

# Northwest Rural Public Power District

Hay Springs, NE 69347

September 2024

## Dawes Co. Rancher Invests in Custom Services

About the time Tim McClaren, of Sand Canyon Ranch, made the decision to disperse his cattle he came across the perfect business opportunity. “Ken Janssen from the Gordon area was needing to slow down due to health reasons in 2021. He had started Janssen Hay Grinding and built up quite an established clientele over many years,” said McClaren. It seemed like the perfect match, it was flexible and he could continue his ranch work. He and his wife Lori decided to invest in this new adventure. Lori just recently retired from NCAP-Head Start this past May after 30 years. She does the T&L book work portion .

Tim graduated from Custer, S.D. high school in 1983. His family ranched near Pringle, S.D. and in 2004, his Dad and brothers decided to buy a ranch together in southeastern Dawes County, the former Pepper Creek Ranch. He met his future wife, Lori (Gering) Heiting the following year and they were married in 2010. They built a new home on the property in 2009.

McClaren’s current hired man, Brad Lipps, previously worked at the sale barn in Rushville, began in 2021 and assists with the grinding business and has since joined in an another business venture. Lipps is a native of Hay Springs graduating in 2007 and has a five-year-old daughter, Everleigh.

**Why grind your hay?** Grinding eliminates a lot of waste. The truck-mounted grinding tub is filled with round bales of corn stalks, grass hay, alfalfa, millet.... or any small



Tim and Lori McClaren, owners of T&L Grinding launched their business in 2019 and have since expanded with other ag services. T&L is based southwest of Hay Springs on Sand Canyon Ranch.

grain. The big bales revolve in the tub as they’re shred apart and sent out on a conveyor system into a pile of feed. Grinding hay and forage more finely can keep cattle from picking through their food. Grinding lower quality forages is a way to make the feed more palatable to cattle. It’s a typical part of winter feeding, and provides another option during drought when pastures aren’t available for grazing and hay quality degrades.

T&L Grinding recently upgraded their grinder, which previously was a HayBuster 530 for more horse power, a HayBuster 640 hp.

T&L has customers in South Dakota including Martin, Batesland, Long Valley, Pine Ridge; then in Nebraska from Cody to Alliance. “We would be more than happy to travel further to assist ranchers,”

(Continued on Page 2)



The grinder in full operation last fall. It can chew up a stack of hay bales in no time.

## T&L Grinding--

(Continued from Page 1)

said McClaren. One of his regular customers is a feedlot east of Alliance near Antioch, Strategy Feeders. However, about 80 percent of their customers are ranchers feeding their own livestock.

The customer provides a tractor on site to feed the grinder. "Either the farmer can operate the tractor or we can," explained McClaren. The service is charged by the hour with mileage built in that fee. The grinder is actually operated by a remote control, typically from inside the truck. Wetter hay is a little harder to grind, it depends on the quality and moisture content. Most hay is ground within seconds. The demand for the grinder is always higher during the winter months.

In addition to the grinding business, McClaren, Lipps and Tim's nephew Chris McClaren have expanded with a second business, "McLipps Custom Harvesting", adding chopping to their service. Ranchers often mix the ground hay with silage in a feed wagon for an even more desirable feed product. Chris relocated to the area from North Dakota in 2019 with his wife Amanda. In addition to ranching, Chris is an accomplished mechanic. The couple have a daughter, Aharis, a freshman at Hemingford High School.

The McClarens are currently downsizing and have their ranch for sale with plans of relocating closer to Hay Springs. The move will let them continue to do custom services like the grinding, chopping and haying.



**"McLipps Custom Harvesting" is a chopping partnership between, Tim McClaren, his hired man Brad Lipps, and his nephew Chris McClaren. McLipps is a chopping crew serving the Nebraska Panhandle and surrounding areas. Call Tim, Chris or Brad today! Tim - (308) 430-2894, Chris - (308) 430-8591, Brad - (308) 360-2607.**

Tim and Lori have a blended family of four adult children: his son Kyle lives in Billings, Mont. where he is a deputy. Lori has three daughters, Kayla and Lexi, both live in Hay Springs with their families, while her youngest, Jordyn lives out on the Table with her husband. Combined, they will have soon to be eight grandchildren. Tim and Lori keep busy following their activities.

As Brad referred to it on the "McLipps Custom Harvesting Facebook Page, the three partners are ready to help make "Cow Chow" for all the area cattle operations in Northwest Nebraska and surrounding area. Give them a call, they will consider travelling to other bordering states.



