

Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

December 2023

Rushville Woman 'Doodles' Her Way into Business

Her good friend didn't name her "Doodles" for nothing! A few years before Missy Jech launched her business, her friend tabbed her as "Doodles" which she found fitting for her products "Doodles, Creations & More." When Missy was attending Gordon-Rushville High School, she learned how to do plasma cutting. "I had talked about doing metal work and getting my own since I was introduced to it in high school shop class. All four years of high school I was in Maynard Conroy's welding class and once I learned to use the PlasmaCam system I enjoyed it," explained Missy, who continued her education at Chadron State earning her Bachelor's in Rangeland Management and minors in Livestock and Agribusiness in 2018.

During that period in 2017, she purchased her own Plasma Cutting system. In 2018 she started taking custom orders. "Some of the first things I sold were fairly simple ranch signs and I am continuously learning how detailed I can be," said Missy. Her art can come from the design software or she can design her own. "Everything custom usually comes from what I can import from silhouettes via the internet or what people send me," she said. Her original goal when she started was to create something that meant something to someone else or to me. "Many orders I have just asked for the size and what they want on it then I go

Missy Jech, owner of Doodles, Creations & More holding two of her most popular pieces, the Amazing Grace sign stake and the patriotic home sign.



from there. Sometimes it is quite diverse and other times it is simple."

"My most complicated piece that took the most thought and time was actually the sign that I created as a memorial for my dad. Once I put all my thoughts together it didn't take long at all," said Missy. She has had many others that have challenged her, but typically after she works on them for an hour or two and often step away from the project to return to it at a later date to finish and obtain approval from the customer. All ordered sign work she waits for the customer's approval before cutting it, just to verify spelling and that they are happy with the design.

Where is all this creative work done? Missy still lives on the same place she grew up on north of Rushville on Hwy. 87. "I don't have anywhere special that I work in. My system I store indoors and then wheel outside on castors because it gives off a fine metal dust. Even outdoors it can be a bit intense depending on weather conditions," said Missy. She can't cut below freezing, with high humidity, or high winds. All finish work is done in or just outside their regular ranch shop. Most of what she cuts is mild steel in which she prefers to stick to. Missy has stopped taking custom orders earlier this fall, she has to limit her orders due to her workload and weather.

So just what is the "& More" of her business? Missy also loves to cook offering delicious truffles. In addition to her personal creations, her "crew" joins in. Her brother Nate and his
(Continued on Page 2)



One sample of Doodles Creations & More custom sign orders for an area farm family.

Doodles, Creations & More-

(Continued from Page 1)

wife Sam do custom wood working, and Missy takes a variety of the “creations” to local craft fairs. Her mom (Donna) and brother’s family all pitch in helping her move the steel cutouts around and give feedback on designs or whatever else she needs done. Her final craft fair of the season was at Winterburry in Alliance in mid-November. “My creations are mostly offered locally, but word of mouth and online have been a big help in advertising. I am only on Facebook with my page, but have not created a website,” said Missy.

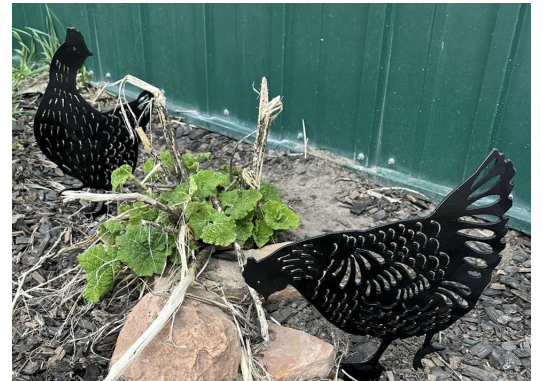


When she needs to take a break from her custom orders, I love to create something entirely different. “One time I did a giraffe and another time I did Bugs Bunny. I just like to switch up the creations. I love to bake, but sometimes I struggle to slow down for it anymore,” said Missy.

Some of my most popular requests are my patriot-



Above, A custom steel bench Missy designed and built.



Right, some chickens a customer requested.



Missy’s plasma cutter in the process of cutting out a custom order sign.

ic designs, amazing grace crosses and wildlife welcome signs.

