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WREN

WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

MARCH ✧ 2019

CENTERPIECE

✧KINDNESS✧

RANCH

[16]

CO-OP SPOTLIGHT

We Make a Moment of Sunshine

[26]

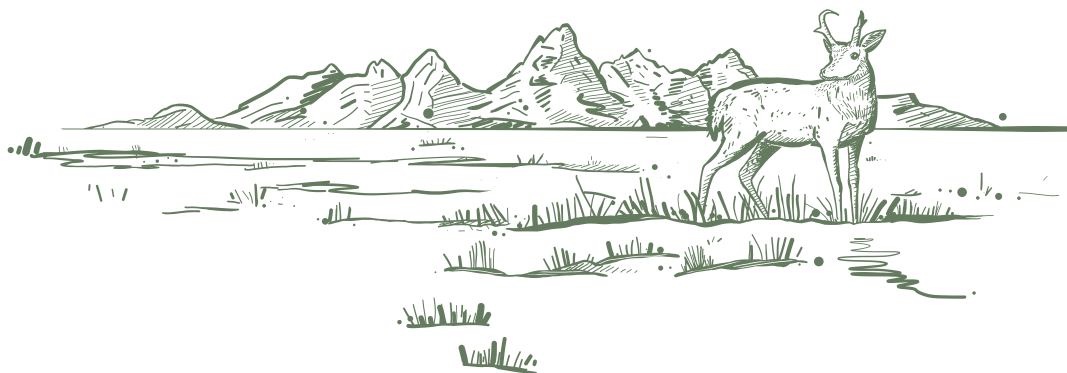
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WREN MAGAZINE

THE WREN MAGAZINE WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

*The official publication of the
Wyoming Rural Electric Association*

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COVER PHOTO ✂ Good morning
Wheatland!

PHOTO BY NEIL SUNTYCH

WHAT'S UP AT WREA?



SHAWN TAYLOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

With the legislature wrapping up the current session I thought this would be a good opportunity to fill you all in on what we at the Wyoming Rural Electric Association have been up to both inside the capital (currently the Jonah Building) and outside.

During the legislature we were able to defeat several bills that would have been detrimental to the cooperatives and to you the members, including three that we have been pushing back on since last spring. One such bill is HB-112, Electricity-Certificated Service Area, which would have allowed anyone to establish the point of delivery of electricity, rather than the point of consumption that defines our certificated service areas now. In essence, this would allow a large user of electricity that currently consumes the electricity in one service territory (cooperative territory for example) to switch and become a customer in a different utility providers' territory (an investor-owned utility for example). This would have resulted in a severe cost shift to the rest of the cooperatives' members.

Similarly, SF-124, Contracts for Self-Generated Electricity, would have allowed for a third-party, non-regulated, non-utility to come into Wyoming and build a generating facility at an existing large industrial customer's facility, effectively removing this large load from the rest of the utilities mix, be it co-op or investor-owned. Again, this would have resulted in a large cost shift to the remaining members. We had a strong grassroots effort to push back on both of these bills, and I would like to thank those of you that took part in that effort.

We supported SF-150, Health Care Innovation, and SF-156, Medical Digital Innovation Sandbox. Stay tuned for more information on these bills in future WREN editions, but suffice it to say that we hope these bills will not only have a positive impact on rural healthcare in Wyoming but on efforts to bring broadband to our rural communities as well.

Outside of the capital, the WREA board of directors voted last year to help the University of Wyoming stand up a class on the cooperative business model. We're all very excited about this effort to teach what many of us already know – that the cooperative business model, whether it's an electric cooperative, a food co-op or an agricultural co-op, works. The saying "what's old is new again" rings true with our business model, and we hope to teach college students the way of the cooperatives. We will be featuring this effort in future editions as well.

Finally, on a personal note, Tom Delaney, a long-time WREA board member and former president, as well as long-time Big Horn REA director/president, announced earlier this month that he is retiring. I just want to take a moment and thank him for everything that he has done for the cooperatives across Wyoming, and for what he has meant to me personally. I can't express to Tom and his wife Deany enough how much they mean to me and how much I'll miss them. Thank you for everything.



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ECONOMIC BENEFITS

BRIDGER VALLEY ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

COUNTIES

SUBLETTE, SWEETWATER, UINTA

4.65

METERS PER MILE

6,701

METERS SERVED

BVEA Day of Service: In July 2018, co-op employees and their families participated in a day of service. A large group of helpers worked outside the Lyman Adult Day Care Center, scraping and painting the building, and updating landscape work. Volunteers also sorted books and pulled weeds for the library in Lyman. Another group picked up trash along Route 410.

AT THE CO-OP



28 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES



45 HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED



57 JOBS CREATED IN
THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



\$13,446,004 SALES

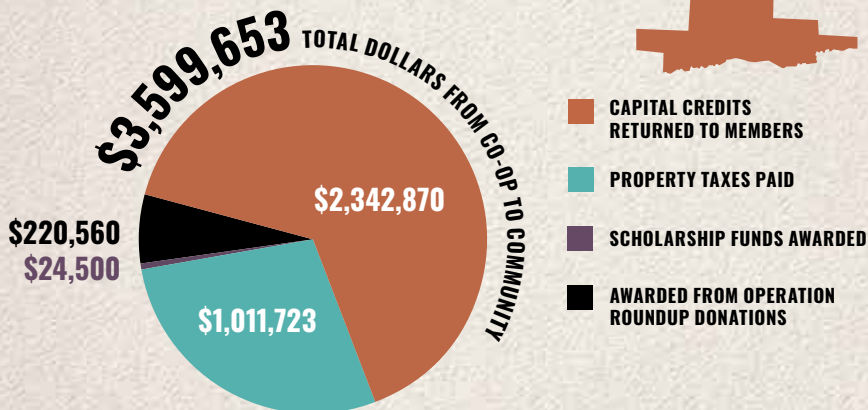


\$2,364,400 PAYROLL



\$3,774,631 PERSONAL
INCOME
GENERATED

IN THE COMMUNITY



AT THE CO-OP: The Wyoming Business Council (WBC) recently completed a study of the economic benefits of Wyoming's rural electric cooperatives. Looking at employment and tax revenue data from 2017, the WBC reported that BVEA is an economic driver in the local community.