**T&L Grinding, together with McLipps Chopping are ready to roll this fall to help with your cattle feeding needs. Many farmers/ranchers blend the ground hay with silage in their feed wagons to fatten their cattle.**



Countryroad Shot:

**Dawes  
Country**

Dawes County

**April**

**2016**

*~ by Jim  
Manternach*

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## Tips for Eco-Friendly Fall Energy Savings

### Look for Drafts & Seal Them

Jump on fall energy savings before it starts to get cold. Walk around your home and look for spots where you can feel a cold draft. Check windows and doors for any gaps that could let heat out or cold air in and use weatherstripping to seal these areas. You can also caulk any cracks around cuts in the walls made for pipes or in unfinished spaces like basements and attics.

### Take Advantage of Sunlight

Window coverings can easily help you control the temperature in your home with minimal effort. Open your blinds and curtains during the day to let sunlight in, especially through south-facing windows. Natural light can keep your home cozy and warm without the need for a heating system. Later in the day, when the sun starts to go down, close the curtains to hold in the heat and keep colder air out for peak heating energy efficiency.

### Schedule a Furnace Inspection

Early fall is the ideal time to schedule a professional inspection of your heating system. Doing so gives you the opportunity to ensure your furnace is working properly before you really need to use it. It can also help you avoid emergency repairs in the future. If you have plans for a larger home retrofitting, upgrade to an ENERGY STAR® furnace.

### Adjust the Thermostat

Keeping your home warm and comfortable in the cooler months starts with the heater, but there should be more to your

heating strategy. How you use your thermostat can also help you save energy. Keep your thermostat around 70 degrees for a comfortable temperature during the day and lower the thermostat at night and when you leave the house. Or, even better, install a smart thermostat that you can set to adjust automatically throughout the day.

### Reverse Your Ceiling Fans

Ceiling fans can keep a room cool in the summer, but did you know they can keep rooms warm during cooler fall temperatures? Set your ceiling fans to turn clockwise. This pushes down warm air that has risen upward, adding heat to the room without raising the thermostat. If your home doesn't have ceiling fans, install them in high-use rooms, like the living room or bedrooms. ?

### Change Water Heater Settings

A significant part of your monthly utility bills goes to heating water for showering, washing clothes and dishes, and other daily chores. Simply changing the temperature setting on your water heater could reduce your energy consumption, save you money, and create a more energy-efficient home. Set your water heater to the warm setting (120 degrees Fahrenheit) to simultaneously conserve energy and avoid the potential for scalding. If your water heater is an older model, it may be time to invest in a new one. Learn all about energy-efficient water heaters and how to find the right one for your home.

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# NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

## Gordon-Rushville Mustangs

**Mon., Sept. 2** NO SCHOOL - Labor Day  
**Tues., Sept. 3** VB (JV-V) at Mitchell Tri (Bridgeport), 4 p.m.  
**Thurs., Sept. 5** VB (C-JV-V) vs. Chadron, 4 p.m.  
**Fri., Sept. 6** CC (MS-HS) at Gering Five Rocks, 11 a.m.  
**FB (V) vs. O'Neill, 6 p.m.**  
**Mon., Sept. 9** Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.  
**Tues., Sept. 10** VB (MS) at Cody-Kilgore, 4 p.m.  
**Thurs., Sept. 12** VB (MS) vs. Bayard, 3 p.m.  
**VB (C-JV-V) vs. Bayard, 3 p.m.**  
**Fri., Sept. 13** CC (MS-HS) at Chadron, 10 a.m.  
**FB (V) at Chase Co., 6 p.m.**  
**Sat., Sept. 14** VB (V) Invite, 9 a.m.  
**Sept. 16-20** Homecoming Week  
**Mon., Sept. 16** Highway Safety Assembly  
**Tues., Sept. 17** CC (MS-HS) at Bridgeport, 4 p.m.  
**FB (MS) vs. Bayard, 4 p.m.**  
**Thurs., Sept. 19** VB (V) vs. Cody-Kil/Ainsworth Tri, 4 p.m.  
**VB (MS) at Valentine Triangular, 4 p.m.**  
**Fri., Sept. 20** FB (V) vs. Gibbon, Homecoming, 6 p.m.  
**Homecoming Dance, 9 a.m.**  
**Sat., Sept. 21** VB (MS) Invite, 9 a.m.  
**CC (MS-HS) at Alliance, 10 a.m.**  
**Mon., Sept. 23** GRHS Music Fundraiser  
**VB (MS) vs. Hemingford, 4 p.m.**  
**FB (MS) vs. Hemingford, 5 p.m.**  
**Tues., Sept. 24** VB (C-JV-V) vs. Alliance, 4 p.m.  
**VB (MS) vs. Chadron, 4 p.m.**  
**Wed., Sept. 25** NO SCHOOL - Teacher Inservice