When she isn’t busy at her full time job at the Natural Resource Conservation Service - USDA in Rushville as a Soil Conservationist, she also ranches and is involved in community activities. She may not have her own family yet, but she enjoys spending quality time with her nieces and nephews.

Prior to her metal work, she did some miscellaneous woodwork and made my truffles. Right before she purchased her metal cutting system she decided to name her business *Doodles Creations & More*. “With everything there’s a bit of Doodles and there’s hopefully always more meaning behind it. Whether it’s my creations or my crew’s we do our best,” ended Missy.

For more information about Doodles Creations & More, call Missy at (308) 360-0792 or find her on Facebook.



NRPPD and NPPD Pursue Wholesale Power Contract

Northwest Rural Public Power District (NRPPD) and Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) have agreed to pursue a wholesale power supply contract starting May 1, 2024, following votes by NRPPD's and NPPD's Board of Directors. NRPPD currently has a wholesale power supply contract with Tri-State Generation and Transmission Cooperative, based out of Westminster, Colorado. NRPPD has given notice to terminate that contract effective May 1, 2024.

NRPPD is headquartered in Hay Springs and serves 3,300 accounts in rural Dawes, Sheridan, and Cherry Counties in the Panhandle of Northwest Nebraska.

"Northwest Rural was a founding member of Tri-State and we've had a successful relationship for decades," says Chance Briscoe, General Manager of NRPPD. "However, with the changes in the electric industry and consideration of NRPPD's future needs, the Board of Directors believe NPPD offers the best opportunity for continued success into the future."

NPPD currently serves customers in 84 of Nebraska's 93 counties. This includes 24 Rural Public Power Districts and Cooperatives and 37 Municipalities through wholesale power supply contracts, as well as 79 retail communities, including two in South Dakota. NPPD's Board of Directors voted 11-0 in favor of pursuing a wholesale power supply contract with NRPPD, during their regularly scheduled November meeting. "The NPPD team is excited about the opportunity to partner with Northwest Rural Public Power District in our shared mission to provide low-cost and reliable energy to Nebraskans," says NPPD Vice President of Customer Services and External Affairs Courtney Dentlinger. "NPPD has long served communities in Nebraska's panhandle at the retail and wholesale level, and we look forward to working closely with NRPPD as their wholesale power supplier."

NPPD benchmarks its wholesale rate with roughly 800 members of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) on a yearly basis. Several years ago, NPPD set a goal to be in the first quartile – which is at or below the 25th percentile for power cost. In 2020 NPPD met the goal for the first time since implementing the benchmark by finishing at the 23.2 percentile, then in 2021 improved to the 12.4 per-



From left, Tom Kent, CEO NPPD; Jerry Chlopek, Chair and Director for Subdivision 9; Chance Briscoe; and Rusty Kemp, Director for Subdivision 5 (covers our area).

centile, and now that data for 2022 has been finalized, NPPD's rank improved further, finishing at the 11.7 percentile.

"NPPD has a proven track record for reliable power supply at extremely competitive rates," says Briscoe. "With this agreement, NRPPD plans to offer a significant rate reduction to our electric customers in the near future and starting in May next year the agreement will keep more than \$6 million a year from leaving the state of Nebraska."

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Proper Precautions and Prep Stressed For Christmas Lights

Is there anything like Christmas lights to get you into the holiday spirit? From the tree to the front porch and fence, Christmas lights make the holiday season merry and bright.

These pretty decorations don't come without risks, though. Falls, electrocution and even fires are very real possibilities. An average of 770 fires are caused by Christmas lights every year, according to the National Fire Protection Association.



With proper preparation and safety practices, you can avoid those dangerous situations with your holiday decorations. You just need to take a few precautions inside and outside your home.

Here are 16 potential holiday light hazards and safety tips you need to know.

1. Beware missing or broken bulbs

Replace any missing or broken bulbs before you string up your porch or tree because they could lead to electrocution, fires or injuries.

Most lights come with replacement bulbs, but you can also buy a pack at your local home improvement store for about \$3.