IN THE COMMUNITY: Between 2007 and 2017, BVEA gave \$3.5 million back to the community.

Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.



CO-OP YOUTH

Wyoming's rural electric cooperatives are proud to support our youth, giving college scholarships and lineman scholarships. In addition, our co-ops sponsor high school students on the D.C. Youth Tour in June and Youth Leadership Camp in July.

THIS MONTH:

Bridger Valley Electric Association's nominee Breanna Hood was a participant in Youth Leadership Camp and the 2018 D.C. Youth Tour.



Interested in applying for a scholarship, D.C. Youth Tour and/or Leadership Camp? Contact your local rural electric cooperative! See the insert in the center of the magazine for contact information.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BREANNA HOOD



BREANNA HOOD



HOMETOWN:
Mountain View

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED:
Mountain View High School

YEAR OF GRADUATION:
2018

COLLEGE:
University of Utah

MAJOR STUDY INTEREST:
Nursing



Tell us about your studies and interests.

I am studying Pre-Nursing at the University of Utah with high hopes of getting accepted into their nursing program next year. In high school I was in FFA and I was very involved in sports. In college I have had the opportunity to join a sorority and I have been able to acquire an amazing job at Primary Children's Hospital.

How have your hometown, family and/or friends influenced you?

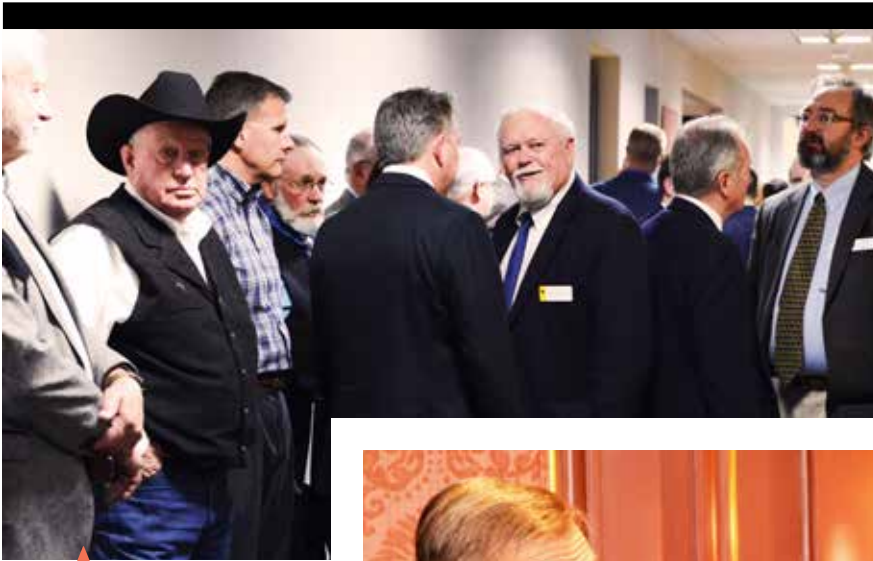
I believe that the people in my hometown shaped me into the person that I am today. In my short life I have been offered so many amazing opportunities. My electric cooperative Bridger Valley Electric showed me a lot of support in both of the trips that they provided for me. The Washington D.C. Youth Tour and Youth Leadership Camp allowed me to meet many outstanding people that have also helped shape my life. I am eternally grateful to the people from my hometown and the electric cooperatives.

What are your plans for the future?

I am planning to complete the nursing program here at the University of Utah. I believe that nurses have the power to change the world one patient at a time and that is something that is truly awe inspiring to me. I am hoping to be a pediatric nurse one day to help leave my mark on the world.

WREA ANNUAL MEETING

The National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (NRECA) sent its CEO to the Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA) annual meeting on January 31.



Senators chat with members of Wyoming's rural electric cooperatives after a meeting with the Senate Minerals Committee in Cheyenne on January 30. Wyoming's rural electric cooperatives are committed to delivering safe, affordable electricity to rural communities, and sometimes that includes keeping track of bills in the legislature.

NRECA CEO Jim Matheson speaks during the WREA annual meeting in Cheyenne January 31.



CEO Jim Matheson addressed the group of WREA managers and directors, sharing what's happening in Washington D.C.

"We need to recognize the value of who we are," Matheson said. "... it gives us tremendous capacity to serve our members."

New Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon also spoke at the meeting. He touted the importance of a solid budget and economic diversification for Wyoming.

"It's a good place where we are, and we have a bright future," Gordon said.

The WREA's 2019 annual meeting came on the heels of the 2018 annual meeting, which took place in Saratoga in September. The board of directors decided to make the change to coincide with the WREA's annual legislative reception, which members were traveling to already. The WREA is required by law to hold an annual meeting every year, and will have the next annual meeting as the legislature convenes in the winter of 2020.



ALSO DURING THE MEETING:

Big Horn Rural Electric Company's Tom Delaney announced he was stepping down from the WREA board of directors after 22 years.

WREA Executive Director Shawn Taylor was recognized for 15 years in that position. Board members presented Taylor with a gift for his years of work.

PRECorp Board Member Reuben Ritthaler was re-elected as the NRECA representative for Wyoming by unanimous vote.



Tom Delaney, center, poses for a photo with directors at the annual meeting January 31 after announcing his retirement.