**Thurs., Sept. 26** CC (MS-HS) G-R Invite, Gordon Golf Course, 4 p.m.  
**FB (MS) at Bridgepot, 5 p.m.**  
**Fri., Sept. 27** FB (V) at Mitchell, 6 p.m.  
**Sat., Sept. 28** VB (JV-V) at Mitchell Invite  
**Mon., Sept. 30** CC (HS) at UNK Invite  
**Tues., Oct. 1** VB (C-JV-V) at Chadron, 4 p.m.  
**VB (MS) vs. Valentine, 4 p.m.**  
**FB (MS) vs. Bennett Co., 5 p.m.**  
**Thurs., Oct. 3** VB (V) WTC Tourney at Kimball  
**CC (MS-HS) at Bayard, 2:30 p.m.**  
**G-R HS Parent Teacher Conf., 4-7 p.m.**  
**Fri., Oct. 4** FB (V) vs. Kearney Catholic, 6 p.m.  
**Sat., Oct. 5** VB (V) Mile High Invite at Lead-Deadwood

## Crawford Rams

**Tues., Sept. 3** VB (JH) at Minatare, 1 p.m.  
**FB (JH) at Minatare, 2 p.m.**  
**Thurs., Sept. 5** VB (JH) at Hyannis, 2 p.m.  
**Fri., Sept. 6** CC at Gering Five Rocks Ampetheatre, 9:30  
**Mon., Sept. 9** FB (JH) vs. Edgemont, 4 p.m.  
**VB (JH) vs. Edgemont, 4 p.m.**  
**Tues., Sept. 10** VB (V) vs. Lusk/Hemingford, 5 p.m.  
**Thurs., Sept. 12** School Pictures  
**VB (JH) at Chadron, 4 p.m.**  
**Fri., Sept. 13** CC at Chadron, 10:30 a.m.  
**FB (V) vs. Leyton, 7 p.m.**  
**Sat., Sept. 14** VB (V) at Gordon-Rushville, 9 a.m.  
**Mon., Sept. 16** VB (JH) vs. Garden County, 3 p.m.  
**FB (JH) vs. Garden County, 4 p.m.**  
**Tues., Sept. 17** VB (JV-V) vs. Mitchell, 4 p.m.

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# NORTHWEST RURAL ACTIVITIES

**Thurs., Sept. 19** FB (JH) vs. Sioux County, 3 p.m.  
**VB (JH) vs. Sioux County, 3 p.m.**  
 Sat., Sept. 21 CC at Alliance Laing Lake Park, 9 a.m.  
 VB (JH) at Rushville, 9 a.m.  
**Mon., Sept. 23** VB (JV) at Hay Springs, 3:30 p.m.  
**FB (JV) at Hay Springs, 5 p.m.**  
 Tues., Sept. 24 VB (JV-V) at Edgemont, 5 p.m.  
**Thurs., Sept. 26** **Early Dismissal, 12:30 p.m.**  
**PT Conference, 2-8 p.m.**  
 CC at G-R Gordon Country Club, 4 p.m.  
**Fri., Sept. 27** **NO SCHOOL - Staff Prof. Dev., 8 a.m.**  
 FB (JH) at Cody-Kilgore, 10 a.m.  
 VB (JH) at Cody-Kilgore, 11 a.m.  
 FB (V) at Cody-Kilgore, 1 p.m.  
 VB (V) at Cody-Kilgore, 4 p.m.  
 Sat., Sept. 28 VB (JH) PanCo at Morrill, 9 a.m.  
 VB (V) at Potter-Dix, 9 a.m.  
**Mon., Sept. 30** **FB (JV) vs. Lusk, 4:30 p.m.**  
 Tues., Oct. 1 VB (JH) at St. Agnes, 3 p.m.  
 VB (JV-V) at Morrill, 5 p.m.  
 Thurs., Oct. 3 CC at Bayard Chimney Rock Golf Course, 2:30  
**Fri., Oct. 4** **Parent-Senior Night, time tbd**  
**FB (JH) vs. Hay Springs, 2 p.m.**  
**VB (JH) vs. Hay Springs, 2 p.m.**  
**VB (JV-V) vs. Hay Springs, 4 p.m.**  
**FB (V) vs. Hay Springs, 7 p.m.**  
 Sat., Oct. 5 VB (JH) at Hemingford, 9 a.m.  
 VB (V) at Morrill, 9 a.m.

