golf at Rushville, 9 a.m.  
 Tues., April 30 JH Track at Morrill, 9 a.m.  
 Wed., May 1 Golf at Gering, 9 a.m.  
 JH Track at Morrill, 9 a.m.  
 HS Track at Bayard B-C-D, 8:30 a.m.  
**Tues., May 7 Seniors Final Day, 8 a.m.**  
 Golf at Bayard, 9 a.m.  
**Activities Banquet, 6 p.m., Gym**  
 HS Track - District Meet, tbd, 9 a.m.  
**Wed., May 8 Golf at Home (Best Ball Tournament), 9 a.m.**  
**Thurs., May 9 Honors Night, 6 p.m., HS Gym**  
**Fri., May 10 NHS Induction, following Honors Night**  
 Graduation Practice, 9 a.m., HS Gym  
 HS Rodeo at Madison  
 JH State Track  
 Graduation Ceremony, 1 p.m., HS Gym

Tues., April 9 Science Olympiad  
 Boys Golf at Mitchell 9 a.m.  
**Wed., April 10 ACT for Juniors**  
**12th Grade WNCC Spring Career & Internship Fair, 2 p.m.**  
 Thurs., April 11 Boys Golf at Bridgeport, 9 a.m.  
**NHS Induction, 6 p.m.**  
**Fri., April 12 FFA Hired Hand Auction, 6 p.m.**  
**Sat., April 13 Art Show/Competition, 9 a.m.**  
 Track (JH) at Mitchell, 9 a.m.  
 Track (V) at Mitchell, 10 a.m.  
 Mon., April 15 FFA World Food Prize Nebraska Youth Institute at Scottsbluff  
**School Board Meeting, 6 p.m.**  
 Tues., April 16 Boys Golf at Morrill  
**FFA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.**  
**Wed., April 17 Band & Choir Districts**  
 Thurs., April 18 Track (JH) at Kimball, 9 a.m.  
**Fri., April 19 NO SCHOOL - Inservice**  
 Track (V) at Chadron, 2 p.m.  
**Sat., April 20 Prom Banquet, 6 p.m., Grand March 8 p.m., Dance 9 a.m.**  
**Mon., April 22 5th-12th Grade Band Concert, 6 p.m.**  
 Tues., April 23 Track (JH) at Scottsbluff, 10 a.m.  
 Track (V) at Scottsbluff, 4:30 p.m.  
 Wed., April 24 State Quiz Bowl  
 Thurs., April 25 Boys Golf at Chadron  
 Fri., April 26 Track (MS-V) PanCo at Morrill  
 Sat., April 27 Golf at Bayard  
**(Continued on Page 8)**


## Hemingford Bobcats

**Mar 29-April 1 NO SCHOOL - Easter Break**  
 April 3-5 FFA State Convention  
 Thurs., April 4 Track (V) at Creek Valley, 8:30 a.m.  
 Sat., April 6 Track (JH) at Chadron, 9 a.m.  
 April 7-9 FCCLA Leadership Conference at Lincoln  
 Mon., April 8 Track (JH) at Bayard



**Reliable Painting LLC**  
 SINCE 1997  
 CHADRON NEBRASKA INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

**Gary Caparoon**  
 308-432-4456 308-430-2045  
 Careful & Professional - Insured - Free Estimates and References



**Wahlstrom Ford, Inc.**  
 "The Value Store"  
 E. Hwy. 20  
 Chadron  
 (308)432-5533

A.J. Huffman  
 Waymann Wild  
 Cesar Barraza



**Buettner CONSTRUCTION**  
 SPECIALIZING IN COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**308-638-7684**  
 Eddie's Cell 308-430-1205 • Brant's Cell 308-430-5197  
 Email: dirtrocks@gpcom.net • 5596 445 Lane, Hay Springs NE



**The First National Bank of Gordon**  
 Your kind of people, your kind of bank.

134 N MAIN ST  
 GORDON, NE 69343  
 308-282-0050  
 WWW.FNBGORDON.COM

Member FDIC EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER

# NRPPD AREA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Mon., April 29 State Science Olympiad  
 Tues., April 30 Golf PanCo at Hay Springs  
**Thurs., May 2** Track (JH) at Morrill  
**K-12 Grade Vocal Music Concert, 6 p.m.**  
 Track (V) at Bayard  
**Mon., May 6** **FFA Banquet, 6 p.m.**  
**Tues., May 7** **Seniors Last Day**  
 Golf at Kimball  
**Athletic Banquet, 6 p.m.**  
 Thurs., May 9 District Track, tbd  
 Boys Golf at Crawford  
**Fri., May 10** **Honors Day, 9 a.m.**  
 Sat., May 11 State Track (JH) at Gothenburg  
**Graduation, 2 p.m.**