PHOTOS BY KELLY ETZEL DOUGLAS



WHERE DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT



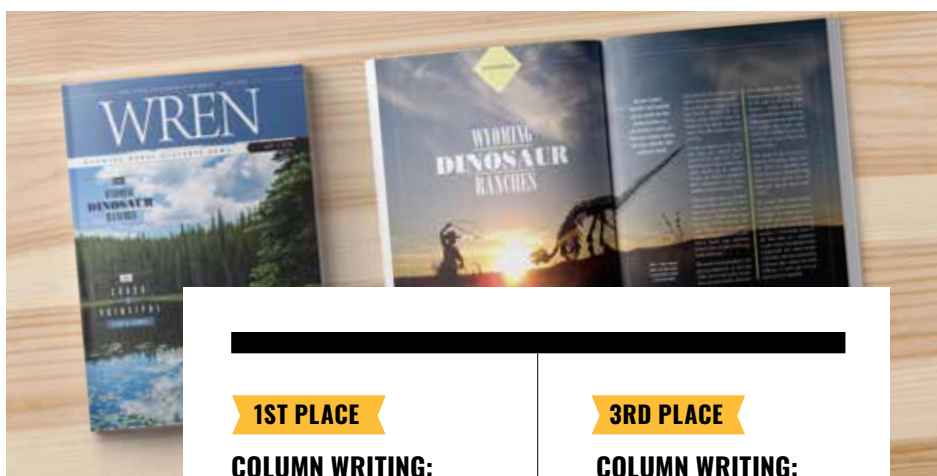
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WREN Awards

Wyoming Rural Electric News won a total of nine awards in the annual Wyoming Press Association Associate Contest in January. The judging was for issues published between November 1, 2017 and October 31, 2018.

WREN magazine competed for the awards against magazines from the University of Wyoming, Wyoming Game and Fish, AARP, the Wyoming Business Council, Memorial Hospital of Sweetwater County and others.

1ST PLACE

COLUMN WRITING:
DR. MEGAN BEAVERS

PAGE LAYOUT & DESIGN:
"Movie Making in the Cowboy State"
MAR 2018

2ND PLACE

OP-ED WRITING
SHAWN TAYLOR

MAGAZINE ARTICLES:
"Glamour Abounds in Wyoming Campgrounds"
JULIETTE RULE | JULY 2018

PUBLICATIONS:
MAY 2018

3RD PLACE

COLUMN WRITING:
CHUCK LARSEN

MAGAZINE ARTICLES:
"Wyoming Grit: Year's End"
GAYLE M. IRWIN | DEC 2017

HONORABLE MENTION

PUBLICATIONS:
APRIL 2018

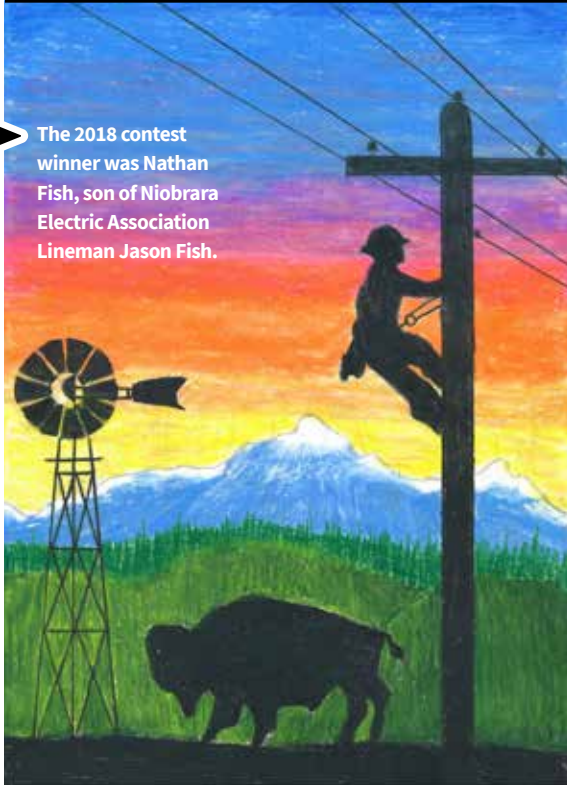
FEATURE PHOTO:
LEAH YETTER | OCT 2018

To see past issues of WREN magazine, visit the WREN Archive at wyomingrea.org/wren-magazine/wren-archive/

CONTEST

CODY HOTLINE SCHOOL T-SHIRT DRAWING CONTEST

➤ The 2018 contest winner was Nathan Fish, son of Niobrara Electric Association Lineman Jason Fish.



It's time again for this year's drawing contest for elementary-aged kids, sponsored by the Wyoming Rural Electric Association and the city of Cody.

The first place winner will receive \$200 and their drawing will be featured on Cody Hotline School T-shirts. The second place winner will be awarded \$100 and the third and fourth place winners receive \$50 each.

TO ENTER:

Draw your idea of a person safely working on electric lines and power poles. Use whatever drawing material you like. Write your name, address, age and phone number, as well as your service area or power supplier's name on the back of your drawing.

Drawings need to be received by April 5. You can mail them to Cody Hotline School LLC, PO Box 697 Lusk, WY 82225 or turn them in to your local electric cooperative.

Wyoming Cancer Program Colorectal Cancer Screening

Colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer death in the U.S., yet it can be prevented or detected at an early stage.

Are you eligible for a free screening?

Who is eligible?

- Anyone aged 50 years or older
- Anyone with a previous diagnosis of colorectal cancer

With:

- A household income at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Wyoming resident for at least 1 year



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APP TO HELP PRESERVE LANGUAGE

Eastern Shoshone tribal members have found a way to preserve, and share, their language through a new app for smart phones.

Rosie Harris, the eldest Eastern Shoshone tribal member, made the click to officially launch the app during a special event at Fort Washakie School on January 23. The app, called Newe Daywap (the Indian People's Language), is available in the Apple Store and Google Play Store for no charge.

The app features more than 500 Eastern Shoshone words and phrases, three levels of games, culture notes and a searchable database. It was created with the help of the Fort Washakie School District and tribal members who contributed audio files, traditional songs, photos and research.

Ula Tyler appears on the home screen of the Newe Daywap app.



Nicely done, beef.

