

HIGH PLAINS POWER CURRENT



Keeping you in the Loop

APRIL IS THE MONTH OF TAX DEADLINES AND POSSIBLE SCAMS

As the 2023 tax season opens, be aware of possible tax scams. Scammers are creative, using phone calls, texts, emails and even phony letters to capitalize on people's fears and emotions.

Most scammers work year-round. In addition to utility scams and with the tax deadline (April 18) quickly approaching, scammers will capitalize on the deadline crunch, hoping that people aren't paying attention.

No matter how you file your taxes, you could encounter a scam attempt, so be cautious when searching for a tax preparer and file your taxes.

- Joseph Whiteplume, IT Director

HERE ARE A FEW TAX-TIME TIPS:

- Avoid tax ID theft. File early, before a scammer can steal your info and file a false return.
- Always check out a new tax preparer before doing business. Start with BBB.org for ratings and reviews.
- Ask your tax preparer what security measures they take to protect your data.
- Check out websites carefully, making sure you access the actual IRS website when filing or inquiring about your taxes.
- When in doubt, contact the IRS directly to verify any contact. Don't respond directly to emails or texts.
- The IRS will never threaten you or demand immediate payment, require a specific form of payment, or ask for credit/debit card information by phone.
- Beware the tax preparer offering fast refunds or large returns. What you owe is solely based on your past year's tax information and current tax law.
- Only allow funds to be deposited into your personal accounts.
- Review your tax return before it's submitted to ensure it was signed properly by the tax preparer.
- Contact the IRS immediately if you get a written notice about duplicate tax returns.
- Protect your social security number (SSN). Do not give out your SSN unless you are 100% sure you are dealing with someone you trust.

Recipe

BBQ CHICKEN

2/3 C Brown Sugar 2 tsp Chili Powder

2/3 C ketchup 1/2 C Soy Sauce

Mix ingredients together.

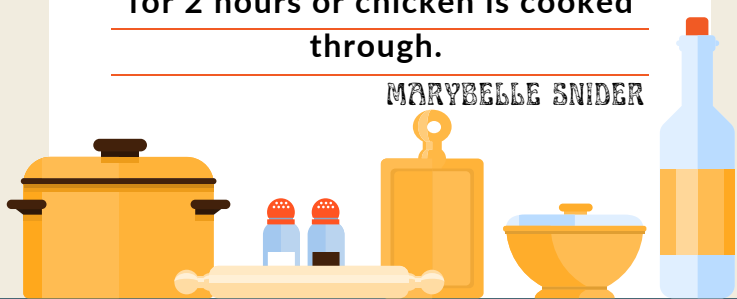
Preheat oven to 350 1 cut up chicken

Dip chicken into mixture and place

into baking pan. Cover and bake

for 2 hours or chicken is cooked
through.

MARYBELLE SNIDER



GOT A KID ON OUR GRID THAT IS DOING AMAZING THINGS? LET US KNOW!
We'd love to feature them here! Email us at customerservice@highplainspower.org

HIGH PLAINS POWER 1775 E MONROE AVE. RIVERTON WY 82501

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN THE WILD

In the back of our minds we have this idea about what IT employees do. They sit behind a desk with multiple computers or they are in a server room in some obscure part of the building, keeping our technology updated, secure and functioning smoothly. Most days, this is totally accurate. But there is another side to IT at a utility. These are the days when IT personnel are in the field.

While our IT department (Joe Whiteplume and Chris Noonan), keep our computers and phones running, they also have a lot to do with our metering system, and the mapping of our system as a whole. This requires them to get out in the field and visit some really remote and amazing places. They hop in a truck, and drive to different locations in our territory, replacing equipment, improving communications equipment and updating our mapping information. The systems they maintain impact everything from operations to billing.

The pictures in this issue were all taken by Joe Whiteplume in the field (except the server room picture and Chris' picture). Front page: Joe and his truck surrounded by cows while out doing maintenance on equipment. Photo above: installing a collector unit out at Seminole Reservoir. Below: Joe in the server closet. Below center: Chris Noonan testing out staking and mapping equipment. Below right: Joe at the radio towers on Beaver Rim, doing equipment maintenance.

IT in the field:

What we think IT is all about:



HPP STAFF

CEO

Darick Eisenbraun

deisenbraun@highplainspower.org

CFO

Jon Mayes

jmeyes@highplainspower.org

Human Resources

Sarah McKerchie

smckerchie@highplainspower.org

Line Superintendent

CJ Caress

ccaress@highplainspower.org

Information Technology

Joseph Whiteplume

jwhiteplume@highplainspower.org

Safety Manager

Brian Heiner

bheiner@highplainspower.org

Operations Support

Supervisor

Debbie Watson

dwatson@highplainspower.org

Customer Service And Billing

Supervisor

Sandy Watkins

swatkins@highplainspower.org