Fri., Sept. 6 CC (V) at Gering Five Rocks, 11:40 p.m.  
**VB (JV-V) vs. Hyannis, 5, 6 p.m.**  
**FB (V) vs. Hyannis, 7 p.m.**  
 Mon., Sept. 9 FB (JV) at Bayard, 6 p.m.  
**Tues., Sept. 10** **VB (JV-V) vs. Hay Springs, 3, 4 p.m.**  
 VB (JH) at Kimball, 4 p.m.  
 FB (JH) at Kimball, 5 p.m.  
 Thurs., Sept. 12 VB (V) at Leyton, 4 p.m.  
 VB (JV) at Banner County, 4 p.m.  
 Fri., Sept. 13 CC at Chadron Invite, 9 a.m.  
 FB (V) at Bayard, 2 p.m.  
 Sat., Sept. 14 VB (JV) at Chadron, 9 a.m.  
**Mon., Sept. 16** **VB (JH) vs. Morrill, 2 p.m.**  
**FB (JH) vs. Morrill, 3 p.m.**  
 VB (JV) at Mitchell Invite, 4 p.m.  
**FB (JV) vs. Hyannis, 6 p.m.**  
 Tues., Sept. 17 CC (V) at Courthouse Rock, 4 p.m.  
 VB (JV-V) at Edgemont, 4, 5:30 p.m.  
 Thurs., Sept. 19 VB (JH) at Bridgepot, 4 p.m.  
**Fri., Sept. 20** **FB (V) vs. Kimball, 7 p.m.**  
**Sat., Sept. 21** **VB (V) vs. Minatare/Morrill Tri, 9 a.m.**  
 CC at Skyview Country Club, 9 a.m.  
 Mon., Sept. 23 VB (JH) at Gordon-Rushville, 4 p.m.  
 FB (JH) at Gordon-Rushville, 5 p.m.  
 FB (JV) at Morrill, 6 p.m.  
 Tues., Sept. 24 VB (JV) at Bridgeport Tri (Morrill), 3 p.m.  
**Wed., Sept. 25** **School Picture Day**  
**Thurs., Sept. 26** **School Picture Day**  
 VB (JH) at Bayard, 4 p.m.  
 FB (JH) at Bayard, 5 p.m.  
 Fri., Sept. 27 FB (V) at Morrill, 7 p.m.  
 Sat., Sept. 28 VB (JV-V) at Mitchell, 8 a.m.

**(Continued on Page 8)**

## Hemingford Bobcats

**Mon., Sept. 2** Labor Day - No School  
**Thurs., Sept. 5** VB (JV-V) vs. Mitchell, 5, 6 p.m.

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# NRPPD ACTIVITIES

## Hemingford continued--

Mon., Sept. 30 VB (JH) PanCo at Morrill, 9 a.m.  
 FCCLA Fall Leadership Workshop  
 CC at Kearney Country Club, 2:30 p.m.  
**FB (JV) vs. Kimball, 6 p.m.**

**Tues., Oct. 1 VB (JH) vs. Hyannis, 2 p.m.**  
**FB (JH) vs. Hyannis, 3 p.m.**

Thurs., Oct. 3 VB (V) WTC at Kimball, all day

**Fri., Oct. 4 FB (V) vs. Sutherland, 7 p.m.**

Sat., Oct. 5 VB (JH) at Hemingford (Sioux Co.), 9 a.m.

## Chadron Cardinals

Mon., Sept. 2 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

Tues., Sept. 3 Girls Golf at Scottsbluff CC, 9 a.m.  
 SB (JV-V) vs. Scottsbluff, 4, 6 p.m.  
 VB (C-JV-V) at Scottsbluff, 4, 5, 6 p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 5 SB (JV-V) vs. Bayard, 4, 6 p.m.  
 VB (C-JV-V) at Gordon-Rush., 4, 5, 6 p.m.  
 VB (MS) vs. Hot Springs, 4, 5 p.m.

Fri., Sept. 6 CC (JV-V) at Gering Five Rocks, 9:30 a.m.  
 FB (V) at Valentine, 6 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 7 SB at McCook Jaycee SB Complex, 8 a.m.