## Chadron Cardinals

**Mar. 29-Apr. 1** **NO SCHOOL - Easter Break**  
 Tues., April 2 Track (MS) at Scottsbluff, 2:30 p.m.  
 April 3-5 FFA State Convention at Lincoln  
 Wed., April 3 Boys Golf at Sidney Hillside Course, 9 a.m.  
 Thurs., April 4 Track (V) at Mitchell Invite, 9 a.m.  
 April 5-6 Science Club, Lincoln  
**Sat., April 6** **Track (MS) at Chadron Invite, 9 a.m.**  
 April 7-9 FCCLA State Leadership Conf. in Lincoln  
 Tues., April 9 Science Olympiad, Ogallala HS  
 Boys Golf at Mitchell Scenic Knolls, 9 a.m.  
 April 11-13 FBLA State Leadership Conf. at Kearney  
**Thurs., April 11** **Sweet Singsation, HS Aud. - 6th Grade,**  
**6 p.m.; 7-8th at 6:45; Sweet Sens., 7:30 p.m.**  
 Fri., April 12 Track (MS) at Sidney Invite, 9 a.m.  
 Sat., April 13 Track (V) at Alliance, 9 a.m.  
 Tues., April 16 Boys Golf at Morrill Rolling Greens, 9 a.m.  
 Fri., April 19 Boys Golf at Alliance, 9 a.m.  
**Track (V) at Chadron Invite, 2 p.m.**  
 Sat., April 20 Track (MS) at Alliance, 9 a.m.

**PROM, CSC - Grand March 7 p.m.; Dinner 7:45;**  
**Dance 8:30-12; MORP 12-3 p.m.**  
 Mon., April 22 Boys Golf at Scottsbluff Country Club, 9 a.m.  
 Tues., April 23 Track Best of the West at Scottsbluff  
 1st & 2nd Grade Concerts, 7 p.m., CHS  
 Thurs., April 25 Boys Golf at Ridgeview Country Club, 9 a.m.  
 Fri., April 26 Track (V) Conf. at Scottsbluff  
 Sat., April 27 Track (MS) at Bluffs Middle School, 9 a.m.  
 Mon., April 29 Track (JV) Quad at Alliance, 3 p.m.  
**FCCLA Installation of Officers Banq., 5:30 p.m.**  
 Wed., May 1 Boys Golf at Gering Monument Shadows, 9 a.m.  
 Fri., May 3 Track (V) at Bayard, 8:30 a.m.  
 Sat., May 4 Track (MS) at Gering, 9 a.m.  
 Tues., May 7 Track Districts at Ogallala  
**Wed., May 8** **Seniors Last Day**  
 Thurs., May 9 Boys Golf at Crawford Legend Buttes, 9 a.m.  
**Sat., May 11** **Graduation, 10 a.m., CHS**

## Hay Springs Hawks

Mon., April 1 NO SCHOOL - Easter  
**Tues., April 2** **Spring Dental Day, 8:30 a.m.**  
 April 4-7 FFA State Convention at Lincoln  
 Thurs., April 4 Elder's Wisdom Program  
 Sat., April 6 Track (JH) at Chadron Invite, 9 a.m.  
 Track (V) at Bayard, 9 a.m.  
 Mon., April 8 Track (JH) at Bayard, 9 a.m.  
 Tues., April 9 Boys Golf at Mitchell, tbd  
**Wed., April 10** **Hawk Talk at Senior Center, 8 a.m.**  
 April 11-13 FBLA State Conf. at Kearney  
 Thurs., April 11 Boys Golf at Bridgeport  
 Sat., April 13 Track (JH) at Gering Invite, 9 a.m.  
 Track (V) at Alliance, 9 a.m.  
 Tues., April 16 Boys Golf at Morrill, tbd  
 Pre-Contest Concert, 7 p.m.  
 Wed., April 17 District Music Contest  
**Thurs., April 18** **FFA Banquet**  
 Boys Golf at Alliance, tbd  
 Track (JH) at Bennett County, 12 p.m.  
 Sat., April 20 Track (JH) at Chadron Invite, 9 a.m.  
 Track (V) at Morrill Invite, 9 a.m.  
 Mon., April 22 State Journalism  
 Tues., April 23 Boys Golf at Garden Co., tbd  
 Track (JH-V) at Scottsbluff, 9 a.m.  
 Thurs., April 25 Boys Golf at Chadron, tbd  
 Fri., April 26 Track (JH-V) at Morrill Invite, 10 a.m.  
**Sat., April 27** **Prom**  
 Mon., April 29 Golf Panco, tbd  
 Tues., April 30 Track (JH) at Morrill, 9 a.m.  
 Wed., May 1 Boys Golf at Gering Invite, tbd  
**Thurs., May 2** **4th-5th Spring Musical, Auditorium, 7 p.m.**  
 Fri., May 3 Track (JH-V) Meet at Valentine Invite, 9 a.m.  
 Tues., May 7 Boys Golf at Bayard Meet, tbd  
 Wed., May 8 District Track, 9 a.m., tbd  
**Kindergarten (3-4 p.m. & Preschool**  
**Roundup (4-4:30 p.m.)**  
**Sat., May 11** **Graduation, 2 p.m.**



