

Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

February 2025

Woman's Love For Pets Made 'Lightbulb Go Off'

It was a rural Rushville woman's love for her pets that lead her down a new trail. Kris Scott and her family could probably start their own petting zoo. They have three dogs, a house cat, two barn cats, a couple of milk cows and three minis, four horses, a goat named Buddy and a special cow Stella. "I can't forget our cow that thinks she's kinda like a dog, we call her our emotional support cow, we saved her when she was premature and it was so cold when she was born she had to live in the house for a month," confessed Kris.

She keeps busy with their four sons and various part-time jobs working at the Rushville Veterinary Clinic when needed, day works for area ranchers, assisting a local dog groomer in addition to helping take care of their own cows.

In between all those duties, she started making dog food for their dogs a few years back. "I had occasionally made some treats for them and then I guess a light bulb went off and I thought why don't I try selling my treats to other people. My friend Darchelle suggested that I try going to a few vendor shows with her to see how it goes. I'm glad I did its been very enjoyable creating new treats," said Kris.

"I started researching more about dog and horse treats and found recipes online of course but I have also tweaked a lot of the ones I found and after getting some ideas from those I have made few of my own," she explained.



Kris Scott, or rural Rushvill, putting another batch of homemade pet treats in the of oven.

As of right now she has a base of six different types of dog treats and four different horse treats. "I also on the suggestion of Eli, my son, I made a cat treat as well," noted Kris.

She did do some pupcakes that went over very well around the holiday in addition to some special Christmas treats. "I will continue to do seasonal treats and I have some awesome summertime treats for when its warm out. I do have a few more horse treats that I would like to add but I'm still working the kink's out," explained Kris.

"Wild Treats" made it's debut this past fall to the public at several craft shows.

Kris uses all natural ingredients and many of the treats have bananas, fresh blueberries, applesauce, carrots etc. "I also include things like flax seed, moringa, beet pulp powder, chia seeds, turmeric, black pepper, which all have different health benefits ranging from a healthier coat, aiding in digestion, and joint support," she explained.

"Just like people preparing their own meals at home, it
(Continued on Page 2)



A display of "Wild Treats" she offers at craft fairs and now in a retail store in Gordon.

Wild Treats--

(Continued from Page 1)

is always better for our pets and horses. They benefit from fresh treats from home. There's no preservatives in them and the list of ingredients is small. Plus who doesn't love spoiling their dogs and horses and this way you can do it knowing they are good for them," stated Kris.

Kris is just in the beginning stages of her new adventure. "I have yet to get set up with any online orders however I am working on that," she said. "I will have them at a new shop in Gordon, 'Serenity Natural Health & Wellness' located at 129 Main Street."

Kris and her husband Jason, who works for BigIron in addition to raising their own cattle, have been married 24 years. The couple's four boys include Augustus 21, Cutter 19, Eli 17, and Kooper 15. The Scotts live nine miles north of Rushville.

"When we aren't busy taking care of the ranch, our family loves to go camping, preferably tent camping as far away from other campers as possible," she laughed. "We also spend as much time around our fire pit as we can. We have always been a close family, we laugh and joke a lot and we actually can be very loud when we are all together and with the four boys it sometimes gets a little rowdy!"

For more information about 'Wild Treats', you can contact Kris at 308-360-2063.



Homemade dog bone treats cooling on the rack.



A yummy looking pup-cake your dog would be sure love.



'Wild Treats' are all tested and approved in house by Elsa, Duke, Ace. They are always more than eager to help with the sampling!



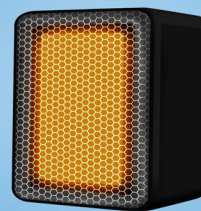
Countryroad Shot: Patchwork Barn Thomas County - Sept. 2017

~ by Jim Manternach

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

Scholarship Applications are Due February 13

An electric space heater can cost more than \$100 per month to operate.



Minimize their use, except for limited or temporary spot heating.

Recipes



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

Please send to hiphop@gpcom.net

Easy Valentine Sandwich Cookies

- 1 cup butter
- 1 ½ cups confectioners' sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon almond extract (Optional)
- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar



Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Cream butter and confectioners' sugar together in a large bowl. Beat in egg, vanilla, and almond extract. Whisk flour, baking soda, and cream of tartar together in a medium bowl. Add to butter mixture; beat until dough is just combined. Divide dough into thirds and shape each portion into a ball. Place one portion of dough on a lightly floured surface and roll out to 1/4-inch thickness. For each sandwich cookie, cut out two 3-inch hearts; cut out the center of one of the hearts with a 1 1/2-inch cutter. Place cutout pieces 1 to 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Repeat with remaining dough. Bake in the preheated oven until lightly browned, 7 to 8 minutes. Cool completely on wire racks.

Frost each solid 3-inch cookie with Pink Valentine Frosting and top with an open-centered cookie to form a sandwich. Frost the remaining small hearts and serve as separate cookies.

Editor's Note: For jam-filled sandwich cookies, spread a thin layer of seedless raspberry jam on each bottom cookie. Top with cookies with open centers. Frost top cookies. candy canes. Spread dough into the prepared pan in an even layer.

Ways to Cut Down on Your Home Electric Bill in Winter

The colder months often bring higher energy bills for homeowners. If you live in the north with harsh winters, heating your home may be more expensive than cooling it in the summer. What's more, many people are at home more during the winter months, which can drive up energy use. Add shorter days and long, dark nights, along with a string of holidays, and it's easy to see how you could use more energy than other times of year.

