

# Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

September 2023

## Swinging a Hammer Grows into a Business

Matthew Dierksen of rural Chadron pretty much grew up with a hammer in his hand and it wasn't long before he added a chainsaw. "I got my building skills from my family," explained the co-owner of Dierksen Enterprises. "Growing up my dad was always a builder in addition to about every other job title... from logger to county operator to farmer. At a young age I watched as he and others in the family worked to build my sister's house. A few years later, I helped my dad and brother build my brother's new house."

Dierksen said he also had the opportunity to work with an uncle in Big Sky, Montana building resort homes. The Chadron High graduate, went to work for Hahn Enterprises after returning from Montana before starting their business. He and his wife Desiree' created an LLC in 2019 the year after they were married, but did not become fully operational until 2021. "In between that time while starting up our original business strategy of forestry and timber management services, the saw mill in Hill City, S.D. shut down. Timber prices went down as well as weekly load limits. All of which changed our business strategy. And by change I mean we jumped. In 2021 we changed our name from Dierksen Timber and Tree Co. LLC to Dierksen Enterprises LLC and began doing carpentry," explained Dierksen. "It picked up and we quickly found a niche of



**Dierksen Enterprises LLC's current crew, from left, Ionon Harris, Austin Harron, Matthew Dierksen, Cord Coats and Wesley Jacobs. (Not pictured, Cade Lockhart and Steve Simmons.**

doing jobs for farmers and ranchers with properties miles from town, we've worked all over Sheridan, western Cherry, and Dawes. I have a few customers in surrounding states as well."

Dierksen Enterprises can do all construction jobs... big or small from commercial shops to residential remodels. "We can design additions, and I work with engineers and architects to create new builds and custom building, be it a commercial setting or new home," said Dierksen.

"I truly don't believe I have a specialty, my business strategy has been taking any job I can complete and profit from and it's truly work. We live in a small economy so it's hard to become to specified from a business standpoint," said Dierksen. "Sometimes we build pole barns, other times we're finishing sheet rock, or laying tile flooring. I prefer to stay versatile, and have created a crew that enjoys that too."

Dierksen says it's probably a tie between his two biggest projects. "We remodeled the service manager's area at Eagle Chevrolet in Chadron into a service manager's office, with storage built above and a custom desk/counter. The budget was large and it turned out beautifully." The other project that's equally as large was for Strong Insurance formerly of Gordon now of Chadron. We are FULLY remodel  
**(Continued on Page 2)**



**A barn in Burlington, Colo. gets a huge facelift.**



Dierksen Enterprises gave the Favorite Bar a facelift last fall. The new siding gave it a fresh new look.

## Dierksen Enterprises--

(Continued from Page 1)

ing a building in Chadron for their new office,” added Dierksen.

A few other of their projects include new siding on Favorite Bar in Chadron, multiple water damage rebuilds/remodels in basements, kitchen and bathroom remodels; window, siding and roof replacements; commercial and residential remodels. Rural projects include shop and garage builds; cattle barn and milking barn builds; and barn resurrections.

He enjoys working the Panhandle. “It is great for word of mouth business, people are mostly honest and straight forward, they just need the work done. And nowadays it seems like there’s very few people to do the work,” said Dierksen, who prefers to stay within 40 miles of Chadron, but have traveled as far as



Burlington Colo. for the right project.

Dierksen Enterprises LLC employees five full-time employees and two part-time. “I am always happy to hire more”

Matthew and Desiree live south of Chadron out on the Table and Deadhorse. He grew up not too far away southwest of Hay Springs on Antelope Valley.

Desiree also keeps busy with her own businesses. She runs a small swim school in Chadron called Mrs. Dierksen’s Little Swimmers. She has been a certified Water Safety Instructor with Red Cross since 2014. She also owns the Sugar Floss Catering Cart, which provides bags and buckets of cotton candy upon order, as well as live spin bookings for events such as birthday parties, graduations, etc. If that isn’t enough, she started making custom cakes and cookies this past year.

