

# Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

December 2021

## Rushville Woman Takes Love of Candles a Step Further

It was her own love of the scent of burning candles in the house that lead Kim Colwell on an adventure to start her small home-based business. "I started making candles and herbal soaps when the kids were little because I burned so many," said Kim Colwell, who lives north of Rushville. She and her husband, Charlie's, five children are adults now and have kids of their own. Colwell grew up north of Gordon and moved to Wyoming with her family when she was 14 and graduated from high school there. She returned back to this area when she was 19. In 1990, she met her husband Charlie at the Lazy River Saloon in Rushville and were married that same year.

"For the most part I was a stay at home mom, I've done a lot of waitressing and cooking in restaurants plus I did some substitute teaching," she explained.

"I started making candles by just experimenting and asking a LOT of questions from different people on how to make them and if they would be willing to share their secrets," explained Colwell. "Everyone was always willing and so sweet."

Today "Kim's Country Crafts" has around a hundred scents. They are made with a paraffin/soy blend. She pours them in three different sizes: four, eight and 16 ounce. She does use seasonal containers as well.

"I try to make at least four to six dozen candles at a shot when I get started. I probably spend a good 8 to 10 hours making them. I usually just make them when my inventory is running low," explained Colwell.

Kim Colwell, of rural Rushville originally began "Kim's Country Crafts" while her children were growing up. She has since expanded her line with bath bombs and other soap products.



Some of the best selling scents in the Fall are pumpkin spice, bayberry, hazelnut, cozy cabin, fall harvest, nutmeg, and vanilla caramel latte. In the winter the best sellers are Jack Frost, cinnamon vanilla, cinnamon patty melt, Santa's cookies, white Christmas, cranberry, mulberry, and let's not forget snuggle bug, fresh linen, cotton blossom, lilac and Lavender are year around favorites.

Her candle production does require a lot of supplies like containers, wicks and tabs, scents dyes, double boiler, thermometer and a ton of space. "Hopefully by the end of next summer I will have my own little building to make my candles, and bath products in. That's the goal anyway," said Colwell.

"I do take custom orders for candles if someone has a special jar or container I will refill them," she added. She always has her products on hand and will deliver to Hay Springs, Rushville and Gordon.

Kim's Creative Crafts expanded her line a year ago and is now making bath bombs and shower melts. "My most popular soaps are made with goat's milk and shea butter," said Colwell

"I love the benefits of the bath bombs, like aromatherapy and muscle relaxation they help with. I decided to include them in my bath product line when they were a hit with friends and family. Plus my grandkids love to watch them fizz and (Continued on Page 2)



Kim produces candles in a variety of sizes, also makes special holiday containers and can refill a favorite container of yours.

## Kim's Country Crafts -

(Continued from Page 1)

change colors," said Colwell.

She finds that making her products is relaxing and she loves to try to create different scents. "It's challenging. Plus who doesn't need a little pampering once in awhile," said Colwell.

She just started going back to craft fairs this year and also sells out of her home. Most of her customers are from Nebraska and South Dakota.

Sometimes she gets a little extra help from her husband or grandkids. "The kids think it's fun to do with grandma," said Colwell, a grandmother of 11.

**THE COLWELLS CHILDREN** include Jessica who has three kids and lives in Rushville; daughter Tiffany and Ty have four kids and live in Gordon; and their youngest daughter, Shelby, lives in North Dakota and is a Deputy Sheriff. Son Logan and Alanna have three boys and they live in Rushville. And last but not least, their youngest Matt and Aly have a little boy and live in Gordon.

Colwell likes living in Northwest Nebraska because of the supportive people that always come together during the hard times. Plus it's not as hectic and it's just nice to be able to see people you know and who knows you.



Some the bath bombs she recently made include pumpkin spice latte, grape, strawberry and apple fizzle and lavender.

Kim and Charlie live 22 miles north of Rushville where they black Angus in addition to raise wheat, oats, or corn, depending on what Charlie decides on. In her spare time she loves reading, going for drives, traveling, camping, but most of all I love my hugs from my grandkids.

For more information, contact Kim's Country Crafts at 308-862-0031 call or text. You can also find her on Facebook.

