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NATIONAL GRILLING MONTH WORD SEARCH

July is National Grilling Month! Can you find all the words associated with grilling in the puzzle below? Use the word bank as a guide.

B H C D F T N U Z R B J R Q G
O A U F O N H R K Q S H E F V
M A R N X U J O R W Z N M B L
W M G B F B X L F P O K M V Z
X S J A E Z K M O R F S U B T
E S R P N Q I V P H P R S H V
X C D L L F U A L A C B K P J
V K J N A E B E T M E V K V X
J X O Y E K D U T B C H N I J
W N P T B I L C P U T Y T Y F
N C C N J A R O C R C G C D A
Y T W V C Z A F W G M E W B M
O D G R I L L A R E O U X W I
U L T K U S Q N V R S Q U B L
L E T K S O Q R G O D T O H Y

WORD BANK

Hamburger
Spatula
Hot Dog
Friends
Summer
Apron
Grill
Barbeque
Family
Tongs



Cooking outdoors is a fun way to spend time with friends and family! By cooking outside, you can save energy indoors and keep your home cooler.



ECM FOUNDATION

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Foundation was created by the electric cooperatives of Mississippi in 2005. In an effort to give back to the communities they serve, the Foundation provides scholarships for post-secondary and vocational education to accredited institutions for qualifying high school seniors. For the fall of 2024, the Foundation awarded scholarships to dependents of employees of participating electric cooperatives. Six Central Electric employee's children who are entering college this fall were awarded the ECM Foundation Scholarships. Central Electric wants to congratulate each recipient on receiving this scholarship.



John Michael Donovan II,
Leake Academy

John Michael Donovan II is the son of Mike and Ginger Donovan. He is a graduate of Leake Academy where he was on the baseball and football teams. John Michael enjoys hunting, fishing, and fitness training. He plans to attend East Central Community College to pursue a degree in the electrical industry.

Cary Wilkinson,
Union High School

Cary Wilkinson is the daughter of Andy and Leann Wilkinson. She is a graduate of Union High School. Cary's love for her family and her church inspired her to want to pursue an education career to create a safe place for future students. Cary plans to attend Southwest Mississippi Community College where she will be a cheerleader and pursue a degree in elementary education.



Lakynn Kelly Pickett,
Neshoba Central High School

Lakynn Kelly Pickett is the daughter of Darrin and Lynda Pickett. She is a graduate of Neshoba Central High School. Lakynn enjoys performing in theatre and drama, spending time with her family and friends, and fishing with her dad. She plans to attend East Central Community College where she will be part of the band, chorus, theatre, and captain of the color guard. Lakynn will further her education at a university to pursue a degree in music, arts, and acting.



Dalton Graham,
Newton County High School

Dalton Graham is the son of Christina Graham and Pete & Yancy Graham. He is a graduate of Newton County High School. Dalton enjoys hunting, fishing, baseball, and golf. He plans to attend Pearl River Community College to pursue a business degree. Dalton plans to play baseball throughout college.

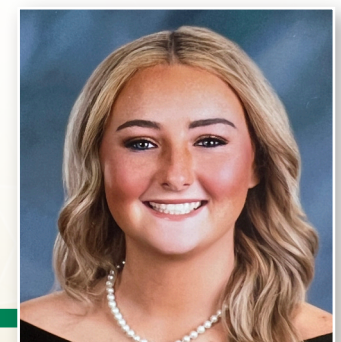


Carrington Dexter Myrick,
Velma Jackson High School

Carrington Dexter Myrick is the son of Dexter and Felicia Myrick. He is a graduate of Velma Jackson High School. Carrington enjoys football, track, and bowling. He plans to attend Holmes Community College and Mississippi State University to pursue an accounting degree.

Meah Pinter,
Leake Academy

Meah Pinter is the daughter of Martin and Shay Pinter. She is a graduate of Leake Academy. Meah enjoys riding horses and making beaded jewelry. She plans to attend the University of West Alabama on a rodeo scholarship and pursue a degree in nursing.





SIGNS YOUR HVAC IS IN TROUBLE

by Miranda Boutelle

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How do I know if my HVAC system is malfunctioning?

A

Your heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system is one of the most important and expensive systems in your home. Detecting issues early can help you plan for repairs or equipment replacement.

Equipment functionality issues can affect your electricity use, which may result in higher energy bills. The age of your equipment can be a major factor in function. The lifespan of a heating and cooling system ranges from 15 to 20 years.

Proper maintenance and lower use can increase the life of the equipment. To find out the age of your system, look for the manufactured date printed on the unit's nameplate. If you can't find it, search online using the model number or call the manufacturer.

Being thrifty by nature, I typically subscribe to the notion of "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." That said, I also believe in being prepared for the inevitable. If your system is approaching or past the 20-year mark, start saving for a new system and get replacement estimates.

There are a few warning signs to watch out for if your heating and cooling system needs to be repaired or replaced:

- **Air conditioning** – It's not as cool as usual. If the air from your air conditioner is warm or not as cool as it usually feels, the equipment has an issue. It could be a problem with the compressor or a refrigerant leak. Contact a professional to get the issue checked. Many refrigerants, especially the ones used in older systems, are harmful to the environment. Fix leaks before adding more refrigerant. Special certifications are required for handling refrigerants, so hire a professional to ensure the work is done properly.
- **Low airflow** – If you aren't getting good airflow, it could be an easy fix, such as filter replacement or opening closed dampers. If you've made these fixes and airflow is not at normal levels, contact a professional. There could be a bigger problem with a motor, fan, or something else.
- **Bad odors** – Heating and cooling systems sometimes smell when you first start them up for the season. Those smells should be minor and dissipate quickly. Any serious smells—such as burning

metal, melting plastic or noxious odors—are a sign that your system is in trouble. If you smell those odors, turn your system off immediately and contact a professional.

- **Strange noises** – There is typically noise associated with the fans and motors in heating and cooling systems. Take note of any excessive or new noises. If your system is making any clunking, clanging, or whistling noises, turn it off and check the filter. If that doesn't solve it, reach out to a pro.
- **Running frequently** – Your system needs to run more to keep up on extreme weather days, but there might be an issue if it runs too often. Short cycling is when a system cycles on and off before completing the heating or cooling process. Contact a professional to diagnose this issue.

Several factors come into play when deciding to fix existing equipment or invest in new equipment. Consider the severity of the issue, repair costs, the likelihood of additional repairs, equipment lifespan, and your budget.

The efficiency of your existing system is also a consideration. Heating and cooling technology improvements have come a long way in the last 20 years. Lower operation costs can offset the cost of a new system over time.

Consider your options before you are in desperate need. I recommend getting estimates from at least three contractors. Ask the contractor, "If this was your home, what type of system would you install and why?" The best solution for your home might be a different type of equipment.

Miranda Boutelle is the chief operating officer at Efficiency Services Group in Oregon, a cooperatively owned energy efficiency company.