Although they are rural based they don’t raise crops or livestock, with the exception of Desiree raising a few chickens for eggs.

In their free time, they enjoy traveling mainly by motorcycle, sometimes locally and sometimes thousands of miles away! To find contact information and other recent projects, visit their facebook page or call him at (406) 581-1547.



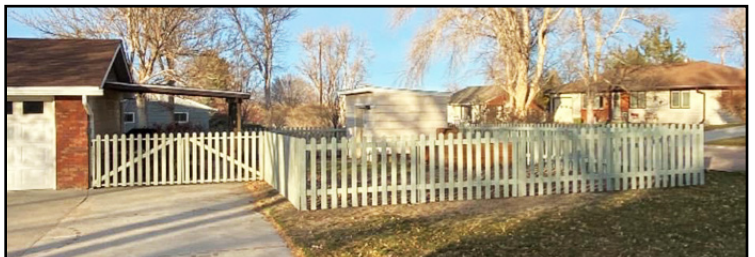
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Before and after of a Chadron residential fence redo.





**Countryroad Shot:  
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## Fall Energy Savings and Heating Tips for your Home

These fall energy saving tips can help you lower your heating bill and reduce wear and tear on your heating system. When you turn the heat on in the fall, you want to make sure your home is winter ready. From giving your heating system a thorough checkup to beefing up your insulation, we share these energy saving ways to heat your home and cut energy use.

### Tips for energy-efficient heating this fall

These energy-saving tips for fall will not only keep your home running efficiently, they will also make your home more comfortable.

#### 1. Find and prevent drafts throughout your home

One of the fastest and easiest upgrades you can make to save energy is adding, replacing and increasing weatherstripping around gaps in your home. The areas around windows, doors, and places where utilities enter your structure are prime sources for letting in cold drafts.

Not all weatherstripping is alike. Choose the right types of weatherstripping for each application. Sealing a garage door involves different weatherstripping than you would use for a window. When sealing cracks in your foundation, you may find caulk is the better option.

#### 2. Lower your home's thermostat to save energy

Thermostat energy saving tips address questions such as at what temperature should I set my thermostat and when should I turn on the heat in my house this fall.

Running your heating system less often will save energy, so setting your thermostat at a lower temperature will help. Keep

your thermostat between 68 and 70 degrees during the day and lower at night.

Many people forget to lower their thermostats at night. One of the benefits of a smart thermostat is that you don't have to rely on your memory.

#### 3. Open and close curtains for better energy efficiency

The sun is an incredible source of heat, even in the fall. Harness the sun's energy in simple ways. One of the best heating tips is to open curtains and drapes when the sun shines through your windows. Solar heat that enters through a well-insulated window can raise the temperature in a room by several degrees — without your heater having to do extra work. Pull your curtains tightly closed to add another layer of insulation against the cold outdoors when the sun moves on.

#### 4. Inspect your furnace before winter arrives

One of the best fall energy saving tips is to have an expert HVAC professional inspect your furnace. Regular seasonal inspections let you address issues before they become a problem, preventing things like a middle-of-the-night breakdown in below zero weather. HVAC inspections keep your system running efficiently all year.

Another of the classic home heating energy saving tips is to clean your system regularly. Dirty ducts and filters clogged with debris make your furnace work harder than it needs to to heat your home. When you turn the heat on in the fall, it's also the perfect time to replace your filters.

#### 5. Don't block your vents

Check around your home to make sure air can flow freely from your vents. Furniture or drapes that block vents waste energy by preventing heat from freely flowing into the room and circulating. If you can't move the furniture or drapes, an easy solution is to buy inexpensive vent extenders that direct air from vents under sofas or behind drapes out into the room.

#### 6. Use less energy for water heating during the fall

No list of fall energy saving tips would be complete without mentioning your hot-water heater. Check the temperature setting to make sure it isn't set too high. For most people, temperatures between 110 and 120 degrees are hot enough for washing dishes and bathing.