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## Along The Garden Path

-by Karen Runkle, Master Gardener

### Sweet Potato Greens

I have to admit that I am a little surprised that I am considering eating Sweet Potato Greens.....But by now, you have no doubt figured out how good chard, spinach, and kale are for you. But did you know that sweet potato leaves are loaded with vitamins C, K, A, B2 and magnesium? These heart shaped leaves have been credited with preventing hardening of the arteries, maintaining bone density, regulating menstruation, preventing cancer, enhancing brain function, assisting vision, and giving you healthy looking skin and hair.



I am thinking that along with the turkey and sweet potato casserole, we should start looking at the greens as well. You can eat them raw, but people also steam and cook them as well. Some classify them as a "bitter" food, which we definitely need more of, but I actually find them quite sweet.

The leaves are prepared much like spinach or turnip greens. Boiling the sweet potato vine leaves in a small amount of water removes any toughness or bitterness. Once the sweet potato greens are tender, chop the leaves and use them in recipes or sauté them with butter and garlic, then splash the hot sweet potato greens with soy sauce or vinegar and a dash of salt.

If you are intrigued enough to try eating sweet potato leaves, you can grow your own, just like me. For starters, you will want to locate a good looking sweet potato. I have

better luck growing the yellow varieties but either will work. Put the whole potato in a warm, sunny place and ignore it until it starts sprouting. Truthfully, I started this when I realized that the potatoes were sprouting in my potato storage drawer. Once it has started sprouting, cut the potato in half and put toothpicks in it to keep one half suspended in a jar that will accommodate it. Place the cut side down in the water, then put the jar in a sunny window and wait a few days for the magic to happen.

Soon, long sprouts will begin shooting skyward and at this point you can begin clipping those tasty leaves off and enjoying them. You can also plant the now-rooting tuber in the garden (Obviously, not this time of the year. It's winter). Make sure the vines have a trellis for the leaves to climb. I am planning to grow my vine in the kitchen window through the winter.

Are you ready to take it to the next level? You can make your own "slips" by gently breaking or cutting the 6- to 8-inch sprouts off the tuber and putting them in water. These will then begin rooting and be ready to transplant into soil in a week or two. Plan to do this in late spring as the leaves are very tender and will not withstand a frost once you plant them in the ground. I have also found that a sandy soil is better when growing those delicious tubers ready for your dining table....And also to grow more Sweet Potato Greens so you have a steady supply. It has become a vicious cycle.

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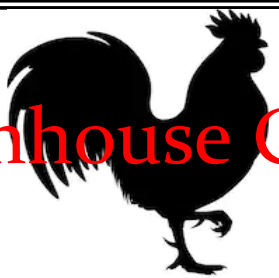
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## Five Electrical Safety Tips For Winter Season

The National Fire Protection Agency reports that electrical fires are the leading type of home fires in the US, where roughly half involve equipment like portable or stationary space heaters. In order to avoid electrical hazards, follow the heater manufacturers' instructions first! You can also follow these tips below to help reduce your risk of an electrical fire this holiday season.

### ***Don't Plug Space Heaters into Extension Cords or Power Strips***

Space heaters require a high current in order to work properly so plug them into a wall outlet.

Space heaters should never be plugged into a power strip because the power strip is not designed to handle the high current that space heaters require. The high current passing through the power strip can cause it to melt, burn, or even catch on fire. Plugging the space heater into a wall outlet is the safest option. Avoid plugging anything else into the same wall outlet as the heater.

Space heaters are meant to put out a lot of heat and can cause furniture, like sofas, to light on fire. Firefighters recommend leaving a minimum of three feet around the space heater at all times. Avoid placing a heater on any surface that can overheat and start a fire like a cabinet, table, or carpet. The best place to put a space heater is on a flat, level surface that will not overheat, like tile or hardwood floors.

### ***Don't Overload Electrical Outlets***

Only plug one high wattage decoration into a wall outlet and use a surge protector for everything else.

A good rule of thumb is to only plug one high-wattage decoration into each wall outlet to avoid overloading the electrical outlets, which are a common cause of holiday fires.

The lights on your Christmas tree should be plugged into a surge protector to help avoid a voltage spike, causing all of the lights on your tree to burn out.

### ***Don't Connect Over Three Strings of Lights***

Only connect up to three strings of lights at a time and only when they are the same amount of lights per string to for electrical safety.



Connecting multiple strings of lights can cause your circuit breaker to trip, or worse, start a fire. When shopping for Christmas lights, consider purchasing LED lights because they use less energy and don't produce as much heat as incandescent lights. Before you leave your house or go to sleep, turn off all lights and other decorations, both indoor and outdoor.