2. Fix busted string lights

It happens. You found a broken light string. Luckily, CNET has a full guide to fixing Christmas lights, including fixing bulbs and changing out fuses.

3. Use the right ladder

If you decide to pull a Clark Griswold and decorate your home's exterior and roof, you'll need a ladder to reach those high-up spots.

The type of ladder you use matters. Metal ladders conduct electricity, which can lead to electrical shocks. The Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends using a wooden or fiberglass ladder when hanging lights to avoid electrical shocks.

4. Pick the right kind of light

While indoor and outdoor lights are similar in appearance and function, you shouldn't use them interchangeably. Indoor lights should only be used indoors and outdoor lights should only be used outside. Here's why.

Indoor lights have been specifically tested to make sure they aren't a fire hazard for tree decorating, while outdoor lights are specifically tested to withstand cold and rainy weather. Outside lights could pose a fire hazard if you string them up on the family tree because they're often hotter, while the indoor lights probably wouldn't survive the snow storm.

5. Look for the UL seal

No matter the climate where you live, look for the UL seal on the box.

That seal means that the lights meet the national industry standards of the American National Standards Institute.

6. Choose the right cord

Like the string lights, you should always only use an extension cord that is rated for outdoor use when stringing up lights on the porch or house. Indoor-use extension cords aren't made to withstand cold or wet environments.

plugs on the ground

7. Keep the cord dry

You shouldn't let your extension cords sit on the ground as shown in the photo. Make sure the junction where your light cord and your extension cord meet stay out of puddles, damp soil, snow or ice because a potentially damaged extension cable could cause injury or death from electrocution, fire, or carbon monoxide poisoning if wet.

You can buy an inexpensive cord protector -- like the Twist and Seal Heavy Duty Cord Protector -- to keep your cords dry and
(Continued on Page 5)

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Christmas Light Prep--

(Continued from Page 4)

safe. You could also plan your light display so that connections are suspended off the ground instead of sitting in contact with it. light stakes in the ground

8. Prevent tripping hazards

Keep your light strands off the ground, too. Lights and cords on the ground pose a tripping hazard and can easily be broken if stepped on.

If you want to make a cool runway effect down your walkway, use light stakes. You just stick them in the ground and the lights clip to the top of the stake.

You can also use anchoring pins or ground staples to secure extension cords to the ground on either side of a walkway to prevent tripping hazards. Simply thread the cord through the middle and push the ends of the pin or staple into the dirt. If you have some wire hangers, a pair of pliers and wire cutters lying around, you can make your own staples in a pinch. Just cut 8 inches (20 centimeters) of wire and bend it into a U-shape.

9. Don't make your lights a year-long attraction

Sure, they're pretty, but don't leave your lights up for too long. Many lights, including smart lights, aren't meant for long-term use. Be sure to check the light's box for information on just how long you can safely leave your lights up. several plugs in one outlet

10. Mind the outlet

We recommend plugging your lights into a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlet. These outlets will shut the circuit down if there is too much current flowing through, preventing fires.

If your outlet is a GFCI, it will have a reset and test button in the center. If you don't have one, you can purchase a portable GFCI outlet from your home-improvement store. You could try this waterproof in-line GFCI or this portable GFCI.

11. Keep it to 3 strands

The Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends connecting no more than three strings of incandescent lights together. If you're using LEDs, most UL-labeled lights will tell you on the package how many strings of lights you can safely string together.

12. Don't put cords through doors and windows

Don't run your extension cords through window or door cracks. The cord could become pinched, which can fray the insulation around the wires and lead to a nasty shock.

13. Never use staples, tacks or nails to hang lights

Sharp objects can easily pierce the strands and create a potential electrical shock. It's best to use plastic holders or simply wrap the lights around the fence, porch or tree.

14. Turn off lights overnight

Though beautiful and festive, you should turn off your lights for a few hours each day.

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NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

Gordon-Rushville Mustangs

Fri., Dec. 1 WR (G) at Hemingford Round Robin
G-B BB (JV-V) at Hemingford, 3 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 2 WR (B) at Broken Bow Invite
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Ainsworth, 1 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 4 U Bowling at State
WR (MS) at Mitchell Invite, 1 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 5 G-B BB (JV-V) at Crawford, 3 p.m.