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WYOMING TRIVIA

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APPRECIATION DAYAPRIL 8 IS LINEWORKER
APPRECIATION DAY

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Before DGP: Geordie, 12 years, wasn't responding to traditional medicine.
After DGP: "My vet at that time suggested I put him down. (Since DGP) We walk at least three miles every single day. He acts like a dog less than half his age." – Carol S., Geordie's owner

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CENTERPIECE

❖❖KINDNESS❖❖

RANCH

NEW LIFE FOR RESEARCH ANIMALS



A MEADOWLARK TRILLS FROM A WOODEN FENCE POST. HORSES WHINNY, CATTLE BAWL AND DOGS BARK, ANNOUNCING FEEDING TIME AT THE RANCH. UNLIKE SIMILAR PROPERTIES, THE ANIMALS AT KINDNESS RANCH COME FROM RESEARCH FACILITIES, SOME TO LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES AT THE EASTERN WYOMING SANCTUARY, OTHERS TO FIND NEW HOMES THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES. AFTER YEARS OF BEING POKED AND PRODDED, THE DOGS, CATS, RABBITS, HORSES, AND OTHER LIVESTOCK FIND RESPITE, COMPASSION AND KINDNESS.

»

BY GAYLE M. IRWIN

A view of Kindness Ranch.

PHOTO BY GAYLE M. IRWIN



POTENTIAL ADOPTERS ARE INVITED TO VISIT THE RANCH, MEET THE ANIMALS,
AND STAY IN ONE OF FOUR ON-SITE WOODEN GUEST YURTS.



THE KINDNESS RANCH STORY



Most animals in research facilities are euthanized when studies conclude. Colorado psychologist Dr. David Groobman saw a need for change and opened this unique rescue near Guernsey in October 2007. Kindness Ranch animals come from laboratories, universities, and veterinary schools across the country.

“Rescuing and working with former research animals makes our job different,” said Kindness Ranch executive director Beverly Benoit. “We are comparatively younger than most sanctuaries or humane societies, which have had decades to raise awareness and money to support their organizations.”

The organization started with just two employees and has increased to eight. Benoit became executive director last year; her husband serves as ranch manager. Several cabin-style yurts constructed over the years house caregivers and animals.

“All staff live on-site. We’re like a small community,” Benoit said.

Mary Miles has been part of that community for eight years. The Douglas-area native started her career at Kindness Ranch as a part-time employee. A few years later, she began working at the ranch full time; last year, she was promoted to companion animal manager.

“This job is so rewarding!” she said. “The animals have given so much – we need to give back to them.”

Her workday includes spending time at the dog and cat yurts. She feeds, plays with, trains, and otherwise socializes her charges. Watching a shy, formerly-caged research animal blossom into a pet ready for adoption gives her deep joy.

“Dogs who don’t know how to be dogs when they first arrive – it’s so fun to watch them become wonderful companions,” she said. “This is my passion.”

Some of the caregivers live with the dogs and cats, helping they adjust to living in a home environment. Furniture in the two dog yurts and climbing towers in the cat building help these formerly confined creatures live a free-style life. All are provided access to the outdoors through pet doors in the buildings; the buildings are surrounded by fenced enclosures.

Different species and breeds travel through the ranch’s gates. However, the primary type of dog at the sanctuary is the beagle, the breed most widely used in research. There are reasons for that, Benoit said.

“They are complacent and don’t lose their appetite, no matter how bad they feel,” she said. “They likely have been in cages all their lives.”

Potential adopters are invited to visit the ranch, meet the animals, and stay in one of four on-site guest wooden yurts. Victor and Gracie’s adoptive families did just that.



Beverly Benoit, executive director of Kindness Ranch.





One of three guest yurts available for rent at Kindness Ranch. These cozy cabins are tucked up near the tree line, come fully equipped for overnight stays, and overlook the ranch.

Gracie Noelle, a beagle rescued by Kindness Ranch, relaxes in the home she shares with her adopted family, Heather and Eric Valdez.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER VALDEZ



PHOTOS BY GAYLE IRWIN

Rocky, a pit mix, and one of the Kindness Ranch dog caregivers share time together outdoors.

ADOPTION STORIES



Eight-year-old Victor enjoyed his first Christmas inside a house last December. The beagle was adopted in August by Rob and Lisa Mazzola when the couple visited Kindness Ranch for the third time. During their second visit earlier in the summer, Victor captured their attention.

"There were five or six beagles there at the time," Lisa recalled. "A few in the group came up to us; Victor laid in front of me."

They took him to their Colorado home where he's settled in well with two other dogs and one cat.

"Victor is super-friendly," Rob said. "He's right by you all the time, and he follows you all around. He'll even cuddle on your lap."

Gracie's adoptive family also came for a ranch visit. Heather and Eric Valdez of Casper met the beagle after learning about Kindness Ranch on Facebook nearly six years ago.

"I felt I had a kindred spirit with them," Heather said.

She and Eric visited the sanctuary about a year later, after losing one of their dogs to old age. Gracie, then about two years old, caught their attention. The dog was quite shy at first. In fact, six months after her adoption, Gracie took her first full walk in the neighborhood.

"The biggest challenge was us, not her," Heather said. "We just needed to have patience and recognize and understand her timidity."

There have been many joys for these adoptive families.

"Seeing her discover the outside world and discovering what being a dog is all about – that has been so wonderful," Heather said.

"Having her become part of the family and greeting you at the front door – that's been a great joy for me," Eric said.

"Victor didn't know much about collars and leashes," Rob said. "Now, he goes on three mile-hikes!"

"Every surface was new to him – pavement, grass," Lisa said. "His world grew with every new surface. It's interesting to see the transformation in just a few months." »

WITHOUT THE WARMTH OF ELECTRIC
HEAT, [THE PIGS] SIMPLY WOULDN'T
SURVIVE. WITHOUT NIOBRARA,
WE WOULDN'T EXIST."