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# NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

## Gordon-Rushville Mustangs

**Fri., Sept. 1** GES Picture Day  
XC (V-MS) at Gering, 9 a.m.

**Mon., Sept. 4** **NO SCHOOL - Labor Day**

**Tues., Sept. 5** **G Golf at Chadron, 9 a.m.**  
**GES WINS first day**  
VB (MS) at Cody-Kilgore, 4 p.m.

**Wed., Sept. 6** **MTSS Leadership Meeting, 7:15 p.m.**

**Thurs., Sept. 7** **Girls Golf at Mitchell**  
**VB (MS) vs. Bayard, 4 p.m.**  
VB (JV-V) at Bayard, 5 p.m.

**Fri., Sept. 8** XC (V-MS) at Chadron, all day  
FB (V) at Sidney, 6 p.m.

**Sat., Sept. 9** VB (JV) at Chadron Quad, 9 a.m.  
**VB (V) G-R Invitational**

**Mon., Sept. 11** Girls Golf at Gering, 9 a.m.  
**FB (JV) vs. Chadron, 5 p.m.**  
**BOE Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**

**Tues., Sept. 12** FB (MS) at Bayard, 8 man, 4 p.m.  
VB (MS) at Bennett Co., 5 p.m.

**Thurs., Sept. 14** VB (MS) at Valentine Triangular, 4 p.m.  
VB (V) Tri at Cody-Kil (Ainsworth), 5 p.m.

**Fri., Sept. 15** **FB (V) vs. Ord (Homecoming), 6 p.m.**

**Sat., Sept. 16** **VB (MS) at Bennett Co. Tri, 9 a.m.**

**Mon., Sept. 18** **Dental Screen, Rush-Gordon Elementary**  
**VB (MS) vs. Hemingford, 4 p.m.**  
FB (JV) at Bridgeport, 5 p.m.

**Tues., Sept. 19** Girls Golf at Valentine  
VB (C-JV-V) at Alliance

**Wed., Sept. 20** **FB (MS) vs. Hemingford, 8 man, 5 p.m.**  
**GES NO SCHOOL - Staff Inservice**  
FB (MS) at Alliance, 10 a.m.  
VB (MS) at Chadron, 4 p.m.

**Thurs., Sept. 21** Girls Golf at Bridgeport, 9 a.m.  
**XC (V-MS) GR Invite, 4 p.m.**  
**FB (MS) vs. Bridgeport 8 man, 5 p.m.**

**Fri., Sept. 22** FB (V) at Chase Co., 6 p.m.

**Sat., Sept. 23** VB (JV-V) at Mitchell Invite, 9 a.m.

**Mon., Sept. 25** XC-V at UNK at Meadowlark Golf Course  
Girls Golf at Alliance, 9 a.m.  
**FB (JV) vs. Alliance, 5 p.m.**

**Tues., Sept. 26** **VB (C-JV-V) vs. Chadron**  
FB (MS) at Bennett Co - 9 man, 5 p.m.

**Thurs., Sept. 28** VB (MS) at Valentine  
VB (V) at WTC at Bayard  
XC (V-MS) at Bayard Chimney Rock Course  
**FB (V) vs. Valentine, 2 p.m.**

**Fri., Sept. 29** **FB (V) vs. Valentine, 2 p.m.**

**Sat., Sept. 30** VB (V) at Lead-Deadwood Invite, 9 a.m.  
VB (MS) at Hemingford Invite (A team), 9:30

**Mon., Oct 2** Girls Golf at NSAA Districts

**Tues., Oct. 3** **FB (MS) vs. Valentine 9-man**  
**XC (V-MS) at Kimball WTC, 10 a.m.**  
**VB (MS) at Alliance St. Agnes, 4 p.m.**

**Thurs., Oct. 5** VB (JV-V) vs. Valentine  
VB (MS) vs. Hay Springs, 4 p.m.

## Crawford Rams

**Fri., Sept. 1** XC at Gering, 11 a.m.



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# NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