## CROP SPRAYING NOTICE

Help our linemen avoid exposure to hazardous crop chemicals.  
 If you use dangerous chemicals in your fields,  
**PLEASE FLAG THEM.**  
 We need your help to protect our employees and their safety.



## Recipes



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

Please send to [hiphop@gpcom.net](mailto:hiphop@gpcom.net)

### Loaded Mac and Cheese

- 4 slices thick-cut bacon, cut into ¼-inch thick pieces
- 4 small yellow onions, cut into half moons
- kosher salt, to taste
- 16 oz macaroni, or pasta of choice
- 6 tablespoons butter, divided, plus more for the pan
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 5 cups whole milk, warmed
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon hot sauce
- 1 pinch ground nutmeg
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 ½ cups freshly shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 6 ounces Gruyere cheese, grated
- 1 bunch scallions, green tops only, thinly sliced
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs
- flaky salt, to finish

Place bacon in a large deep Dutch oven skillet and cook over medium-high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 minutes. Remove bacon with a slotted spoon and set aside.

Add onions and a generous pinch of kosher salt to the rendered fat. Allow to cook over medium-low heat, stirring often, until onions are deeply caramelized, about 40 minutes. As onions cook, you may need to add water ¼ cup at a time, to keep the onions from burning. After 40 minutes, the onions should be deeply browned and jammy in consistency. Once the onions have reached the desired color and consistency, remove from heat and set aside.

Meanwhile, about 20 minutes after the start of cooking time for the onions, bring a large pot of generously salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 5 minutes. Drain and return pasta to the pot.

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F ( Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish with butter.

Melt 4 tablespoons butter in a deep skillet over low heat. Add flour and cook until flour turns golden brown and smells nutty, about 2 minutes. Slowly add milk, a little at a time, while whisking constantly. Once all the milk has been incorporated, increase heat to medium and cook, stirring constantly, until sauce has thickened and can coat the back of a spoon, 10 to 12 minutes.

Remove sauce from heat and stir in mustard, hot sauce, nutmeg, a pinch of salt, Cheddar cheese, and gruyere

cheese. Whisk until cheese is fully melted.

Add cheese sauce, reserved bacon, caramelized onions, and scallions to pasta. Fold in with a rubber spatula until everything is well incorporated. Season with salt and pepper. Transfer pasta to the prepared baking dish.

Melt the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter in a small skillet over medium heat. Once melted, add Panko breadcrumbs and cook until toasted and golden brown, 3 to 4 minutes. Bake in the preheated oven until cheese has melted and top is lightly browned, about 30 minutes.

Turn on the broiler and broil on high until the top is bubbly and brown, 1 to 2 minutes.

Remove from the oven and let cool slightly. Finish with a pinch of flaky salt and black pepper and serve warm. A 9x13 pan of mac and cheese on a white marble background.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Stuffed Mushrooms

- 12 whole fresh mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- ¼ teaspoon onion powder
- ¼ teaspoon ground cayenne pepper

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Spray a baking sheet with cooking spray. Clean mushrooms with a damp paper towel; carefully break off stems. Chop stems extremely fine, discarding the tough end of stems.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add garlic and chopped mushroom stems; fry until any moisture has evaporated, taking care not to burn garlic. Set aside to cool.

Stir in cream cheese, Parmesan cheese, black pepper, onion powder, and cayenne. The mixture will be very thick; use a teaspoon to fill each mushroom cap with a generous amount of stuffing. Arrange mushroom caps on the prepared cookie sheet.

Bake in the preheated oven until the mushrooms are piping hot, about 20 minutes.