Dec. 7-8 **GES Lion's Club Vision-Hearing**

Thurs., Dec. 7 Play Production NSAA State Championships
G-B WR Tri w/Chadron, Valentine, 5 p.m.
Parent's Night
GES K, 2, 4 Winter Concert at Gordon Elementary, 6:30 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 8 Quiz B at Mitchell
G-B BB (JV-V) at Chadron, 4 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 9 G-WR G-R Invite, all day

Tues., Dec. 12 GBB (MS) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 4 p.m.
G-B BB vs. Hyannis, 5 p.m.

Wed., Dec. 13 Noon Dismissal - Teacher Inservice

Thurs., Dec. 14 RES-GRMS Holiday Concert,
Dec. 15-16 G-B WR at Valentine Invite, all day

Fri., Dec. 15 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Bennett Co., 3:30 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 18 GES Christmas Store
GRHS Winter Concert, 7 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 19 G BB (JV-V) vs. Valentine, 5 p.m.
G-B WR at Hay Springs Dual, 5 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 21 2nd Quarter Ends

Dec. 22-Jan. 3 Christmas Break

Dec. 23-26 NSAA Moratorium

Dec. 29-30 G-B BB (V) at Sidney Holiday Tourney

Fri., Jan. 6 GBB (JV-V) vs. Valentine, 5 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 7 G WR Wrestling at Garden Co., all day
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Bayard, 2 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 10 G BB (V) at Hay Springs, 5:30 p.m. (NO JV)

Crawford Rams

Fri., Dec. 1 G-B BB (V) at Bayard, 4 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 2 WR (V) at Mullen, 9:30 a.m.
GBB (JH) at at Sioux County, 12 p.m.
B BB (JV-V) at Sioux County, 1, 2 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 4 WR (JH) at Mitchell, 1 p.m.
WR Crawford Invite, 5 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 5 G-B BB (V) vs. Gordon-Rush, 3, 4, 5, 6:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 9 WR at Gordon-Rush Invite, 9:30 a.m.
G BB (JH) vs. Hay Springs, 10 a.m.
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Garden Co., 4, 5, 6:30 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 12 G-B BB (V) at Minatare, 5:30 & 7 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 15 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Niobrara Co., 4, 5, 6, 7:30

Sat., Dec. 16 WR (V) at Hot Springs Invite.

Dec. 18-19 B BB (V) at Sioux County Tourney, tbd

Thurs., Dec. 21 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Arthur Co., tbd, 5, 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 4 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Edgemont, 4, 5, 6, 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 6 WR at Garden Co. Invite, 9 a.m.
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Morrill, 1, 2, 3, 4:30 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 9 B BB (JV) vs. Hemingford, 5 p.m.

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NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

Hemingford Bobcats

Fri., Dec. 1 **WR (V) vs. Custer, 9 a.m.**
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Gordon-Rush,
G: 3, 6, p.m.; B: 4:30, 7:30

Sat., Dec. 2 G-B BB (JV-V) at Hyannis, G: 1, 4 p.m.;
 B: 2:30, 5:30 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 4 WR (G) at Southwest (Bartley), 1 p.m.
 Health Screenings (K-12)
GBB (JH) vs. Alliance St. Agnes, 2 p.m.
 WR (JH) at Mitchell, 3 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 5 K-12 Gr. Vocal Music Concert, 6 p.m., gym

Thurs., Dec. 7 G BB (JH) at Bridgeport, 3 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 8 G-B WR at Niobrara Co., 9 a.m.
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Bridgeport, 3, 4:30, 6, 7:30

Sat., Dec. 9 G-B WR at Gordon-Rushville, 9, 10:30 a.m.

Mon., Dec. 11 G BB (JH) PanCo at Hemingford, 9 a.m.