Mon., Sept. 9 FB (JV) at Valentine, 5 p.m.  
 Homecoming Week

Tues., Sept. 10 Girls Golf at Ridgeview, 9 a.m.  
 SB (JV-V) at Gering, 4, 6 p.m.  
 VB (C-JV-V) vs. Alliance, 4, 5, 6 p.m.  
 VB (MS) at Alliance St. Agnes, A & B, 4, 5 p.m.

Sept. 11-12 Picture Day

Thurs., Sept. 12 Girls Golf at Scenic Knolls Golf Course, 9 a.m.  
 VB (C-JV-V) at Gering, 4, 5, 6 p.m.  
 VB (MS) vs. Crawford, 4, 5 p.m.

Fri., Sept. 13 CC (MS-V) vs. Wheat Academy at CSC, 10:30  
 FB (V) vs. Mitchell, 7 p.m.  
 Homecoming Dance, HS Commons, 9 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 14 SB at Hal Murray Softball Complex, tbd  
 VB (MS) at Gering Invite, 8:30 a.m.  
**FB (7th-8th) vs. Mitchell, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.**  
**VB (JV) Quad at Chadron (Gering, Scottsbluff, Gordon-Rushville), 9 a.m.**

Mon. Sept. 16 Girls Golf at Monument Shadows, 9 a.m.  
**FB (JV) vs. Douglas, 5 p.m.**

**Tues., Sept. 17 Girls Softball (JV-V) vs. Alliance, 4, 6 p.m.**  
 VB (JV-V) at Bridgeport Tri., 4 p.m.

**Thurs., Sept. 19 Parent-Teacher Conf., 5 a.m.-8:30 p.m.**  
 Softball (JV-V) at Bayard, 4, 6 p.m.

Fri., Sept. 20 VB (V) at Gothenberg, 12 p.m.  
 SB (V) Dual at Chase County, 3:30 p.m.  
**FB (V) vs. Gothenberg, 6 p.m.**

Sat., Sept. 21 VB (MS) at Alliance, 8:30 a.m.  
 CC (MS-V) at Alliance Laing Lake, 9 a.m.  
**FB (7th-8th) vs. Alliance, 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m.**  
 SB at Dowhower Invite, 11 a.m.

**Mon., Sept. 23 FB (JV) at Gering Memorial Stadium, 5 p.m.**

**Tues., Sept. 24 Girls Golf Invite, 5 p.m.**  
**SB (JV-V) vs. Gering, 4 p.m., 6 p.m.**

**Wed., Sept. 25 Health Screening, 8-11 a.m. (HS students)**

Thurs., Sept. 26 SB, 1 p.m. vs. Cozad in Ogallala, 1 p.m.;  
 vs. McCook, 3 p.m., Ogallala.  
 CC (V-JV) at Gordon Country Club, 3 p.m.  
**VB (C-JV-V) vs. Scottsbluff, 4, 5, 6 p.m.**  
**FB (V) vs. Ogallala, 6 p.m.**

**Fri., Sept. 27 FB (7th-8th) at Torrington, 9 a.m.**

Sat., Sept. 28 SB (JV) at Scottsbluff Quad, 9 a.m.  
 VB (JV) at Scottsbluff Invite, 10 a.m.

**Mon., Sept. 30 FCCLA Leadership Workshop at CSC**  
 Girls Golf vs. Alliance at Skyview, 9 a.m.  
 VB (7th-8th) at Mitchell, 4 p.m.  
 FB (JV) at Torrington, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 1 SB (JV-V) at Scottsbluff, 4 p.m., 6 p.m.  
**VB (C-JV-V) vs. Gordon-Rush., 4, 5, 6 p.m.**  
**VB (7th-8th) vs. Scottsbluff, 4 p.m.**  
**FB (MS) vs. Hot Springs, 5 p.m.**

**Thurs., Oct. 3 VB (7th-8th) at Torrington, 9 a.m.**

Fri., Oct. 4 SB (V) at Imperial Triangular, 12 p.m.

## Hay Springs Hawks

**Mon., Sept. 2 NO SCHOOL - Labor Day**

**Tues., Sept. 3 VB HS Tri (Banner & Garden Co.), 4 p.m.**

**Sept. 4-5 School Pictures**

Fri., Sept. 6 CC (V) at Five Rocks, 9:30 a.m.

**Mon., Sept. 9 Board Meeting**  
**FB (JV) vs. Garden Co., 3:30 p.m.**

**Wed., Sept. 11 Fall Dental Day**  
**Hawk Talk**

Fri., Sept. 13 CC at CSC, 10:30 a.m.  
 FB (V) at Potter-Dix, 7 p.m.