**Mon., Sept. 4**  
**Tues., Sept. 5**  
**Thurs., Sept. 7**  
**Fri., Sept. 8**  
**Sat., Sept. 9**  
**Mon., Sept. 11**  
**Thurs., Sept. 14**  
**Fri., Sept. 15**  
**Sat., Sept. 16**  
**Mon., Sept. 18**  
**Tues., Sept. 19**  
**Wed., Sept. 20**  
**Thurs., Sept. 21**  
**Fri., Sept. 22**  
**Sat., Sept. 23**  
**Mon., Sept. 25**  
**Tues., Sept. 26**

**VB (V) vs. Potter-Dix, 4 p.m.**  
**FB (V) vs. Potter-Dix, 7 p.m.**  
**NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY**  
 FB (JV) at Edgemont, 4 p.m.  
 VB (JV) at Edgemont, 4 p.m.  
 VB (V) at Hay Springs Tri (Hemingford), 5 p.m.  
**VB (JH) vs. Chadron, 4 p.m.**  
 XC at Chadron, 10:30 a.m.  
**FB (V) vs. Creek Valley, 7 p.m.**  
 VB (JV) at Chadron Quad, tbd  
 VB (V) at Gordon Tourney, 9 a.m.  
 VB (JH) at Oshkosh, 3 p.m.  
 FB (JH) at Oshkosh, 4 p.m.  
**School Pictures, 8 a.m.**  
**FB (V) vs. Fleming, Colo, 6 p.m.**  
 XC at Alliance, 9 a.m.  
**VB (JV) vs. Hay Springs, 3:30 p.m.**  
**FB (JV) vs. Hay Springs, 5 p.m.**  
 FFA District Range Judging at Kimball, 8 a.m.  
**VB (V) vs. Edgemont, 5 p.m.**  
 FFA Edge Conference at Gering, 8 a.m.  
 XC at Gordon, 4 p.m.  
 VB (JH) at Harrison, 11 a.m.  
 FB (JH) at Harrison, 11:30 a.m.  
 FB (V) at Harrison, 2 p.m.  
 VB (V) at Harrison, 4:30 p.m.  
 VB (JH) PAC Tourney at Hemingford, 9 a.m.  
 VB (V) at Potter Tourney, 9 a.m.  
 VB (JH) at Hyannis, 2 p.m.  
 FB (JV) at Lusk, 4:30 p.m.  
 FFA State Range Judging at Saline Co.  
 XC at Bayard, 2:30 p.m.

**Fri., Sept. 29**  
**Sat., Sept. 30**

**FB (JH) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 2 p.m.**  
**VB (JH) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 2 p.m.**  
**VB (V) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 4 p.m.**  
**FB (V) vs. Cody-Kilgore, 7 p.m.**  
 FFA Livestock Judging in Bridgeport, 8 a.m.  
 VB (JH) at Hemingford Tourney, 9 a.m.  
 VB (V) at Morrill Tourney, 9 a.m.

## Hemingford Bobcats


**Fri., Sept. 1**  
**Mon., Sept. 4**  
**Tues., Sept. 5**  
**Thurs., Sept. 7**  
**Fri., Sept. 8**  
**Mon., Sept. 11**  
**Tues., Sept. 12**  
**Thurs., Sept. 14**  
**Fri., Sept. 15**  
**Sat., Sept. 16**

CC (JV-V) at Five Rocks Amphitheatre, 11 a.m.  
 FB (V) vs. Sutherland, 1 p.m.  
**NO SCHOOL**  
**VB (JH) vs. Kimball, 4 p.m.**  
 VB (V) Tri at Hay Springs (Crawford) 4 p.m.  
**FB (V) vs. Kimball, 5 p.m.**  
**VB vs. Leyton, 4 p.m.**  
 XC (JH-V) at Kimball, 1 p.m.  
**FB (V) vs. Hyannis, 7 p.m.**  
 VB (JH) at Morrill, 2 p.m.  
 VB (JV) at Bayard, 4 p.m.  
**FB (JH) vs. Morrill, 5 p.m.**  
 FB (JV) at Hyannis, 6 p.m.  
**XC (JH) tba**  
**VB (JV-V) vs. Edgemont, 5, 6:30 p.m.**  
 VB (JH) at Bridgeport, 4 p.m.  
**NO SCHOOL**  
 FB (V) at Bridgeport, 6 p.m.  
 XC (JH-V) at Alliance, 9 a.m.