Tues., Dec. 12 G WR at Gering
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Hay Springs,
3, 4:30, 6, 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 14 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Mitchell, 3, 4:30, 6, 7:30

Fri., Dec. 15 5th-12th Band Concert, 3 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 16 G-B WR at Bridgeport Invite, 9 a.m.
 G-B BB (JV-V) at Leyton, 2, 3, 5, 6:30 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 19 FFA Gift Exchange
 G BB (JH) at Hyannis, 2 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 21 End of 2nd Quarter

Dec. 22-Jan. 3 NO SCHOOL

Dec. 23-27 Sports Moratorium

Dec. 29-30 G-B BB CSC Invite

Fri., Dec. 29 G WR at Winnebago Invite, 9 a.m.

Tues., Jan. 2 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Niobrara Co., 4, 5, 6, 7:30

Thurs., Jan. 4 School Resumes
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Garden Co.,
2, 4:30, 6, 7:30 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 5 G-B BB (JV-V) at Minatare, 3, 4:30, 5:30, 7:30
B WR vs. Hay Springs, 5 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 6 G-B WR at Garden County, 9 a.m.

Mon, Jan. 8 Doane's Oregon Trail Honor Band

Tues., Jan. 9 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Chadron, 3, 4:30, 6, 7:30
 B BB (JH) at Crawford, 5 p.m.

Wed., Jan. 10 FFA District Ag Ed Contest at WNCC, 9 a.m.

Chadron Cardinals

Fri., Dec. 1 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Sidney,
G: 4, 5:30; B: 4, 7 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 2 G-B BB (C-teams) at Scottsbluff, 9 a.m.
 One Acts at Gothenberg, tbd
 G-B WR (V) at O'Neill Invite, 8:30 a.m.
 WR (MS) at Torrington Invite, 9 a.m.
 G-B BB at Bayard, G: 2, 3:30; B: 2:45, 5 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 4 WR (MS) at Mitchell, 1 p.m.


Tues., Dec. 5 G BB (7th) vs. Gering, 4 p.m.
 G BB (8th) at Gering, 4 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 7 G-B BB (C) vs. Rapid City Christian, 4, 5:30
 GBB (7th) vs. Alliance, 4 p.m.
 GBB (8th) at Alliance, 4 p.m.



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NRPPD TERRITORY EVENTS

Fri., Dec. 8 State One Acts at Norfolk
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Gordon-Rushville, 4, 4, 5:30, 7 p.m.

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

Dec. 11-12-14 G BB (7th) at Mitchell Tourney, tbd
 G BB (8th) at Gering, 4:15 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 12 G-B BB (C) at Alliance, 5, 6:30 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 12 B BB (C-JV) vs. Sioux Co. JV-V, 4 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 14 6-12 Music Concert, 7 p.m.

Dec. 15-16 G-B WR at Valentine, Fri: 12 p.m.; Sat: 8 a.m.

Sat., Dec. 16 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Bridgepoort, 2, 2, 3:30, 5 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 18 6-12 Band Concert, 7 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 19 G-B BB (JV-V) at Torrington, 2:30, 4, 5:30, 7 p.m.
Elementary Concert, CHS, 7 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 21 Day of Service, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.
 G-B BB (JV-V) at Scottsbluff, 4, 5:30, 7 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 22 NO SCHOOL - Christmas Break

Dec. 29-30 G-B BB (V) at CSC Invite, tbd

Tues., Jan. 2 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Hot Springs, 3, 3, 4:30, 6 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 4 G BB (JV-V) at Lakota Tech, 5, 6:30 p.m.
G-B WR vs. Alliance Dual, 6 p.m.

Jan. 5-6 G-B WR at Douglas, 9 a.m.
 G-B BB (JV-V) at Mitchell, 12, 1, 2, 3:30 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 8 G-B BB (C) vs. Scottsbluff, 4, 5:30 p.m.

Tues., Jan. 9 G-B BB (JV-V) at Hemingford, 3, 4, 5:30, 7 p.m.

Hay Springs Hawks

Fri., Dec. 1 G WR at Custer Invite, 9 a.m.
GBB (JH) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 2 p.m.
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Cody-Kilgore, G: 3, 5 p.m.; B: 4, 6:30 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 2 B WR (V) at Mullen Invite, 10 a.m.
G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Arthur Co., G: 12, 3 p.m.; B: 1:30, 5 p.m.
 G-B WR at Crawford Tri., 4 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 3 G-B BB (JV-V) at Morrill, 4, 4, 6, 7 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 5 Health Screening
 State Play Production - One Act
 Halk Talk, Senior Center, 8 a.m.

