

Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

April 2025

Woman Takes Lovin' for 'Junkin' to Another Level

"Being a Junker is not a hobby it is a way of life." This is one of the memes on Kodi Olson's old Facebook posts. Olson is known for selling her vintage and antique items on line and in her cozy shops east of Chadron. She relaunched her business the first of February under a new name, Brass Ivy Antiques & Vintage.

Kodi believes she got the "junkin' bug" after refinishing a storage bench for a 4-H project in Junior High.

"I have bought and sold vintage and antique items as a hobby for 18 plus years," noted Kodi, who does remember the first big item she sold, but the most impressive item was selling a fabulous pair of vintage motorcycle saddle bags to Mike and Frank of American Pickers. They contacted her after a Facebook post.

"I mostly sell items from my Facebook page but I'm also blessed to have two little buildings at my folks place! One of them is a horse barn that my Dad and I fixed up and the other is a building that my dad built from scratch and we finished the inside with reclaimed wood and tin!" explained Kodi. She now hosts a couple of live sales a month on her "Brass Ivy Antiques & Vintage" FB page where followers hurry to get the most current cool pieces she is offering. She often suggests how the items can be creatively displayed to her fellow "junk" lovers. Be sure to follow her so you can see when the next Live Sale will be.

She is anxiously waiting for the weather to be 'consistently warmer' when she plans to have the shops open a couple of times a month at least.

For the past 11 years she hosted "Junkyard Jesebel", a popular outdoor Flea Market with other vendors.



Kodi Olson expanded her love for "junkin" into a rural Chadron shop and online business.

Although she said it was a lot of fun, she has decided to take a break from it.

Where does she find all her treasures? At yard sales, (Continued on Page 2)

These are just three examples of the 100s of pieces of country decor found in "Brass Ivy Antiques & Vintage" located east of Chadron.



Brass Ivy Antiques--

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thrift stores and online auctions. "A lot of people locally know that I'm a junker so when they have things to sell, they give me a holler!" Kodi loves mid-century modern style so these items are always fun to find. "I love to re-finish furniture too, so I'm always on the look out for fun furniture pieces," said Kodi, who still refinishes furniture but not as much as I used to. Some of her most popular items are dressers and crocks.

Her favorite part is getting to do projects when she wants to or when an idea strikes her. "I get ideas from old magazines and Pinterest of course but a lot of times I look at an old piece of furniture or a salvage piece and I know exactly what I want to do with it," said Kodi.

"I am planning an Open House for late May or early June but I don't have it nailed down yet," ended Kodi. She does ship items. The furthest she has ever shipped was outside of the US is Australia.

Kodi is employed as a Ward Clerk at Chadron Community Hospital. She and her husband Marc, have two sons, Blake and Chase. Marc works for the Nebraska Department of Roads as a crew chief. Kodi also claims to have three bonus daughters, Grayce, Emily and Kassyl and a darling grandson Hadley.

For more information, contact Kodi at 308-430-5052 or follow her on Facebook at Brass Ivy Antiques and Vintage.



An arrangement of Spring small decor. Kodi can also help you with decorating ideas.



Lineworker
Appreciation Day
April 18, 2024

Lineworkers go
above and beyond.



Countryroad Shot:

Box Butte Co. - Dec. 2017

~ by Jim Manternach

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

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Remember Electrical Safety During Spring Planting

As you prepare for planting season, don't forget to plan for safety. There are many aspects to safety on the farm, but electrical safety is often overlooked. Keep these safety tips in mind as you prepare for planting.

TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.

SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work and

discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.

WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

USE A SPOTTER

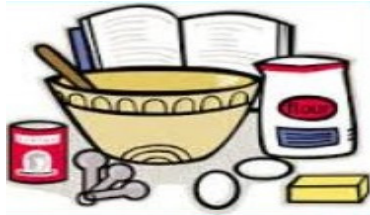
When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground, who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.

DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole, or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab. Stay in the vehicle.

CALL 911

Call 911 to have your electric utility dispatched to de-energize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens make a solid jump out, and hop away with feet together, as far as you can.



Recipe Corner

Carrot Cake

- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 ¼ cups vegetable oil
- 4 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 cups grated carrots
- 1 cup chopped pecans (Optional)

Frosting:

- ½ cup butter, softened
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 4 cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup chopped pecans (Optional)



Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour a 9x13-inch pan.

Beat sugar, oil, eggs, and 2 teaspoons vanilla together in a large bowl with an electric mixer until well combined.

Mix in flour, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt. Stir in carrots, then fold in pecans.