Check for safety certification on decorations and lights from independent laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratories. After checking the lights, plug them in to make sure they all work before stringing them on the tree. When connecting different strings of light, connect strings that have the same amount of bulbs per string. For example, if you have a string of 50 lights, do not connect it to a string of 100 lights because they will permanently burn out due to the different amount of voltage.

### ***Make Sure Any Outdoor Extension Cords or Christmas Lights Are Marked for Outdoor Use***

When looking for an outdoor extension cord choose a power-strip that has a three-prong plug.

Outdoor and indoor extension cords are different! For example, outdoor extension cords have more durable insulation to protect the wires from moisture and temperature changes. They are also able to prevent damage from chemicals and sunlight damage to the wires.

**(Continued on Page 8)**



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## Manager Shares a Couple Months of EV Experience

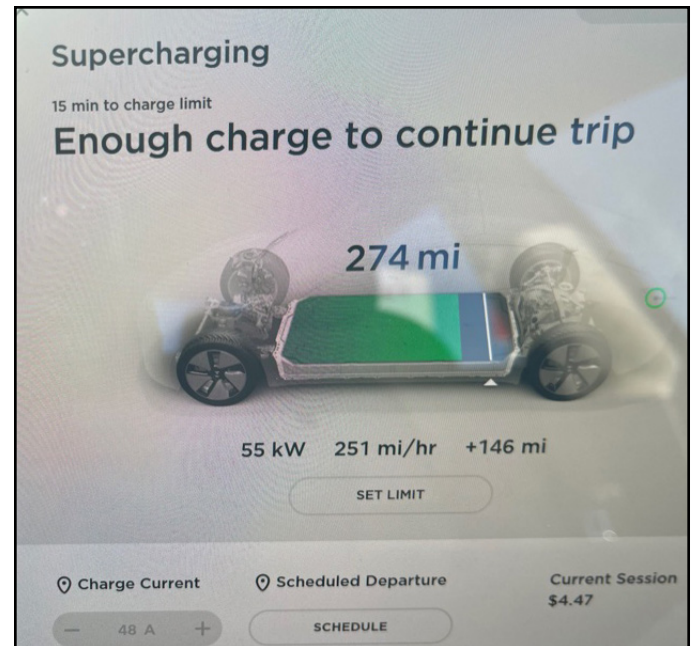
As you may know a few months ago the Board of Directors approved the purchase of the first all-electric, battery-powered car for Northwest Rural PPD. The vehicle was ordered and picked up in Denver the first week of September. In a previous article it was mentioned that we would follow up with experiences of owning and operating an EV and here is our experience so far.

The purchase process was all done online and all the paperwork was completed electronically prior to delivery. This made for the most streamlined new vehicle purchase I've ever been involved with. Since we already had experience with a Model 3 loaner provided by Tri-State, the portion taking the longest period of time was just loading the "key" on my phone. The vehicle comes with a key that is like a credit card as you would use at a hotel to swipe for access. However, putting a key on your phone allows for nothing else to be used as the car automatically recognizes your phone as you approach, unlocks the doors, and allows the car into gear.

Driving back to Hay Springs was an extremely easy process. Upon entering the destination, the navigation system selected the route and indicated where to charge and for how long. The car has a range of 350 miles but to allow for extra buffer it was suggested to stop in Sidney for about 15 minutes and add 100 miles of range. As it worked out, I decided to walk over to Applebee's for dinner and during dinner the car added a couple hundred miles and was fully charged ready to go another 350 miles, easily making it back to Hay Springs.

At another time the car was used to attend a meeting in Lincoln. The navigation system selected to stop in Ogalalla for about 15 minutes and then again in Grand Island for about 20 minutes. During the stop in Ogalalla I walked a couple doors down to a convenience store, used the restroom and grabbed a snack. This took about the 15 minutes and I was on my way again. While stopping in Grand Island it was dinner time so I took extra time to eat while the car was charging. In neither case did I have to just sit to wait for the car to finish. When I was done with my activities the car was ready to go.

As for costs associated with charging there has been mixed bags. The average time spent at a high output charger has been about 15 minutes, adding approximately 100 miles of charge for



about \$4-\$5. So, getting about 20-25 miles of range per \$1.00. At a level 2 station operated by ChargePoint the last session added 70 kWh's (about 300 miles of range) over 10 hours charging in a hotel parking lot. The cost was \$11 so it ended up being about 27 miles of range per \$1.00.