Wed., Dec. 6 Santa Soup Cookoff, The Nights,
 The Lights and Music Concert

Thurs., Dec. 7 Girls BB (JV-V) vs. Hot Springs, 5, 6:30 p.m.

Fri., Dec. 8 G-B WR at Gordon-Rushville, 9 a.m.

Sat., Dec. 9 GBB (JH) at Crawford, 10 a.m.
 Girls BB (JV-V) vs. Bridgepoort, 3, 5 p.m.

Mon., Dec. 11 GBB (JH) at Hemingford Tourney, 9 a.m.

Tues., Dec. 12 G-B BB (JV-V) at Hemingford, 3, 4:30, 6, 7:30 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 14 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Creek Valley, 2, 3, 5, 7 p.m.

Sat., Dec. 16 G-B WR at Bridgeport Invite, 9 a.m.

Dec. 18-19 G-B BB at Sioux County Tourney, 12 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 19 G-B WR vs. Gordon-Rushville, 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 21 Last Day of Semester
 Christmas Break

Mon., Dec. 25 G-B WR at North Platte Tourney, 12 a.m.

Fri., Dec. 29 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Banner Co., 3, 4, 5, 7 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 4 G-B BB (JV-V) vs. Oelrichs, 2, 3, 5, 7 p.m.

Fri., Jan. 5 Girls WR at Sidney Invite, 12 p.m.
 Boys WR at Hemingford Invite, 7 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 6 G-B WR at Garden Co. Invite, 9 a.m.
 G-B BB (JV-V) at Leytong, 2, 4, 4, 5:30 p.m.

Mon., Jan. 8 School Resumes
 Oregon Trail Honor Band

Tues., Jan. 9 G-B BB (JV-V) at Gordon-Rushville, 3:30, 4:30, 6, 7:30 p.m.
 Quarter Assembly

Wed., Jan. 10 FFA District Contest at WNCC



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Recipes



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

Please send to hiphop@gpcom.net

Make-Ahead Mashed Potatoes

- 5 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, cubed
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 2 (3 ounce) packages cream cheese
- ½ cup milk
- 2 teaspoons onion salt
- ground black pepper to taste

Place potatoes in a large pot of lightly salted water. Bring to a boil and cook until tender, about 15 minutes; drain.

Transfer potatoes into a large bowl and mash. Stir in sour cream, cream cheese, milk, onion salt, and pepper until well combined. Transfer into a large casserole dish.

Let potatoes cool completely, 15 to 20 minutes. Cover with aluminum foil and refrigerate for up to two days.

When ready to bake, remove casserole from the refrigerator and let sit for 30 minutes on the counter. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F.

Bake, covered, in the preheated oven for 50 minutes.

* * * * *

Biscotti

- 1 cup white sugar
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon anise extract, or 3 drops anise oil
- 3 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Grease two cookie sheets or line with parchment paper.

Beat sugar, oil, eggs, and anise extract together in a medium bowl until well-blended. Combine flour and baking powder in a separate bowl; stir into egg mixture to form a heavy dough.

Divide dough into two equal pieces. Form each piece into a log the length of a cookie sheet. Place one log on each of the prepared sheets; and press dough down to 1/2-inch thickness.

Bake in the preheated oven until golden brown, 25 to 30 minutes. Transfer logs to wire racks; let sit until cool enough to handle, about 15 minutes.

Slice each log crosswise into about eighteen 1/2-inch-thick slices. Place slices cut-sides up back on the cookie sheets.

Bake until lightly toasted and golden brown, 6 to 10 minutes per side.

* * * * *

Cranberry Pumpkin Cookies

- 1 cup white sugar
- ½ cup butter, softened
- 1 cup solid pack pumpkin puree
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 cup halved fresh cranberries
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- 1 tablespoon orange zest

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C). Grease two cookie sheets.

Cream sugar and butter in a large bowl with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Mix in pumpkin purée, egg, and vanilla.