PHOTO BY GAYLE IRWIN



THE STORY OF COMMUNITY



Kindness Ranch's community is regional, local, and national. A pit-mix named Frieda found her new home with an Indiana resident, and a three-legged dog named Michael now lives in Michigan. Other adopters live in Fort Laramie and Wheatland.

Volunteers also come from near and far. A National Guard member at Guernsey volunteers regularly at the ranch, as does a teacher from Rawlins. Additionally, staff maintain a positive relationship with a local veterinarian who provides health care for the animals.

Niobrara Electric Association provides the electricity vital to the sanctuary's work. Lights shine in the office, yurts, and barn, well water is pumped at various ranch locations, and heat is provided to ranch buildings.

"Pigs can't really regulate their body temperature very well and have to have heat sources installed even though they are inside an insulated barn," Benoit said. "Some animals come to us very underweight and thin. Without the warmth of electric heat, they simply wouldn't survive. Without Niobrara, we wouldn't exist."

Positive relationships with various research facilities are also crucial. The animals come from different backgrounds. Some, like Gracie, are part of pet food trials; Sundance, a lemon-colored beagle, went through various surgeries and drug tests. Six horses were part of cancer research.

Adopters aren't told which facility their new friend came from; they may, however, be informed about the type of research in which the animal was involved.

"We maintain confidentiality, and we sign a memorandum with the research facility," said Benoit. "Before we receive animals from these labs, there's a lot of work done beforehand – it's all about relationship building."

The sanctuary depends on supporters, including foster families. The operation runs on small grants and individual contributions. Although USDA regulated, Kindness Ranch receives no government funding.

NEW YEAR, NEW STORIES



Stepping into a new year, and her second as executive director, Benoit foresees a busy and special time. Last month, 40 cats arrived, and at the end of 2018, the ranch welcomed 22 dogs. A call-out to the sanctuary community commenced. On the vast Wyoming prairie surrounded by pine-laden forests, such outreach occurs almost daily.

Benoit hopes to implement fresh fundraising ideas this year while also continuing to find space for new arrivals and permanent homes after the animals are assessed. Kindness Ranch offers these dogs and cats a second chance, which gives both pets and people a special gift.

"Even though there can be challenges for these animals – like being afraid of a TV or other noises because they've not known these things – through adoption, we are providing joy," Benoit said. **W**

Gayle M. Irwin is a freelance writer based in Casper.

Above: Two tabby cat brothers hang out together in the cat yurt.

ANIMALS IN RESEARCH



Various businesses conduct research on animals. Pharmaceutical companies use them to discover how medications affect the body. Veterinary schools practice surgeries. Other types of tests done on animals include petrochemicals, agrochemicals, cosmetics and household cleaners. Some research can be and is done without using animals. Many claim animal research is necessary; others disagree.

According to Speaking of Research (speakingofresearch.com/facts/statistics/), the USDA reported more than 820,000 animals were used for research studies in fiscal year 2016; this represented a seven percent increase from the previous year. Creatures most widely tested on are guinea pigs, hamsters, and rabbits (nearly 400,000); almost 79,000 dogs and cats were used, and about 83,000 sheep, pigs, and other farm animals were tested on in 2016.

Some businesses, especially those in the cosmetic and beauty arenas, have stepped away from animal testing. To learn about other such companies, visit this website: leapingbunny.org/guide/brands.

SAGE BRUSH

If Wyoming had a state shrub (which it does not) it should be sagebrush. But which one? Probably Wyoming big sagebrush, because it already has the name, but there are 11 other kinds of sagebrush also living in Wyoming.

SAGEBRUSHES OF WYO

Low sagebrush (*Artemisia arbuscula*)
 Silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*)
 Fringed sage (*Artemisia frigida*)
 Black sage (*Artemisia nova*)
 Birdfoot sage (*Artemisia pedatifida*)
 Porter's sage (*Artemisia porter*)
 Snowfield sagebrush (*Artemisia spiciformis*)
 Bud sagebrush (*Artemisia spinescens*)
 Threetip sagebrush (*Artemisia tripartita*)

THE THREE VARIETIES OF BIG SAGEBRUSH (*Artemisia tridentata*)

Basin big sagebrush (var. *tridentata*)
 Mountain big sagebrush (var. *vaseyana*)
 Wyoming big sagebrush (var. *wyomingensis*)



DID YOU KNOW?

Big sagebrush is the most widespread and abundant shrub in the world!

—
Artemisia is named for Queen Artemisia II of Caria, a botanist and Naval commander who died in 350 B.C.

An excellent guide to sagebrush species can be found at sagestep.org/pubs/pubs/sagebrush_pock_guide.pdf.

For a hard copy, be one of the first ten people to call or email the Biodiversity Institute at 307-766-6279 or biodiversity@uwyo.edu. Be sure to include your mailing address.

They all belong to the scientific genus *Artemisia*, which also includes many non-shrubby species. Together, these sagebrush species dominate most of Wyoming's landscapes. The sagebrush steppe is home to many of the state's iconic wildlife species, and provides habitat for thousands more. And, of course, sagebrush steppes support cattle grazing, energy development and recreation.

Sagebrushes are so successful in Wyoming because of several unique adaptations that enable them to live in a windy, cold, dry climate.

- 1 They have two sets of roots—one that is shallow, to collect moisture from rains and melting snows, and another set that harvests deep moisture late in the growing season.
- 2 They are evergreen, which makes it possible for the plant to photosynthesize whenever it has access to moisture and sunlight, even when other plants are dormant.
- 3 They produce prodigious amounts of strongly-scented chemicals—terpenes and camphors—that discourage insects and mammals from browsing them for much of the spring and summer, when they are flowering and setting seed.

Sagebrush flowers are miniscule, but there are many of them. Each tiny flower makes a single tiny seed, but each plant has the potential to make hundreds or thousands of seeds. Late in the summer, as the seeds mature, the plants become less bitter in taste. Then, they become favored browse for many animals who eat the flower stalks and spread the seeds. In return for seed-spreading services, the sagebrush provides valuable energy, nutrition and shelter to animals throughout the winter.