Similar charging done at home on a level 2 charger would result in even lower cost to "fill" the car. To use 70 kWh's at your home on NRPPD's off-peak rate would cost only \$5.85. That translates to 51 miles of range per \$1.00. Compare all of those range rates to gasoline and you'll quickly see where long term savings can be achieved by electrification. A good fuel economy vehicle with 30 mpg at \$3.00 per gallon cost would take you 10 miles for the same \$1.00.

There have been a couple negative experiences specific to the vehicle and the "fueling" method. One such experience was that the car returned to the office very late on a Friday evening. It required some vehicle reposition to charge through the weekend and due to the late hour it wasn't done. Someone had (Continued Page 10)

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# Northwest Rural Territory Activities

## Gordon-Rushville Mustangs

Wed., Dec 1 Unified Bowling Districts, tba  
One Act Districts at North Platte

Thurs., Dec. 2 WR (MS) at Bennett Co. Invite, 5 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 3 G&B BB (JV-V) at Hemingford, 4 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 4 WR (JV-V) at Broken Bow, 9:30 a.m.  
**G&B BB (JV-V) vs. Ainsworth, 2 p.m.**

Mon., Dec. 6 Unified State Bowling at Lincoln  
WR (MS) at Mitchell Invite, 2 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 7 G&B BB (V) at Crawford, 6 p.m.  
**Rushville Elementary Concert, 8 p.m.**

Thurs., Dec. 9 State One Act at Norfolk  
WR Triangular (Chadron at Valentine), 6 p.m.  
**GES Elementary Concert, 7:30 p.m.**

Fri., Dec. 10 G&B BB (JV-V) at Chadron, 5 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 11 Speech at Gering Holiday Scramble, 9 a.m.  
**GR (JV-V) Wrestling Invite, 10:30 a.m.**

Mon., Dec. 13 **GR HS Concert, 7 p.m.**

Tues., Dec. 14 **G&B BB (V) vs. Hyannis, 6 p.m.**  
**Middle School Winter Concert, 8 a.m.**

Thurs., Dec. 16 WR (JV-V) at Hemingford (Bridge/Hem), 11:30

Fri., Dec. 17 **No School for Students/Staff**  
**G&B BB (JV-V) vs. Bennett County, 3 p.m.**

Dec. 17-18 WR (JV-V) at Valentine Invite

Dec. 28-29 G&B BB (V) Shootout at Cabela's  
Holiday Tourney in Sidney

Tues., Dec. 28 WR Girls Invite at Winnebago, 9 a.m. central

Tues., Jan. 4

**Classes Resume**

**G&B BB (V) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 6 p.m.**

Wed., Jan. 5

FFA District CDE Ag Ed at WNCC, 10 a.m.

Fri., Jan. 7

BB G (JV-V) at Valentine, 6 p.m.

## Crawford Rams

Thurs., Dec. 2 G&B BB (V) at Sioux County, 3 p.m.  
WR (V) at Hemingford, 5 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 4 WR (V) at Mullen, 9:30 a.m.  
G&B BB at Bayard, 2 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 6 WR (JH) at Bayard, 2 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 7 **G&B BB (V) vs. Gordon-Rushville, 5 p.m.**

Sat., Dec. 11 WR at Gordon-Rushville, 9 a.m.  
**GBB (JH) vs. Hay Springs, 10 a.m.**  
**G&B BB vs. Garden County, 3 p.m.**

Mon., Dec. 13 GBB (JH) PanCo at Edgemont, tba

Tues., Dec. 14 G&B BB at Minatare, 4 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 17 **G&B BB vs. Lusk, 4 p.m.**  
**Early Out 12:30, End of 2nd Quarter**

Sat., Dec 18 WR (V) at Hot Springs, 9 a.m.

Dec. 28-29 G&B BB (V) at Cambridge Tourney, tba

Tues., Jan. 4 **School Resumes**

Thurs., Jan. 6 **G&B BB vs. Edgemont, 4 p.m.**

Fri., Jan. 7 G&B BB at Lingle Ft. Laramie, 4 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 8 WR at Garden Co.