Sat., Sept. 14 VB (V) Girls Quad at Gordon-Rush., 9 a.m.

Mon., Sept. 16 FB (JH) at Edgemont, 4 p.m.

Tues., Sept. 17 VB (V) at Cody-Kil. Tri. (Hyannis), 4 p.m.

Wed., Sept. 18 Career Cabs at Alliance, 10th Grade

**Thurs., Sept. 19 VB (JH) vs. St. Agnes, 4 p.m.**  
**FB (V) vs. Creek Valley at Chappell, 7 p.m.**

Fri., Sept. 20 FB (JH) at Banner County, 10 a.m.

Sat., Sept. 21 CC at Laning Lake in Alliance, 9 a.m.  
 VB (JH) Quad at Gordon-Rush., 9 a.m.  
 VB (V) at Hemingford Invite, 9 a.m.

**Mon., Sept. 23 Homecoming Week - Burning of the H**  
**VB (JV) vs. Crawford, 3:30 p.m.**  
**FB (JV) vs. Crawford, 5 p.m.**

**Tues., Sept. 24 Coronation, 3:30 p.m.**

**Wed., Sept. 25 Pep Rally on Football Field, 3:15 p.m.**

Thurs., Sept. 26 CC at Gordon Country Club, 4 p.m.  
**VB (V) at Leyton, 4 p.m.**

**Fri., Sept. 27 FB (JH) vs. Sioux Co., 2 p.m.**  
**VB (JH) vs. Sioux Co., 2 p.m.**  
**VB (V) vs. Sioux Co., 4 p.m.**

Fri., Sept. 28 VB (JH) at Morrill Invite, 9 a.m.

Thurs., Oct. 3 **9th-12th Homecoming Dance, 8-11 p.m.**  
 CC (JH-V) at Chimney Rock in Bayard, 2:30  
 Parent-Teacher Conf., 4:15-8 p.m.



## Five Tips for Electrical Safety at Home

Many electrical fires can be prevented by following some simple electricity safety tips. In our home electrical safety checklist below, there are 10 precautions every homeowner should know and follow. Always remember to ask a professional if you're uncertain about the safety of an electrical outlet or appliance.

### 1. Keep electrical devices and outlets away from water to prevent shock.

Water and electricity don't mix well. To follow electrical safety rules, keep electrical equipment dry and away from water prevents damage to appliances and can protect against personal injury and electrocution. When working with electrical appliances, it's important to have dry hands. Keeping electrical equipment away from plant pots, aquariums, sinks, showers and bathtubs lowers the risk of water and electricity coming into contact.



### 2. Give your appliances proper space for air circulation to avoid overheating.

Without proper air circulation, electrical equipment can overheat and short out, and can become an electrical fire hazard. Make sure your appliances have proper air circulation, and avoid running electrical equipment in enclosed cabinets. For best electrical safety, it's also important to store flammable objects well away from all appliances and electronics. Pay especially close attention to your gas or electric dryer, as these need to be situated at least a foot from the wall to function safely.

### 3. Ensure that all your exhaust fans are clean to prevent fire hazards.

Some appliances have exhaust fans, which can get dirty or

clogged with debris and make the appliance work harder. This can shorten the life of the appliance and can cause a risk to the home due to overheating, or even cause a buildup of dangerous gasses that can lead to an electrical fire hazard. Cleaning exhaust fans regularly helps prevent such hazards.

### 9. Check that you're using the correct wattage in all your fixtures and appliances.

Using the right bulbs can prevent electrical problems, so check all lamps, fixtures and appliances to ensure you're using the correct wattage. If a light fixture has no wattage listed, use 60-watt bulbs or less. For unmarked ceiling fixtures, choose 25-watt bulbs.

**Pro tip:** LED bulbs consume less power and reduce the risk of fixtures overheating. Learn more about LED light benefits.

### 10. Be aware of heaters and water heaters to prevent potential accidents.

Combustible items should be kept away from portable heaters and built-in furnaces. For furnace safety, store combustibles far away from any heating appliances. Portable heaters should not be operated close to drapes, and to prevent tipping, they should only ever be placed on a stable surface.

On a related note, do you know what temperature your water heater is set to? High temperature settings eat into your water heater energy usage and can cause burns and unintentional scalding, especially in homes with small children.