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**Mon., Sept. 18** **VB (V) vs. Hemingford Invite, 9 a.m.**  
**FB (JV) vs. Morrill, 6 p.m.**  
**Tues., Sept. 19** **Cara Filler Assembly, Grades 7-12, 10 a.m.**  
 VB (JH) at Gordon-Rushville  
 VB (V) at Bridgeport, 4 p.m.  
 FB (JH) at Gordon-Rushville, 5 p.m.  
**Thurs., Sept. 21** XC (JH-V) at Sandridge Golf Course  
 VB (JH) at Bayard, 4 p.m.  
 FB (JH) at Bayard, 5 p.m.  
**Fri., Sept. 22** FB (V) at Maxwell, 6 p.m.  
**Sat., Sept. 23** VB (V) at Mitchell, 9 a.m.  
**Mon., Sept. 25** **VB (JH) PanCo Tourney at Home, 9 a.m.**  
 XC at Kearney, 12 p.m.  
 FB (JV) at Kimball, 5 p.m.  
**Tues., Sept. 26** VB (JH) at Hyannis, 1 p.m.  
 FB (JH) at Hyannis, 2 p.m.  
**Wed., Sept. 27** **School Picture Day, PreK-12 & Fall Activity/Sports**  
**Thurs., Sept. 28** VB (V) WTC Tourney, tba  
 XC (JH-V) at Chimney Rock Course, 2:30 p.m.  
**Fri., Sept. 29** **FB (V) vs. Bayard, 2 p.m.**  
**Sat., Sept. 30** **VB (JH) Hemingford Tourney, 9 a.m.**

## Chadron Cardinals

**Fri., Sept. 1** XC (MS-V) at Five Rocks Amphitheatre, 11 a.m.  
 FB (V) at Gering, 7 p.m.  
**Sat., Sept. 2** SB at McCook Invite, 8 a.m.  
**Mon., Sept. 4** **NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY**  
**Tues., Sept. 5** **G Golf at Ridgeview Country Club, 9 a.m.**  
 SB (JV-V) vs. Gering at Oregon Park, 4, 6 p.m.  
 VB (C-JV-V) at Alliance, 4, 5, 6 p.m.  
**VB (8th) vs. St. Agnes, 4 p.m., (B follows)**  
**Wed., Sept. 6** **Picture Day**  
**Thurs., Sept. 7** **Picture Day**  
 G Golf at Mitchell  
**VB (C-JV-V) vs. Gering, 4, 5, 6 p.m.**  
 VB (MS) at Crawford, 4 p.m.  
**Fri., Sept. 8** SB (JV) Tourney at Scottsbluff, tbd  
 XC (MS-V) at Chadron State, 10:30 a.m.  
 FB (V) at Mitchell, 7 p.m.  
**Sat., Sept. 9** SB at Scottsbluff, tbd  
 VB (MS) at Gering/Sidney, 8:30 a.m.  
 FB (MS) at Mitchell, 7th-9 a.m.; 8th-10:30 a.m.  
**VB (JV) Quad at Chadron, 9 a.m.**  
**Mon., Sept. 11** Girls Golf at Moment Shadows Meet, 9 a.m.  
 FB (JV) at Gordon-Rushville, 5 p.m.  
**Tues., Sept. 12** SB (JV-V) at Alliance, JV-4 p.m., V-6 p.m.  
**Thurs., Sept. 14** **SB (JV-V) vs. Bayard, JV-4 p.m., V-6 p.m.**  
**Fri., Sept. 15** Vb (V) at Gothenburg, 12 p.m.  
 SB (V) at Chase County, 3:30 p.m.  
**FB (V) vs. Valentine, 6 p.m.**  
**Sat., Sept. 16** XC (MS-V) at Alliance Laing Lake Park, 9 a.m.  
 FB (MS) at Alliance, 7th-9 a.m., 8th-10:30 a.m.  
 VB (MS) at Alliance Invite, 9 a.m.  
 VB at Gothenburg Invite, 9:30 a.m.