\* \* \* \* \*



**Ted Baseggio**  
Sales Associate for Rhonda Baseggio  
123 N. Main St. | Hay Springs  
(308) 638-4566  
[Theodore.Baseggio@fbfs.com](mailto:Theodore.Baseggio@fbfs.com)

**FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**Auto | Home | Life | Annuities | Business | Farm & Ranch**

**Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC+, 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company, \* Western Agricultural Insurance Company, \*\* Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company \*\*/West Des Moines, IA. \*Affiliates \*Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services M191 (4-19)**

## NEBRASKA RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP



**July 22-26, 2024**

High school students, grades 9 - 11  
Camp Comeca, Cozad, Neb.

If you are interested in applying for this all-expense paid camp, complete the application form and return it to your local electric system.

### NO, IT'S NOT JUST ANOTHER CAMP

I bet right now you are thinking that this is the zillionth camp flyer you have seen and that this camp is just like all the rest. It costs a bunch, you won't know anyone there, it's going to be awkward, and you won't get anything out of going, except maybe a sunburn.

### THINK AGAIN!

It's free, you are going to make life-long friends, and learn about the electric industry through interesting workshops, fascinating demonstrations and presentations by regional experts addressing the many issues affecting the rural electric program. There's also swimming, sports, a banquet and a dance. A tour to the Gerald Gentleman Power Station and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plant provide for a first-hand look at the process of generating electricity.

So don't delay...apply today!

### WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

Now that you know this isn't just another camp, you may be asking yourself, "should I go?"

You should if you have:

- Leadership potential
- An awesome personality
- A strong academic record
- An interest in meeting new people



## WIN A FREE TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Three campers will be selected to serve as Nebraska's Ambassadors to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Electric Youth Tour in 2024.

**For More Information, Contact  
Les Tlustos, Northwest RPPD  
PO Box 249, Hay Springs, NE 69347  
308-638-4445 • www.nrppd.com  
Return by May 30 2024**

### YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Current Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parents \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your sponsoring rural electric system \_\_\_\_\_





# Find Something to Celebrate in April

- April 1:** National Tom Foolerys Day, Sourdough Bread Day, One Cent Day, Take Down Tobacco National Day
- April 2:** National Ferret Day, Peanut Butter and Jelly Day, Reconciliation Day.
- April 3:** National Find a Rainbow Day, Childhelp National Day of Help, Chocolate Mousse Day, Tweed Day.
- April 4:** National Vitamin C Day, Burrito Day, Jeep 4x4 Day, Chicken Cordon Bleu Day, School Librarian Day.
- April 5:** First Contact Day, Gold Star Spouses Day, Flash Drive Day Deep Dish Pizza Day, Caramel Day.
- April 6:** National Carbonara Day, Handmade Day, New Beer's Eve, Student-Athlete Day, Teflon Day.
- April 7:** National No Housework Day, Coffee Cake Day, National Beer Day, Girl Me Too Day.
- April 8:** National Empanada Day, Zoo Lover's Day, All is Ours Day.
- April 9:** National Unicorn Day, National Former Prisoner of War Recognition day, Cherish an Antique Day.
- April 10:** National Farm Animals Day, Cinnamon Crescent Day, Siblings Day, Encourage a Young Writer Day.
- April 11:** National Living Donor Day, Submarine Day, Cheese Fondue Day, National Pet Day, Eight Track Tape Day.

- April 12:** National Only Child Day, Colorado Day, Donate Life Blue & Green Day, Grilled Cheese Day.
- April 13:** National Make Lunch County Day, Peach Cobbler Day, Thomas Jefferson Day, Scrabble Day.
- April 14:** National Gardening Day, Dolphin Day, Pecan Day, Ex-Spouse Day, Pan American Day.
- April 15:** National Laundry Day, Purple UP! Day, Auctioneers Day, Titanic Remembrance Day, Tax Day.
- April 16:** National Bean Counter Day, Orchid Day, Healthcare Decisions Day, Wear Your Pajamas to Work Day.
- April 17:** National Crawfish Day, Cheeseball Day, National Haiku Poetry Day, Ellis Island Family History Day.
- April 18:** National Exercise Day, Animal Crackers Day, High Five Day, Lineman Appreciation Day.
- April 19:** National North Dakota Day, Amaretto Day, Garlic Day, Oklahoma City Bombing Commemoration Day.
- April 20:** Volunteer Recognition Day, Cheddar Fries Day, Pineapple Upside-down Cake Day, Lima Bean Respect Day
- April 21:** National Rendering Day, Chocolate-covered Cashews Day, Kindergarten Day, Yellow Bat Day.
- April 22:** National Jelly Bean Day, Girl Scout Leader's Day, National Earth Day.
- April 23:** National Lost Dog Awareness Day, Cherry Cheesecake Day, Take a Chance Day, Picnic Day.
- April 24:** National Bucket List Day, Pigs-in-a-Blanket Day, Administration Professionals Day.
- April 25:** National Hug A Plumber Day, DNA Day, Zucchini Bread Day, Take our Daughters & Sons to Work Day.
- April 26:** National South Dakota Day, Help a Horse Day, Kids and Pets Day, National Pretzel Day, Richter Scale Day.
- April 27:** National Gummi Bear Day, Celebrate Trails Day, First Ladies Day, Babe Ruth Day, Prime Rib Day.
- April 28:** National Superhero Day, Bravehearts Day, Pet Parents Day, Blueberry Pie Day, Great Poetry Reading Day.
- April 29:** National Shrimp Scampi Day, Zipper Day, Peace Rose Day.
- April 30:** National Bubble Tea Day, Military Brats Day, Adopt a Shelter Pet Day, National Raisin Day.