## Hemingford Bobcats

Thurs., Dec. 2 **GBB (JH) vs. Gordon-Rushville, 5 p.m.**  
**WR (V) Dual vs. Morrill, 6 p.m.**

Dec. 3-4 WR (V) at Custer Invite

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# NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

**Fri., Dec. 3** G&B BB (V) vs. Gordon-Rushville, 3 p.m.  
**Sat., Dec. 4** G&B BB (V) at Hyannis, 1 p.m.  
**Mon., Dec. 6** GBB (JH) vs. St. Agnes, 4:30 p.m.  
**Tues., Dec. 7** JH-HS Winter Concert, 6 p.m.  
**Thurs., Dec. 9** Class C2 Play Production  
 G BB (JH) at Bridgeport, 4 p.m.  
**Fri., Dec. 10** G&B BB (V) vs. Bridgeport, 3:30 p.m.  
**Sat., Dec. 11** WR (V) at Gordon-Rushville Invite  
 G&B BB (V) vs. Mitchell, 1 p.m.  
**Mon., Dec 13** GBB (JH) PanCo, 9 a.m.  
 Elementary Winter Concert 6 p.m.  
**Tues., Dec. 14** G&B BB (V) vs. Hay Springs, 2 p.m.  
**Thurs., Dec. 16** WR (V) Tri. vs. Gordon-Rush,  
 Bridgeport, 5:30 p.m.  
**Fri., Dec. 17** WR (V) at South Loup Invite, 9 a.m.  
**Sat., Dec. 18** G&B BB at Leyton, 1 p.m.  
**Tues., Dec. 21** End of 2nd Quarter/1st Semester  
 Dec. 28-29 G&B BB (V) at Chadron Holiday Tourney  
**Mon., Jan. 3** G&B BB (V) vs. Niobrara County, 1 p.m.  
**Wed., Jan. 5** Start of Second Semester  
 FFA CDE at WNCC, 9 a.m.  
**Jan. 5-8** Winterfest Celebration  
**Thurs., Jan. 6** G&B BB (V) vs. Garden County, 2 p.m.  
**Fri., Jan. 7** G&B BB (V) at Minatare, 2 p.m.  
**Sat., Jan. 8** WR (V) at Garden Co. Invite, 9 a.m.

## Chadron Cardinals

Dec. 2-3-4 G&B BB at Scottsbluff Conf. Tourney, tba  
 Thurs., Dec. 2 WR (V) at Gering Dual, 6 p.m.


**Fri., Dec. 3** G&B BB (V) at Conf. Tourney  
 WR (MS) at Torrington Invite, 9 a.m.  
 WR (V) at Cozad Invite, 9:30 a.m.  
**Mon., Dec. 6** WR (MS) at Mitchell Invite, 1 p.m.  
**Tues., Dec. 7** GBB (MS) vs. Gering, 7th A&B in Chadron,  
 4 p.m.; 8th A&B in Gering, 4 p.m.  
**Thurs., Dec. 9** GBB (7th A & B) vs. Alliance, 4 p.m.;  
 GBB (8th A & B) at Alliance, 4 p.m.  
 WR (V) at Valentine Tri., 6 p.m. CT  
**Fri., Dec. 10** G&B BB (JV-V) vs. Gordon-Rushville,  
 4, 4, 5:30 & 7 p.m.  
**Sat., Dec. 11** G&B BB (C Team) at Sidney, tba  
 WR (V) at Gordon-Rushville, 9 a.m.  
**G&B BB (JV-V) vs. Gering, 4, 4, 5:30, 7 p.m.**  
**Mon., Dec. 13** GBB (7th) at Mitchell Tourney, tba  
 GBB (8th) at Gering Tourney, tba  
 Dec. 14-15-16 G&B BB (C Team) at Alliance, 5, 6:30 p.m.  
**Thurs., Dec. 16** 6-12 Vocal Music Concert, HS Aud., 7 p.m.  
 Dec. 17-18 WR (V) at Valentine Invite  
**Fri., Dec. 17** G&B BB (JV-V) at Scottsbluff, 4,4,5:30 & 7 p.m.  
**Sat., Dec. 18** G&B BB (JV-V) vs. Bridgeport,  
 B-JV: 2; G-V: 3:30; G-JV: 4; B V-5 p.m.  
**Mon., Dec. 20** 6-12 Band Concert  
**Tues., Dec. 21** Elementary Vocal Music, HS Aud., 6 p.m.  
 Dec. 28-29 G&B BB (V) Holiday Tourney, tba  
**Tues., Jan. 4** G&B BB (JV-V) vs. Hot Springs,  
 4, 4, 5:30 & 7 p.m.  
**Thurs., Jan. 6** WR Dual vs. Alliance, 6 p.m.