**Mon., Sept. 18** SB at North Platte Dowhower Complex, 11 a.m.  
**FB (JV) vs. Gering, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Tues., Sept. 19** Girls Golf at Ogallala Invite, 9 a.m.  
**SB (JV-V) vs. Gering, JV-4 p.m., V-6 p.m.**  
**Thurs., Sept. 21** XC (MS) at Gordon Country Club, tba  
 XC (V) at Ogallala Invite, 3 p.m.  
 SB (V) at Ogallala, vs. Hershey, 3 p.m.; vs. McCook at 4:30 p.m.  
**Fri., Sept. 22** **FB (V) vs. Gothenburg, 6 p.m.**  
**Sat., Sept. 23** FB (MS) at Torrington, 8th-9 a.m.; 7th-10:30  
 SB (JV) at Alliance Quad Murray Complex, 10  
 VB (JV) at Scottsbluff Invite, 10 a.m.  
**Mon., Sept. 25** Girls Golf at Alliance Skyview, 9 a.m.  
 VB (MS-7th) at Scottsbluff Invite, 4 p.m.  
 VB (8th) at Mitchell Invite, 4 p.m.  
**FB (JV) vs. Torrington, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Tues., Sept. 26** **SB (JV-V) vs. Scottsbluff, JV-4 p.m., V-6 p.m.**  
 VB (C-JV-V) at Gordon-Rush, 4, 5, 6 p.m.  
**Thurs., Sept. 28** **FB (MS) vs. Hot Springs, 7th-5 p.m., 8th-6:30**  
**Fri., Sept. 30** VB (MS) at Torrington, 7th-HS, 8th-MS, 9 a.m.  
 FB (V) at Scottsbluff Invite, 9 a.m.  
 SB (V) at Alliance Invite, 12 p.m.

## Hay Springs Hawks

**Fri., Sept. 1** XC (JH-V) at Gering, 11 a.m.  
**Mon., Sept. 4** **NO SCHOOL - LABOR DAY**  
**Tues., Sept. 5** **VB (V) HS Tri (Crawford/Hemingford), 4 p.m.**  
**Wed., Sept. 6** **Hawk Talk at Senior Center, 8 a.m.**  
**Thurs., Sept. 7** **FB (V) vs. Potter-Dix, 7 p.m.**  
**Fri., Sept. 8** XC (JH-V) at Chadron State, 10:30 a.m.  
**Sat., Sept. 9** VB (V) at Gordon-Rushville Tourney, 9 a.m.  
**Tues., Sept. 12** **FB (JH) vs. Banner Co., 4 p.m.**  
**VB (V) Hay Springs Invite (C-K, Hyan.) 4 p.m.**  
**Thurs., Sept. 14** VB (JH) at Alliance St. Agnes, 4 p.m.  
**Parent-Teacher Conferences**  
**Fri., Sept. 15** FB (V) at Arthur County, 2 p.m.  
**Sat., Sept. 16** XC (JH-V) at Alliance, 9 a.m.  
**Mon., Sept. 18** VB (JV) at Crawford, 3:30 p.m.  
 FB (JV) at Crawford, 5 p.m.  
**Tues., Sept. 19** FFA District Range Judging at Kimball Co.  
 XC (JH-V) at Hot Springs, 9 a.m.  
**Thurs., Sept. 21** XC (JH-V) at Gordon-Rushville, 4 p.m.  
**FB (JH) vs. Edgemont, 4 p.m.**  
**VB (JH) vs. Edgemont, 4 p.m.**  
 VB (V) at Leyton Invite (Kimball), 4 p.m.  
**Fri., Sept. 22** **FB vs. Garden Co., 2:30 p.m.**  
*(Salute the Troops Night)*  
**Sat., Sept. 23** VB (JH) PanCo at Hemingford, 9 a.m.  
**Mon., Sept. 25** VB (JH) at Hyannis Triangular (C-K), 2 p.m.  
 Sept. 26-27 State Range Judging at Saline Co.  
**Thurs., Sept. 28** XC (JH-V) at Bayard, 2:30 p.m.  
**Fri., Sept. 29** FB (V) at Minatare, 2 p.m.  
 FB (V) at Minatare, 4 p.m.  
**Sat., Sept. 30** FFA Livestock Judging at Bridgeport  
 VB (JH) at Hemingford Tourney, 9 a.m.  
 VB (V) at Morrill, 9 a.m.