## CULTIVATING RELATIONSHIPS

Homegrown is always better. Homegrown banking means local decision making and a better understanding of what customers need and expect from their banks.

Let's grow together.



CHECKING · SAVINGS · PERSONAL & BUSINESS LOANS  
CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT · MORTGAGES · INSURANCE

231 N. Main  
638-4416  
Hay Springs  
Member FDIC



A relationship you can count on.

Central Office  
218 S. Gibson  
Hay Springs



**1-800-752-9584**  
(308) 638-4432  
www.westplainsco.com

**WEST PLAINS**  
L.L.C.

# NRPPD ENTERTAINMENT

## The Five Love Languages of Ranchers...

### 1. Words of Affirmation

*You look great in your muddy coveralls*

### 2. Acts of Service

*I'll take the 2 a.m. calving check*

### 3. Physical Touch

*You have cow poop on your face, I'll wipe it off for you.*

### 4. Quality Time

*Do you want to come roll out hay with me (and possibly get the gates)?*

### 5. Receiving Gifts

*I bought you a calf warmer and some heated socks.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Six Little Stories With Lots of Meanings

1. Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive in the next morning, but still we set alarms to wake up. That is hope.
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero

knowledge of the future. That is confidence.

5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
6. On an old man's shirt was written a sentence "I am not 80 years old; I'm 16 with 64 years of experience." That is attitude.

\* \* \* \* \*

## How to Walk a Human - A Dog's Guide

*Humans need exercise. If they don't get it they become "chubby". It's up to you to save them.*

1. Allow your human to tether themselves to you. This keeps them from wondering off or running away.
2. Your human will probably need breaks. Be considerate and stop and sniff often.
3. Bark frequently. Humans have short attention spans.
4. When you go to the bathroom, walk away. If you have trained your human correctly, they will pick it up.
5. Periodically, drag your human as fast as you can. This is called interval training.
6. Do not allow your human to shorten the walk. They are being lazy. Sit in protest if you must.

## T&L Grinding

CALL TIM McCLAREN  
for all your  
hay grinding needs.

**(308) 430-2894**



## Table Top Meats

**815 Box Butte  
P.O. Box 335  
Hemingford, NE 69348**

**(308) 487-5232**  
tabletopmeats@gmail.com

Office Hours:  
7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
Monday- Thursday  
Service Calls  
After Hours:

Please call  
**800-847-0492** if  
your call is long distance or **638-4445**  
for the local Hay  
Springs area at all  
times.

We have an  
answering service  
that answers these  
numbers on a 24-  
hour basis - after  
hours, Saturday,  
Sundays and holi-  
days. Please state  
legal description,  
account number or  
meter number  
where the outage is  
and your phone  
number when you  
call.

## Northwest Rural

### Public Power District

5613 Hwy. 87 • P.O. Box 249  
Hay Springs, NE 69347

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

#### OFFICERS

- President: **Lee Ahrens, Marsland**
- Vice President: **Christopher Garrett, Chadron**
- Secretary: **Marcus Sandberg, Hay Springs**
- Treasurer: **Lucas Bear, Gordon**
- Asst. Treasurer: **Kevin Christy, Crawford**
- Tri-State Director: **Lucas Bear, Gordon**
- Director: **Gary Fuchser, Gordon**
- Director: **Ethan Skinner, Hay Springs**
- Manager: **CHANCE BRISCOE**

Office Manager: **Tony Hindman**  
Office (308) 638-4445

Consumer/Marketing  
Director . . . . . **Les Tlustos**  
Publisher/Editor  
Advertising Rep. . . . . **Cindy Peters**  
Hip-Hop (308) 638-7132