Sift flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt together into a medium bowl. Stir flour mixture into pumpkin mixture until well blended. Stir in cranberries, walnuts, and orange zest. Drop teaspoonfuls of dough 2 inches apart onto the prepared baking sheets.

Bake in the preheated oven until the edges are golden, 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from the oven and transfer to wire racks to cool.

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Find Something to Celebrate in December

- Dec. 1:** National Pie Day, Antarctica Day, National Bartender Day, Eat a Red Apple Day, Rosa Parks Day.
- Dec. 2:** National Fritters Day, Mutt Day, Special Education Day, International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.
- Dec. 3:** National Roof Over Your Head Day, International Day of Person with Disabilities.
- Dec. 4:** Santa's List Day, International Cheetah Day, Wildlife Conservation Day, Sock Day, Dice Day, Cookie Day.
- Dec. 5:** World Soil Day, Repeal Day, World Trick Shot Day, Sacher Torte Day, Bathtub Party Day.
- Dec. 6:** Mitten Tree Day, National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women, St. Nicholas Day.
- Dec. 7:** National Slime Day, Illinois Day, International Civil Aviation Day, Cotton Candy Day, Pearl Harbor Day.
- Dec. 8:** National Crossword Solvers Day, Salesperson Day, National Brownie Day, Pretend to be a Time Traveler Day.
- Dec. 9:** Lutefisk Day, World Techno Day, Christmas Card Day, Pastry Day, Weary Willie Day, Anti-Corruption Day.
- Dec. 10:** National Lager Day, Nobel Prize Day, Human Rights Day, Dewey Decimal System Day.
- Dec. 11:** National Stretching Day, UNICEF Day, National App Day, Noodle Ring Day, International Mountain Day.

- Dec. 12:** Universal Health Coverage Day, Ding-A-Ling Day, Ambrosia Day, Poinsettia Day, Gingerbread House Day.
- Dec. 13:** National Guard Birthday, Violin Day, Cocoa Day, Day of the Horse, Pick a Pathologist Day,
- Dec. 14:** National Alabama Day, Bouillabaisse Day, Monkey Day, Martyred Intellectuals Day.
- Dec. 15:** International Tea Day, Wear Your Pearls, National Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, National Cupcake Day.
- Dec. 16:** National Chocolate-Covered Anything Day, Barbie & Barbie Backlash Day.
- Dec. 17:** Maple Syrup Day, Wright Brothers Day.
- Dec. 18:** World Arabic Language Day, National Twin Day, Roast Suckling Pig Day, International Migrants Day.
- Dec. 19:** National Oatmeal Muffin Day, Hard Candy Day.
- Dec. 20:** Go Caroling Day, Sangaria Day, Mudd Day, International Human Solidarity Day.
- Dec. 21:** National Maine Day, National Flashlight Day - Day of Winter Solstice, French Fried Shrimp Day, Humbug Day.
- Dec. 22:** Date Nut Bread Day, Forefather's Day.
- Dec. 23:** National Roots Day, Pfeffernusse Day, Festivus.
- Dec. 24:** National Eggnog Day, Christmas Eve.
- Dec. 25:** Christmas Day, National Pumpkin Pie Day, A'phabet Day or No "L" Day,
- Dec. 26:** National Whiners Day, Candy Cane Day, Boxing Day.
- Dec. 27:** National Fruitcake Day,
- Dec. 28:** National Short Film Day, Card Playing Day, Chocolate Candy Day, Pledge of Allegiance Day.
- Dec. 29:** National Pepper Pot Day, No Interruptions Day - Last Work Day of the Year, Tick Tock Day.
- Dec. 30:** National Bicarbonate of Soda Day, Falling Needles Family Fest Day, Bacon Day.
- Dec. 31:** National Champagne Day, Universal Hour of Peace, New Year's Eve, Make Up Your Mind Day.

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When you are bored just think about a few things that don't make sense....

1. If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
2. Which letter is silent in the word "scent", the S or the C?
3. Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned.
4. Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
5. Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
6. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
7. The word "swims" upside down is still "swims".
8. 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich have horses.

9. If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.

Four great confusions still unresolved:

1. At the movie theatre, which arm rest is your's?
2. If people evolved from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
3. Why is there a "D" in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
4. Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?

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