## Recipes



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

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

### Slow Cooker Peach Cobbler

- ¾ cup old-fashioned oats
- ¾ cup white sugar
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- ½ cup all-purpose baking mix (such as Bisquick®)
- ¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 5 fresh peaches - peeled, pitted, and sliced

Grease the inside of a 3- to 4-quart slow cooker crock.

Mix oats, white sugar, brown sugar, baking mix, and cinnamon together in a bowl; stir in peaches and spoon mixture into prepared slow cooker.

Cook on Low for 4 hours.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Peach & Tomato Caprese Salad

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 teaspoon flaked salt, divided
- 2 large heirloom tomatoes, thinly sliced
- 2 ripe peaches - halved, pitted, and sliced into half moons
- 1 (8 ounce) ball fresh mozzarella, thinly sliced
- 6 leaves fresh basil

Whisk olive oil, balsamic vinegar, and 1 pinch flaked salt together in a bowl until dressing is smooth.

Alternate tomato slices, peach slices, mozzarella slices, and basil leaves in layers on a platter. Drizzle dressing over salad and sprinkle remaining flaked salt on top.

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\* \* \* \* \*

### Banana Split Ice Cream Pie

- 20 chocolate wafer cookies, finely crushed
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 2 bananas, sliced
- 1 quart strawberry ice cream, softened
- 1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- ¼ cup chopped walnuts
- ¼ cup maraschino cherries (Optional)

Mix cookie crumbs with melted butter. Press into a 9-inch pie plate.

Arrange bananas over bottom of crust. Spread ice cream in an even layer over bananas. Top with drained pineapple. Whip the cream and spread over top. Sprinkle with nuts.

Place pie in freezer for 4 hours or until firm. Garnish with cherries, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Honey Garlic Pork Chops

- ½ cup ketchup
- 2 2/3 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 6 (4 ounce) (1-inch thick) pork chops

Preheat grill for medium heat and lightly oil the grate. Gather ingredients.

Whisk ketchup, honey, soy sauce, and garlic together in a bowl to make a glaze.

Sear the pork chops on both sides on the preheated grill. Lightly brush glaze onto each side of the chops as they cook; grill until no longer pink in the center, about 7 to 9 minutes per side. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 145 degrees F (63 degrees C).