BY MEGAN BEAVERS

VET'S PETS



It's a given that a veterinarian loves animals and will have plenty of their own. Often, for whatever reason, veterinarians are blessed to have pets with odd diseases, defects or problems that other people don't want or can't manage.

W

e started married life by adopting a stray cat at the vet clinic where I was working. He had been in a fight while living on his own and the bite wounds progressed to a massive infection of his front leg. The muscles, skin and tendons were all so damaged by the time he was brought to the vet that nothing could be done; his limb was amputated. He was named Smokey by the staff because of his lovely color, but I soon nicknamed him Pod Pod, a play on tripod. He was a neat cat, who followed me around the clinic, everyday all day. When my husband and I had to move away for school, it was no question that Pod Pod would be coming with us. Three legs didn't hold him back from enjoying life; he loved car rides and going out for ice cream!

Our second animal with special issues was Mitch. He was a local fighting-wild tomcat. Slowly over months we gained his trust, until one day we could finally touch him. He was a sweet scarred-up guy who decided he wanted to be domesticated. We scheduled him an appointment to be neutered at the practice I was working at. A routine part of updating him on medical care is testing for common feline viruses, and Mitch tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). This is a virus mainly passed by fighting. It can affect a cat's ability to fend off normal infections and open them up to other diseases or cancers. I was torn as to keep him because our other cats were all negative and his future was uncertain.

Reluctantly we kept him. He enjoyed watching TV nightly while I did homework, and became a very docile and friendly cat; leaving his tomcat ways long behind. In vet school, we tested Mitch again. Still FIV positive. We tested our other cats. Still FIV negative. The immunologist was surprised and used

Mitch as a lecture subject for many years on why FIV is not a death sentence. Mitch lived a long happy life, he was approximately 18 years old when he succumbed to kidney failure, like many FIV-negative cats do with age. I don't think his disease altered his life expectancy and he's been a great case to talk about with clients.

Bunny was an 8-week-old kitten when she was surrendered to be euthanized. She wasn't using her back legs, but she was a little spitfire. Once in my possession, I was so attached to her fluffy little face and her baby hiss that I couldn't euthanize her. X-rays showed damage to her lumbar vertebrae, but I was unable to determine if it was a congenital malformation or some sort of trauma sustained as part of life as a barn cat. I tried several conventional and unconventional methods to see if she could regain control of her hind legs. She will use them and hop along like a bunny, but she really doesn't have control of where and when they are going. She is a very avid and patient hunter. She catches more rodents than the other cats combined and loves to help me do outside chores perched on my back, because she just can't quite hop along fast enough to keep up. Our little handi-cat does raise some concerns from visitors when they spy her unique way of walking across the yard. But once I explain her situation and they meet her ... they understand.

It seems like we have a lot of special-needs cats and I'm not sure how that has happened. I am the crazy cat lady vet, so maybe unconsciously I really love cats and they know where to go for help. But we also have a goat that fits the weird misfit category. Ishmael was a goat that I met before even his mother met him. I delivered him by C-section because his mom couldn't deliver him and his three siblings. On his farm he would be destined to be a meal, until I

was called to look at baby Ishmael's eye. Seemed he had poked it on something in the pen and it was infected and painful. Despite medical treatment, his only options were to be culled or have it removed. As a cas-

trated mixed-breed goat his future was bleak regardless. I was looking for a heathen with cloven hooves to add to our mix, so I offered to take him and remove his eye if he could become our goat. And so, he did, and now we have a one-eyed goat who thinks he is a dog.

It's an unwritten rule that veterinarians should have at least one special animal in the mix. These aren't my first nor will they be my last, there's always room for more misfits around here. **W**

Dr. Megan Beavers is a veterinarian in Farson.

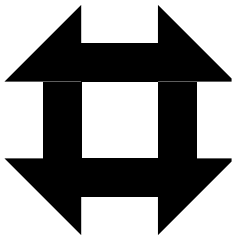
**...and now
we have a
one-eyed goat
who thinks
he is a dog.**

HIP TO BE SQUARE

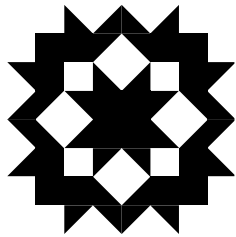
Traditional quilt block patterns are not only beautiful to behold and take skill to execute; they also symbolize important concepts that strengthened relationships, recorded history or were used as life-saving codes, according to Underground Railroad researchers. Motifs like triangles and lines represented movement, while depictions of natural or man-made objects reflected the quilter's lifestyle, values or surroundings. Match each quilt square with a name/meaning from the box, then whip stitch over to page 35 to grade your performance.