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## Recipes



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

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

### Stacked Tomato & Burrata Salad

- 1 vine-ripened tomato, cored and cut into 1/2-inch slices
- flaked sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup Burrata cheese, or more to taste
- 1 tablespoon torn fresh basil leaves, or to taste
- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil



Place a tomato slice onto a plate and season with sea salt and black pepper. Spread Burrata cheese over tomato slice, top with torn basil leaves, and drizzle with olive oil. Repeat the layering process with remaining ingredients, finishing with a tomato slice.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Strawberry Pretzel Salad

- 2 cups crushed pretzels
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 3 tablespoons white sugar
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 2 (3 ounce) packages strawberry flavored Jell-O
- 2 cups boiling water
- 2 (10 ounce) packages frozen strawberries

Gather all ingredients and preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Stir crushed pretzels, melted butter, and 3 tablespoons sugar together until well-combined; mix well and press mixture into the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish.

Bake in the preheated oven until set, about 8 to 10 minutes; set aside to cool.

Place cream cheese and 1 cup sugar in a large bowl. Beat with an electric mixer until smooth; fold in whipped topping. Spread mixture onto cooled crust.

Dissolve gelatin in boiling water. Stir in still-frozen strawberries and allow to set briefly. Pour and spread over cream cheese layer; refrigerate until set, at least 2 hours.

Serve and enjoy!

\* \* \* \* \*

### Filipino-Style Barbecue Chicken

- 1 medium very ripe banana, mashed
- 1/4 cup tomato paste
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons freshly grated ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon kosher salt, or to taste
- 1/8 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/8 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1/4 cup water

#### For the Chicken and Marinade:

- 1/2 cup prepared banana ketchup
- 3/4 cup lemon-lime soda (such as 7-Up®)
- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 4 cloves crushed garlic
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1 medium lemon, juiced
- 2 1/2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken thighs, cut in half

#### For the Basting Sauce:

- 3 tablespoons reserved banana ketchup
- 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon fish sauce

Mash ripe banana, tomato paste, vinegar, brown sugar, oil, ginger, onion powder, garlic powder, cayenne, salt, allspice, and turmeric together in a saucepan. Add water and stir to combine.

Place over medium-high heat and bring to a simmer. Stir to combine. Reduce heat to medium and simmer until reduced and thickened, 7 to 10 minutes. Remove from heat; reserve 3 tablespoons for the basting sauce, leaving about 1/2 cup for the marinade.

Transfer 1/2 cup banana ketchup to a bowl and add lemon-lime soda, soy sauce, garlic, brown sugar, black pepper, and lemon juice for the marinade. Whisk until combined.

Add halved chicken thighs to marinade and toss to coat. Cover with plastic wrap and marinate in the refrigerator for 4 to 18 hours.

When you are ready to cook the chicken, combine reserved 3 tablespoons banana ketchup, soy sauce, brown sugar, oil, and fish sauce in a small bowl for basting sauce. Preheat a charcoal grill until coals are very hot.

Remove chicken from the refrigerator and place on metal skewers, folding in half with the smooth side on the outside, the rougher side folded in.

Grill chicken over hot coals until no longer pink in the centers, 15 to 20 minutes, turning and basting every 2 to 3 minutes.

Serve with accumulated juices or extra basting sauce.

# Find Something to Celebrate in September

- Sept. 1:** National Forgiveness Day, Hotel Employee Day, Pastor's Spouses Day, Burnt Ends Day.
- Sept. 2:** National Hummingbird Day, V-J Day, Blueberry Popsicle Day, Labor Day, U.S. Bowling League Day.
- Sept. 3:** National Welsch Rarebit Day, Another Look Unlimited Day - Day After Labor Day.
- Sept. 4:** National Spice Blend Day, Macadamia Nut Day, Newspaper Carrier Day, Wildlife Day.
- Sept. 5:** National Be Late for Something Day, Cheese Pizza Day, Food Bank Day, Lazy Mom's Day.
- Sept. 6:** National Read a Book Day, Coffee Ice Cream Day, Play Outside Day - First Saturday of Every Month.
- Sept. 7:** National Grateful Patient Day, Tailgating Day - First Saturday in Sept., Beer Lover's Day, Salami Day.
- Sept. 8:** Star Trek Day, World Ampersand Day, Pet Memorial Day - 2nd Saturday in September, Grandparents Day.
- Sept. 9:** Share Your Care Day, Boss/Employee Day, Teddy Bear Day, Ants on a Log Day.
- Sept. 10:** National TV Dinner Day, Swap Ideas Day.
- Sept. 11:** National Hot Cross Bun Day, Make Your Bed Day, Patriot Day & Day of Service & Remembrance.
- Sept. 12:** National Hug & High 5 Day, School Picture Day, Report Medicare Fraud Day, Video Games Day.