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## NRPPD ENTERTAINMENT

# Find Something to Celebrate in September

- Sept. 1:** National Burnt Ends Day, Food Bank Day, Lazy Mom's Day, National College Colors Day, Chicken Boy Day.
- Sept. 2:** National Play Outside Day, World Beard Day, Tailgating Day, V-j Day, National Blueberry Popsicle Day.
- Sept. 3:** National Cinema Day, Bowling League Day, National Welsch Rarebit Day.
- Sept. 4:** National Spice Blend Day, Macadamia Nut Day, Newspaper Carrier Day, National Wildlife Day, Labor Day.
- Sept. 5:** National Be Late for Something Day, National Cheese Pizza Day.
- Sept. 6:** National Read a Book Day, Coffee Ice Cream Day, Another Look Unlimited Day.
- Sept. 7:** New Hampshire Day, Grateful Patient Day, National Beer Lover's Day, Salami Day, Acorn Squash Day.
- Sept. 8:** Star Trek Day, National School Picture Day, World Ampersand Day, Pediatric Hematology/oncology Nurses Day.
- Sept. 9:** National Wiener Schnitzel Day, Share Your Care Day, National Teddy Bear Day.
- Sept. 10:** National TV Dinner Day, Pet Memorial Day, Hug Your Hound Day, National Grandparents Day.
- Sept. 11:** National Boss/Employee Exchange Day, Hot Cross Bun Day, Make Your Bed Day, Patriot Day.
- Sept. 12:** National Hug & High 5 Day, Just One Human Family Day, Chocolate Milkshake Day, Day of Encouragement Day.
- Sept. 13:** Uncle Sam Day, Day of the Programmer, Peanut Day, Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day, Bald is Beautiful Day.
- Sept. 14:** National Parents Day Off, Sober Day, National Virginia Day, Live Creative Day, Eat a Hoagie Day.
- Sept. 15:** Neonatal Nurses Day, Tackle Kids Cancer Day, Cheese Toast Day, Double Cheeseburger Day.
- Sept. 16:** Guacamole Day, Working Parents Day, Stepfamily Day, Play-doh Day, National Pow/mia Recognition Day.
- Sept. 17:** Professional House Cleaners Day, Dance Day, Gymnastics Day, National Apple Dumpling Day.
- Sept. 18:** Air Force Birthday, Wife Appreciation Day, National Hiv/aids & Aging Awareness Day, Cheeseburger Day.
- Sept. 19:** National Butterscotch Pudding Day, Talk Like a Pirate Day.
- Sept. 20:** National Care for Kids Day, Fried Rice Day, Pepperoni Pizza Day, String Cheese Day, IT Professionals Day.
- Sept. 21:** National Chai Day, New York Day, National Pecan Cookie Day.
- Sept. 22:** National States & Capitals Day, Online Recovery Day, PawPaw Day, Centenarian's Day, Ice Cream Cone Day.
- Sept. 23:** Seat Check Saturday, Snack Stick Day, Great American Pot Pie Day, Autumnal Equinox.
- Sept. 24:** National Singles Day, Save Your Photos Day, Ghost Hunting Day, Gold Star Mother's and Family Day.
- Sept. 25:** Open the Magic Day, Daughter's Day, Quesadilla Day, Family Day, Lobster Day, National Tune-up Day.
- Sept. 26:** Compliance Officer Day, Dumpling Day, Pancake Day, Voter Registration Day, Shamu the Whale Day.
- Sept. 27:** National Day of Forgiveness, Scarf Day, Corned Beef Hash Day, Crush a Can Day, Chocolate Milk Day.
- Sept. 28:** North Carolina Day, Drink Beer Day, Strawberry Cream Pie Day, Good Neighbor Day.
- Sept. 29:** Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day, National VFW Day, National Coffee Day.
- Sept. 30:** Orange Shirt Day, Love People Day, Hot Mulled Cider Day, Mud Pack Day, Chewing Gum Day.

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Bits 'n Pieces...

Simple Formula for Living

- Live beneath your means.
• Return everything you borrow.
• Stop blaming other people.
• Admit it when you make a mistake.
• Give clothes not worn to charity.
• Do something nice and try not to get caught.
• Listen more; talk less.
• Every day take a 30 minute walk.
• Strive for excellence, not perfection.
• Be on time. Don't make excuses.
• Don't argue. Get organized.
• Be kind to unkind people.
• Let someone cut ahead of you in line.
• Take time to be alone.
• Cultivate good manners.
• Be humble.
• Realize and accept that life isn't fair.
• Know when to keep your mouth shut.
• Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.
• Learn from your past. Plan for the future.
• Live in the present.
• Don't sweat the small stuff.
• It's all small stuff.

\* \* \* \* \*

Why English is Hard to Learn

We'll begin with box, the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox is oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, and two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose is never called meese.

You may find a lone mouse or a house full of mice;
Put the plural of house is houses, not hicie.
The plural of man is always men,
But the plural of pan is never pen.

If I speak of a foot, and you show me two feet,
And I give you a book, would a pair be a beek?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't two booths be called beeth?

If the singular's this and the plural is these,
Should the plural of kiss be ever called keese?

We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculan pronounces are he, his, and him;
But imagine the feminine.... she, shis, and shim!

--Anonymous



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