BY KENDRA SPANJER

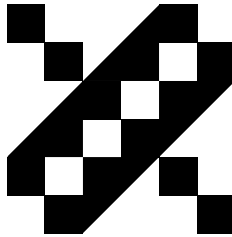
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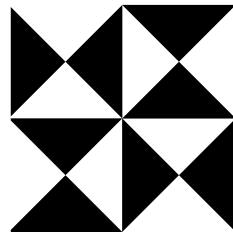
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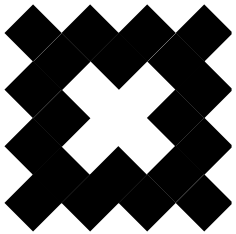
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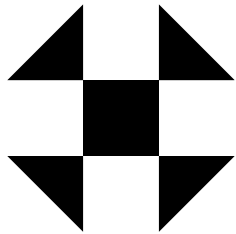
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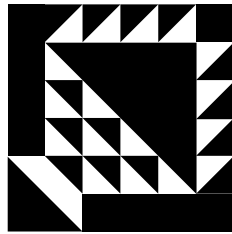
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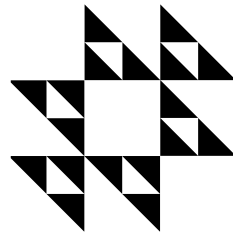
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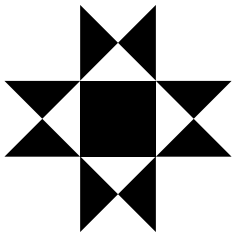
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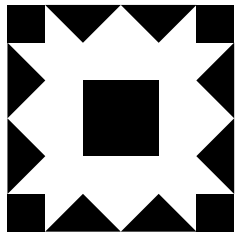
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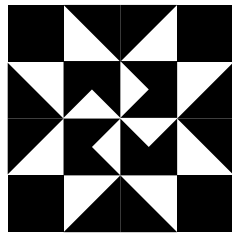
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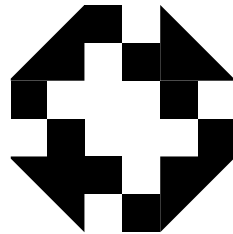
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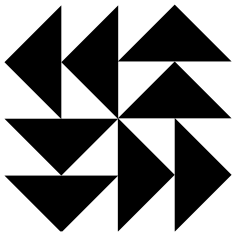
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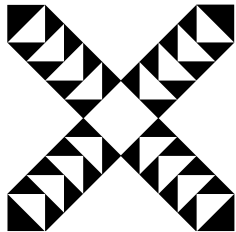
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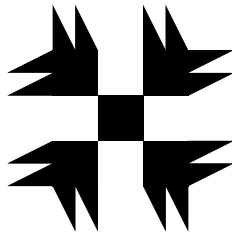
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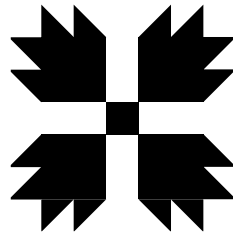
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16



PATTERN NAMES & MEANINGS

BASKET – nature's bounty

BEAR PAW – follow to food & water

BOWTIE – dress in disguise

CAT'S CRADLE – children's game

CHIMNEY SWEEP – friendship

FLYING GEESE – point the way

MARTHA WASHINGTON

HOLE IN BARN (A.K.A. WRENCH) – preparedness

MORNING

OHIO STAR – hope for better life

PRAIRIE QUEEN – pioneer woman

ROAD TO CALIFORNIA – migration

SHOOFLY – friendly helper nearby

TURKEY TRACKS – wanderlust

WAGON WHEEL – begin a journey

WILD GOOSE CHASE

ANSWERS ON PAGE 35 »



BY MARY BUDD FLITNER

ORDERING INFORMATION:

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University of Oklahoma Press

Available online or directly from
the publisher at 1-800-627-7377
or oupress.com.

MY RANCH, TOO

A WYOMING MEMOIR

DESCRIPTION BY TERESA JORDAN

For many outsiders, the word "ranching" conjures romantic images of riding on horseback through rolling grasslands while living and working against a backdrop of breathtaking mountain vistas. In this absorbing memoir of life in the Wyoming high country, Mary Budd Flitner offers a more authentic glimpse into the daily realities of ranch life – and what it takes to survive in the ranching world.

Some of Flitner's recollections are humorous and lighthearted. Others take a darker turn. A modern-day rancher with decades of experience, Mary has dealt with the hardships and challenges that come with this way of life. She's survived harsh conditions like the "winter of 50 below" and economic downturns that threatened her family's livelihood. She's also wrestled with her role as a woman in a profession that doesn't always treat her as equal. But for all its challenges, Flitner has also savored ranching's joys, including the ties that bind multiple generations of families to the land.

"Nurtured by a father who had confidence his 'little bitty girls' could do the cowboy work alongside seasoned hands, and tempered by decades ranching alongside her husband, Mary Budd Flitner shows how difficult it is to work the land – and to pass it on to the next generation. My Ranch, Too is a powerful story, authentically and eloquently told." – Candy Moulton

WIN A **FREE** COPY OF MY RANCH, TOO!

ENTER
TO WIN

✉ RANCH
c/o WREN Magazine
214 W. Lincolnway
Ste. 21C
Cheyenne, WY 82001

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wren-submissions](http://wyomingrea.org/wren-submissions)

ENTRIES DUE BY APRIL 10
One entry per household, please.

Name:

Phone:

Address:

DECEMBER'S
BOOK WINNER:



**MICHAEL
TAYLOR**
BUFFALO

RUTH REES



We Make a Moment of Sunshine

BY NEVA BODIN

At first everything is strange. You're no longer in your familiar room and bed surrounded by well-known toys and stuffed animals. Most everyone you meet wants to do something with you—stick you with a needle, poke you in the stomach, listen to your insides. They smile, and they're kind, but you don't know what's coming next. The world has shrunk to hospital walls, weird machines, and strange faces.

Then you are given a soft and colorful quilt. It has animals appliqued on it. You can trace the pictures on it with your finger. And it remains with you – warm comfort in this alien world of a hospital.

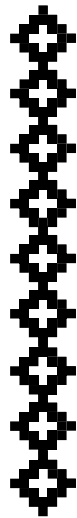
Such is the picture for many children at Primary Children's Hospital in Salt Lake City, Utah – a 289-bed pediatric hospital – who receive a quilt from Ruth Rees and her ever-growing number of volunteers. Rees, board member for the Wyoming Rural Electric Association and board secretary/treasurer for Wyoming's Bridger Valley Electric Association, started the Make a Child Smile program to give hand-made quilts to hospitalized children 19 years ago. In 2018 alone, 165 quilts were made and donated to pediatric patients at the hospital by Rees and her friends.

Rees, not a quilter when the idea was born, was a 4-H leader. She wanted to teach kids the joys of giving.



**"It's easy to help the people we know and love,
but Ruth helps everyone."**

PHOTO BY KELLY ETZEL DOUGLAS



"I've had a lot of things happen in my life where people came to my rescue and didn't expect anything in return. I felt I had to give back," said Rees.