- Sept. 13:** Positive Thinking Day, Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day, Uncle Sam Day, Bald is Beautiful Day, Peanut Day
- Sept. 14:** National Parents Day Off, Sober Day, Virginia Day, Live Creative Day, Eat a Hoagie Day, Cream-Filled Donut Day.
- Sept. 15:** National Neonatal Nurses Day, Tackle Kids Cancer Day, Cheese Toast Day, Double Cheeseburger Day, Linguine Day.
- Sept. 16:** National Guacamole Day, Working Parents Day, Stepfamily Day, Play-doh Day, Cinnamon Raisin Bread Day.
- Sept. 17:** Professional House Cleaners Day, Voters Registration Day, Apple Dumpling Day, Constitution & Citizenship Day.
- Sept. 18:** Air Force Birthday, HIV/Aids and Aging Awareness Day, Cheeseburger Day,
- Sept. 19:** National Pawpaw Day, Butterscotch Pudding Day, Talk Like a Pirate Day.
- Sept 20:** National Care for Kids Day, Fried Rice Day, Pepperoni Pizza Day, String Cheese Day, Punch Day.
- Sept. 21:** National Chai Day, Saturday of Singles Week, New York Day, Cleanup Day, Pecan Cookie Day, Gymnastics Day.
- Sept. 22:** National States & Capitals Day, Online Recovery Day, Girls' Night, White Chocolate Day, Centenarian's Day.
- Sept. 23:** National Teal Talk Day, Snack Stick Day, American Pot Pie Day, Checkers Day & Dogs in Politics Day.
- Sept. 24:** Innergize Day - Day after the Autumnal Equinox, Cherries Jubilee Day, Annual Equinox, Punctuation Day.
- Sept. 25:** National Open the Magic Day, Daughter's Day, Quesadilla Day, Lobster Day, Tune-Up Day, Comic Book Day.
- Sept. 26:** National Compliance Officer Day., Situational Awareness Day, Dumpling Day, Pancake Day.
- Sept. 27:** Day of Forgiveness, Scarf Day, Brave Day, Corned Beef Hash Day, Crush a Can Day, Chocolate Milk Day.
- Sept. 28:** North Carolina Day, Save Your Photos Day, Ghost Hunting Day, Drink Beer Day, Strawberry Cream Pie Day.
- Sept. 29:** Urban National Wildlife Refuge Day, VFW Day. Coffee Day, Gold Star Mother's & Family Day, Orange Shirt Day.
- Sept. 30:** National Love People Day, Hot Mulled Cider Day, Mud Pack Day, Chewing Gum Day,

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TAKE-OUT

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I knew a place called Yesterday  
Where once I used to live.  
Nobody there would turn away  
Their time, they'd always give.

Everyone looked out for you  
As you did the same for them.  
In that place called Yesterday  
I can still remember when.

People never had anything much  
What they did have, it was shared.  
They always waved and gave a smile,  
That's how we knew they cared.

We used to it mucking in,  
That's what it was all about.  
It was easier to help each other  
When all you had was nowt.

Now I live here in the Present,  
In a street of those unknown,  
Whose life is so much easier  
If they keep it close to home

Yes, I was raised in Yesterday  
When we always had respect.  
Here in this place called Present  
I find it suffering from neglect.

If the person who named "Walkie Talkies" named everything!

- Stamps - Lickie Stickle
- Defibrillator - Hearty Starty
- Bumble Bees - Fuzzy Buzzy
- Pregnancy Test - Maybe Baby
- Bra - Breasty Nestie
- Fork - Stabby Grabby
- Socks - Feetie Heatie
- Hippo - Floatie Bloatie
- Nightmare - Screamy Dreamy

\* \* \* \* \*

You Might Be a Redneck If...

- the stock market crashes and it doesn't affect you one bit.
- If you can get arrested for hunting or fishing without a license, but not for entering and remaining in the country illegally -- you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but it is run by idiots.
- If you get your parents permission to go on a field trip or to take an aspirin in school, but not to get an abortion -- you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but it run by idiots.
- If you MUST show your identification to board an airplane, cash a check, buy liquor, or check out a library book and rent a video, but not to vote for who runs the government - - you might live in a nation that was founded by geniuses but is run by idiots.



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IS A  
CROWD**

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