(Continued on Page 8)



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# NRPPD AREA ACTIVITIES

## Winter Electrical Safety--

(Continued from Page 4)

An extension cord is an outdoor cord if it has a three-prong plug. The third prong acts as a grounding wire, reducing the chance of electrical shock and fires. When setting up outdoor decorations, use lights and extension cords specified for outdoor use. You can use an outdoor extension cord inside, but you should not use an indoor extension cord outside.

Avoid putting any decorations within 10 feet of a power line and exercise extreme caution when decorating near power lines.

### Protect Your Electrical Cords From Damage

Keep extension cords out of reach of children and animals to protect them.

Do not hide electrical cords and power strips behind furniture or under rugs because they could spark and start a fire!

Never place electrical cords within a child's reach. You should also use the plastic caps that cover electrical outlets to keep them from sticking their fingers inside! Keep your dogs and cats away from electrical cords, too, to make sure they do not chew on them and cause a short or shock them.

## 'Don't Let This Happen to You'



If the lights go out momentarily, your auto-restart equipment will restart the well and this could be you!

Northwest Rural recommends that all disconnects on your irrigation system be shut off during the off-season. Temperature shutdown safeguards may protect you "providing they work".

Shutting your system off is the only truly dependable safeguard. This will prevent systems equipped with auto-restart switches from inadvertently starting should a bump or surge occur on the main power line. Besides preventing unwanted system startup, this may also prevent electrical equipment damage.

## Chadron Continued--

Jan. 7-8 WR (V) at Douglas, Wyo. Invite, 12 p.m.  
**Fri., Jan. 7 G&B BB (JV-V) vs. Belle Fourche, 4, 4, 5:30 & 7 p.m.**  
 Sat., Jan. 8 G&B BB (C-JV-V) at Mitchell, 12, 12, 1, 1, 2:30 & 4:30 p.m.

## Hay Springs Hawks

Thurs., Dec. 2 GBB (JH) at Cody-Kilgore, 5 p.m.  
**Fri., Dec. 3 G&B BB (V) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 3 p.m.**  
 Sat., Dec. 4 WR (V) at Mullen, 8 a.m.  
 G&B BB (V) at Arthur County, 3 p.m.  
 Tues., Dec. 7 G&B BB (V) at Morrill, 4 p.m.  
 Fri., Dec. 10 WR (V) at Lusk Meet, tba  
 Girls BB (JV-V) at Hot Springs, 5 p.m.  
 Sat., Dec. 11 WR (V) at Gordon-Rushville Invite, 9:30 am.  
 G BB (JH) at Crawford, 10 a.m.  
 Mon., Dec. 13 G BB (JH) at Edgemont Tourney, 9 a.m.  
 Tues., Dec. 14 G&B BB (V) at Hemingford, 2 p.m.  
**Wed., Dec. 15 Hawk Talk at Senior Center, 8 a.m.**  
**Thurs., Dec. 16 G&B BB (B) vs. Creek Valley, 3 p.m.**  
 Sat., Dec. 18 WR (V) at Bridgeport Invite, 9:30 p.m.  
 Dec. 20-21 G&B BB (V) at Sioux County Tourney  
**Wed., Dec. 22 Last Day of Quarter**  
**Thurs., Dec. 30 G&B BB vs. Banner County, 5 p.m.**  
**Tues., Jan. 4 Boys BB vs. Oelrichs, 5 p.m.**  
 Wed., Jan. 5 FFA District Ag Education Contest at WNCC  
**School Resumes**  
**Fri., Jan. 7 Girls BB (V) vs. Alliance, 5 p.m.**



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## Recipes



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

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### Christmas Brunch Casserole

- 1 pound bacon
- 2 onions, chopped
- 2 cups fresh sliced mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 4 cups frozen hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon garlic salt
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 4 eggs
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 1 pinch dried parsley
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese

Place bacon in a large skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown. Drain and set aside. Add the mushrooms and onion to the skillet; cook and stir until the onion has softened and turned translucent and the mushrooms are tender, about 5 minutes.

Grease a 9x13-inch casserole dish with the tablespoon of butter. Place potatoes in bottom of prepared dish. Sprinkle with salt, garlic salt, and pepper. Top with crumbled bacon, then add the onions and mushrooms.