Pour into the prepared pan.

Bake in the preheated oven until a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean, about 40 minutes. Let cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack and cool completely.

To make the frosting: Beat butter, cream cheese, confectioners' sugar, and 1 teaspoon vanilla together in a large bowl with an electric mixer until smooth and creamy.

Stir in chopped pecans.

Frost the cooled cake. Serve and enjoy!

Spring Energy Savings

1. Service your air conditioner

Calling in a licensed HVAC professional for a checkup in the spring could help you avoid larger issues with your air conditioner in the warmer months of summer. They can check for any leaks that reduce the efficiency of your system, as well as offer any HVAC tips for spring that can ensure your system continues to function properly.

You can also perform some basic maintenance on your AC unit yourself, such as routinely replacing and cleaning air filters. These simple tasks could help lower your cooling system's energy consumption by up to 15%, resulting in a more energy-efficient home.

2. Open windows

On warmer spring days, you can open windows to create a crosswise breeze, allowing you to naturally cool your home without adjusting the air conditioner settings. Plus, the fresh air from open windows can feel refreshing!

3. Use ceiling fans

The cost of running a ceiling fan to cool your home is significantly lower than turning on your AC unit. The U.S. Department of Energy says that cooling your home with ceiling fans will let you increase your thermostat four degrees, which could reduce your energy bill up to 30%. Using ceiling fans is a simple way to save money on your electricity bill without sacrificing your comfort.

4. Cook outside

When the spring temperature is a little higher, using an outdoor grill instead of an indoor oven can keep heat out of

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April Fools Humor

- Today is April Fool's Day. Believe nothing and trust no one... just like any other day.
- Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools in it than ever. - Charles Lamb
- We're fools whether we dance or not, so we might as well dance. - Japanese Proverb
- Some people can't be fooled on April Fool's Day because they were fooled too many times during their entire lifetime. - Akash B Chandran
- Isn't it appropriate that the month of the tax begins with April Fool's Day and ends with cries of May Day.
- A fool may be known by six things: anger, without cause; speech, without profit; change, without progress; inquiry, without an object; putting trust in a stranger and mistaking foes for friends.
- Mix a little foolishness with your prudence: It's good to be silly at the right moment." -Horace
- April 1. This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four. -Mark Twain
- April fool, n. The March fool with another month added to his folly. -Ambrose Bierce
- You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time. --Abraham Lincoln
- Isn't it appropriate that the month of the tax begins with April Fool's Day and ends with cries of May Day.
- Every fool finds a greater one to admire.
- Everything is funny as long as it is happening to someone else. Happy April Fool's Day!

April Historical Anniversaries....

Weekly March Holidays

- April 1 - April Fool's Day
- April 12 - Passover
- April 18 - Good Friday
- April 20 - Easter Sunday
- April 22 - Earth Day
- April 28 - National Arbor Day

Arbor Day sprouted from the mind of a zealous tree lover named Julius Sterling Morton. A popular Arbor Day tradition is to plant a tree in honor or memory of a loved one. Learn some interesting facts about this day, and learn about the power of trees, which support our well-being!

**"Other holidays repose upon the past;
Arbor Day proposes for the future."**

-J. Sterling Morton.

March Birthstone: The diamond. Due to their extreme hardness, overall durability, and undeniable beauty, diamonds are associated with strength and eternal love. It is no wonder that they are commonly used in both engagement and wedding ring designs.

March's Birth Flower: Daisy and Sweet Pea

Energy Savings--

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your house, which can quickly heat up the whole house. Grilling is a great excuse to enjoy the warm weather while conserving energy at the same time.

5. Update your windows

Direct sunlight in the spring can quickly warm up your home and make you want to turn on the air conditioning. Consider replacing your windowpanes with ENERGY STAR qualified windows that will prevent unwanted heat coming into your home. You may also consider window treatments, such as curtains, blinds, and shades, to help reduce heat gain when temperatures rise.

6. Caulk air leaks

If your home isn't air-tight, you may be losing more energy than you think. Cracks around windows and doors can let hot air in and cold air out. Sealing these air leaks can save you anywhere from 10 to 20% each year in energy costs.

7. Let sunlight in

Switch off artificial lights during daylight hours and take advantage of the natural light from windows to brighten your home. Traditional incandescent lightbulbs only use 10% of the electricity they consume for light; the rest turns into heat, unnecessarily warming your home.

8. Program the thermostat

With the fluctuating temperatures in spring, you may find yourself adjusting the thermostat constantly. Instead, set the temperature based on the time of day and whether anyone is at home.

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 holidays. 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

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