It's important to save electricity in winter to lower your electric bills, not to mention reduce your carbon footprint. Luckily, there are several ways to conserve energy when the temperature drops, including the suggestions below.

heating systems graphic

- **Weatherstrip your doors and windows**

If you're wondering how to cut down on your electric bill in winter, sealing out drafts is a good place to start. Your doors and windows can leak out more heat than you might imagine, but you can put a stop to it by installing weatherstripping around them. Plus, door sweeps help seal the space between the bottom of your door and the door frame. And even draft stoppers can give you some measure of protection from the cold.

- **Switch to a smart thermostat**

A smart thermostat is a high-tech way to save electricity in the winter. Programmable thermostat savings come from the ability to fine-tune and optimize when your furnace runs. You can program the thermostat to turn down while you're sleeping or when you're away and then set it warmer for just before your arrival back home at the end of the day. You can reduce your electric bill in winter without sacrificing comfort.

- **Don't block your air vents**

If furniture or drapes are blocking your heating vents, you're making your furnace work harder than it should. Blocked vents increase air pressure in your ductwork, which can create cracks and leaks. Clearing your vents ensures that every room in your home is getting good circulation and that your system is working as designed. If a piece of furniture is sitting over a vent, try using an inexpensive vent extender to direct air out into the room.

- **Adjust your water heater's temperature**

Your hot water heater might be wasting more energy than you realize, especially if it's an older model. Today's energy efficient water heaters can pay for themselves quickly with the energy they save. For most people, keeping the temperature set at 120 degrees provides plenty of hot water. To save even more, consider adding a hot water heater blanket, which is a layer of insulation that wraps around the hot water tank.

- **Only wash/dry full loads of laundry**

One of the most simple laundry energy saving tips is to always run full loads whenever possible. Running small, partial loads of laundry takes as much energy as running a full load. You'll end up using more power and water with multiple loads.

A tip from a lineman working storm outages:

“When your power comes back on, flip your porch light on. It helps us see that your power has been restored without having to stop and check every meter. A little time goes a long way.”

Some Social Rules That May Help You

1. Don't call someone more than twice continuously. If they don't pick up your call, presume they have something important to attend to.
2. Return money that you have borrowed even before the person who loaned it to you remembers or asks for it. It shows your integrity and character. The same goes for umbrellas, pens, and lunch boxes.
3. Never order the expensive dish on the menu when someone is treating you to lunch or dinner.
4. Don't ask awkward questions like 'Oh, so you aren't married yet?' Or 'Don't you have kids?' Or 'Why haven't you bought a house?' Or 'Why haven't you bought a car?' For God's sake, it isn't your problem.
5. Always open the door for the person coming behind you. It doesn't matter if it is a guy or a girl, senior or junior. You don't grow small by treating someone well in public.
6. If you take a taxi with a friend and he/she pays now, try paying next time.
7. Respect different shades of opinions. Remember, what may seem like 6 to you might appear as 9 to someone else. Besides, a second opinion is good for an alternative.
8. Never interrupt people while they are talking. Allow them to pour it out. As they say, hear them all and filter them all.
9. If you tease someone, and they don't seem to enjoy it, stop it and never do it again. It encourages one to do more and shows how appreciative you are.
10. Say "thank you" when someone is helping you.
11. Praise publicly. Criticize privately.
12. There's almost never a reason to comment on someone's weight. Just say, "You look fantastic." If they want to talk about losing weight, they will.

February Historical Anniversaries....

- February 2 is Groundhog Day**—the day we find out whether winter will last six more weeks or call it quits early.
- February 9 is the Super Bowl in 2025.**
- February 12 is Abraham Lincoln's Birthday.** The 16th president of the United States was born in a one-room, 16x18-foot log cabin with a dirt floor.
- February 14 is always Valentine's Day.**
- February 15 is Susan B. Anthony's Birthday.** How much do you know about this women's rights leader?
- February 17 brings Presidents' Day,** a federal holiday also known as Washington's Birthday that is celebrated on the third Monday in February. (George Washington's actual birthday is February 22!)
- February Birthstone:** Amethyst. The gem is a form of quartz; it can range from a pale lilac color to a deep, rich purple.
- February's Birth Flower:** It's not the rose which is popular on Valentine's Day, however the Violet and the Primrose. Violet signifies watchfulness, loyalty and faithfulness. The primrose lets someone know you can't live without them.

13. When someone shows you a photo on their phone, don't swipe left or right. You never know what's next.
 14. If a colleague tells you they have a doctor's appointment, don't ask what it's for, just say "I hope you're okay." Don't put them in the uncomfortable position of having to tell you their personal illness. If they want you to know, they'll do so without your inquisitiveness.
 15. Treat the cleaner with the same respect as the CEO. Nobody is impressed by how rudely you treat someone below you, but people will notice if you treat them with respect.
 16. If a person is speaking directly to you, staring at your phone is rude.
 17. Never give advice until you're asked.
 18. When meeting someone after a long time, unless they want to talk about it, don't ask them their age or salary.
 19. Mind your business unless anything involves you directly - just stay out of it.
 20. Remove your sunglasses if you are talking to anyone in the street. It is a sign of respect. Moreover, eye contact is as important as your speech.
 21. Never talk about your riches in the midst of the poor. Similarly, don't talk about your children in the midst of the barren.
 22. After reading a good message, consider saying "Thanks for the message."
- APPRECIATION remains the easiest way of getting what you don't have.

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

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