In a mixing bowl, beat the eggs with the milk and parsley. Pour the beaten eggs over the casserole and top with grated cheese. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Preheat oven to 400 degrees F. Bake in preheated oven for 1 hour or until set.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Christmas Mimosa

- 2 fluid ounces cranberry juice
- 2 fluid ounces Champagne

- 1 splash orange liqueur
- 1 sprig fresh rosemary
- 2 sugared cranberries

Pour cranberry juice into a Champagne flute and top with Champagne. Add a splash of orange liqueur and garnish with rosemary sprig and sugared cranberries.

\* \* \* \* \*

### German Christmas Gingerbread

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups packed brown sugar
- 3 eggs
- 2/3 cup honey
- ¼ cup orange liqueur
- 1 cup sour cream
- ½ cup orange juice
- 1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup blanched slivered almonds

Whisk together the flours, baking powder, and spices.

In a large bowl, cream the butter or margarine with the brown sugar. Beat in the eggs, then the honey, orange liqueur, sour cream, and orange juice. Beat the flour mixture into the creamed mixture, and then stir in the raisins and almonds. Turn batter into a greased and floured tube pan.

Bake cake at 350 degrees F for 80 minutes, or until it tests done with toothpick. Transfer to a rack to cool.

\* \* \* \* \*



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## EV Experience--

(Continued from Page 5)

planned to take the car on Sunday to another meeting but it wasn't charged and could not make it to the destination without many hours of charging and thus could not be used.

Two other minor inconveniences were that the screen locked and that the charging cable was not placed into the vehicle. The screen probably sounds like a very minor issue, however if you have been in a Model 3 you know that the screen is essential to driving. The screen shows whether you are in gear, what your speed is and so on. It was only minor since it just took a quick reset and was fine. The charging cable also ended up being minor since there were public chargers available as needed during that particular trip.

A pretty serious issue that has arisen is related to the developing autonomous driving. The vehicle has multiple cameras and sensors that are used to implement fully automated driving, if this is paid for to upgrade. However, even without that upgrade the car used the same system in Autopilot which includes basic cruise control. The issue which has arisen is referred to as "phantom braking."

This happens when you are cruising along and the sensors "see" a potential accident. The safety system applies the brake to avoid an accident. Which all sounds great but it is happening even on completely clear roads. When this happens it can be very jarring to experience. It also has some safety concerns if someone happens to be behind you and they are not expecting a hard brake in front of them. Hopefully this will be solved but for now it remains an open issue.

In summation, the general impression so far on charging and using the vehicle is that you need to be somewhat organized and thoughtful about where and when you are going to charge. Sometimes the car would like you to follow some particular route and charging schedule but that may not always be conveniently timed for your activities. Some activities include stops for bathroom breaks, meal time options, location amenities, or just the need to get out and stretch a bit. If you plan properly, know your route and options available at charging locations and so forth you can have a pretty pleasant experience and not incur excessive charging times over and above what you might be doing at a location anyway. That is our experience so far and will be updating you again after using it through the winter.

Keep in mind that NRPPD has rebates for home charging stations which are available if you are interested in acquiring an EV for your home or business. If you have questions about electric vehicles or would like to drive one, please contact the office.

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

*from the Board of Directors and Employees at  
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## Bits 'n Pieces...

### Bits n' Pieces

- Compliment three people every day.
- Watch a sunrise at least one a year.
- Be the first to say, "Hello".
- Live beneath your means.
- Treat everyone like you want to be treated.
- Never give up on anybody. Miracles happen.
- Forget the Joneses.
- Never deprive someone of hope. It may be all he has.
- Pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage.
- Be tough-minded but tenderhearted.
- Be kinder than necessary.
- Don't forget, a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.
- Keep your promises
- Learn to show cheerfulness, even when you don't feel like it.
- Remember that overnight success usually take about 15 years.
- Leave everything better than you found it.
- Remember that winners do what losers don't want to

do.

- When you arrive at your job in the morning, let the first thing you say brighten everyone's day.
- Don't rain on other people's parades.
- Never waste an opportunity

\* \* \* \* \*

How did the ornament get addicted to Christmas?

He was hooked on trees his whole life

\* \* \* \* \*

What does the Grinch do with a baseball bat?

Hits a gnome and runs

\* \* \* \* \*

What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?

A rebel without a Claus

\* \* \* \* \*

Why did Frosty ask for a divorce?

His wife was a total flake

How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?

Nothing. It was on the house!

\* \* \* \* \*

Merry Christmas!



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