"I noticed the kids struggling to find community projects. I came up with the Make a Child Smile class." Designed with 4-H kids in mind, Ruth decided it could also include anyone in the community. The project eventually saw its own category at the county fair.

"I'm passionate about this," said Rees. "The community has participated like it's unbelievable. Anyone can donate. This has become a community event with community support. There's so much cheer and joy when people look at the quilts. We make a moment of sunshine."

"I did have a little granddaughter, age five, who had kidney cancer and had a kidney removed ... I saw the inside of a hospital and how life changes when you have a sick child," said Rees.

Nicole Peterson, chairman of the Corporate and Community Development Board at Primary Children's said, "I have seen some of the quilts they have made for the children at the hospital, and they are beautiful! The detail in them

▲
Lori Jensen and
Ruth Rees deliver
quilts to the Primary
Children's Hospital.

◀ Ruth Rees poses
with some of her
favorite quilts.



and the carefully thought-out themes really can make a difference to a child when they find themselves in the hospital and in need of the extra comfort a quilt can bring."

A year ago Rees was invited to be a member of this board. "That is a special honor," she said.

Rees and her husband are third generation owners of a ranch near Fort Bridger, raising cattle. As a rancher's daughter learning a strong work ethic, she helped "with everything," she said. "I loved to hay, and see the miracle of birth during calving season."

Rees has worked for a dentist, for the Farm Service Agency, and she and her husband have a small construction company. They also manage a local landfill.

Rees "gives back" in multiple ways. She has volunteered for the Uinta County Fair Board, the local cemetery board and the American Legion Auxiliary. "My husband and I did the American Legion 4th of July Rodeo for probably 10 years," Rees said. She also organizes auction fundraisers when "Somebody has had medical problems, or they need some help."

Friends and acquaintances become involved "because you can't tell Ruth 'No,'" said Jud Redden, Bridger Valley general manager, who nominated Rees for the WREN spotlight. "When there's someone in need, she's always organizing some kind of relief effort for them—rides to the doctors or paying someone's power bill."

Redden noted that she also helps with Operation RoundUp,

a charitable program offered by utility cooperatives, allowing members to "round up" their bill to help those in need.

Friend and cohort, Lori Jensen, said "She's an awesome person. I have known her for years. Ruth can inspire people to donate, whether it's time, money, or quilts. She doesn't take no for an answer. She tells you the best way to help yourself is to help others. Just not knowing how to do something doesn't stop her. She's always thinking outside the box. She works with her grandkids to teach them how to become volunteers. She sees somebody in need and helps them, and it doesn't matter who they are. It's easy to help the people we know and love, but Ruth helps everyone."

"The world is full of good people, willing to help, share, give and love," Rees said. "They just want to be asked."

Rees enjoys yard work and flower gardening, but "If I have a gloomy day, I just go to my sewing room," she said. She also has 10 grandchildren who keep her busy and who are involved in her quilting program.

She has made arrangements to hand over the reins someday for Make a Child Smile. "I have a granddaughter who's promised to take over when I'm too old," Rees said.

"You have to be busy. It makes you feel good," said Rees. "I feel very blessed. I've gotten many blessings in making a blessing."

W

Neva Bodin is a Casper-based freelance writer, registered nurse, painter and poet.

BRUNCH

DECADENT SCALLOPED POTATOES

LARGE IRON SKILLET OR DUTCH OVEN
2 TSP SALT
1 TBS CHOPPED GARLIC (2-4 CLOVES)
3 CUPS CREAM OR MIXED MILK AND CREAM
2 LBS BOILING POTATOES
2 TBS BUTTER (OPTIONAL)
1/2 CUP CUBED COOKED HAM (OPTIONAL)
PEPPER TO TASTE

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Set up the oven with a middle rack for the dish and a bottom rack with a cookie sheet to catch boil-overs.

Combine the garlic and salt on a cutting board and mash them together with the blade of a knife. Pour half of the cream into the skillet and add the salt, garlic and pepper.

Slice the potatoes very thin, 1/4 inch or less. Spread them evenly in the dish with ham (if using). Pour the rest of the cream into the dish, the liquid should partially cover the top layer of potatoes – add more if needed.

Set the skillet on a stovetop burner, bring to a slow boil and cook for about 20 minutes, until the liquid has slightly thickened.

Scrape the bottom gently to prevent scorching.

Turn off the burner and dot the top of dish with butter if desired. Place the skillet in the oven and bake, uncovered, 25-30 minutes, until the top is browned and the potatoes are tender.

ADAPTED FROM ★ JULIA AND JACQUES COOKING AT HOME

HOT BANANA NUT CEREAL

1/2 CUP WATER
1/2 CUP SKIM MILK
1 TBS QUINOA
1 SMALL BANANA, SLICED
(OR FRUIT OF YOUR CHOICE)
3 TBS OATS
2 TBS OAT BRAN
PINCH OF SALT
PINCH OF GROUND CINNAMON
2 TBS WALNUTS
2 TSP BROWN SUGAR OR HONEY
1/2 TSP VANILLA EXTRACT

Stir the water, milk, and quinoa together in a saucepan; bring to a gentle boil.

Reduce heat to low and simmer 5 minutes, or until the quinoa begins to soften. Stir in the banana, rolled oats, oat bran, salt and cinnamon. Cook, stirring frequently over low heat for 2 to 5 minutes or until the mixture thickens. Remove from the heat and stir in the walnuts, brown sugar and vanilla.

WREN STAFF

PRALINE BRUNCH TOAST

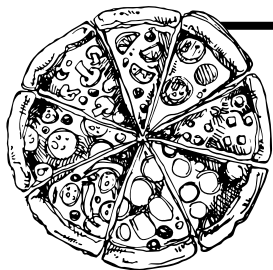
8 EGGS
1-1/2 CUPS MILK
1/2 CUP PLUS 1 TBS BROWN SUGAR
2 TSP VANILLA
8 SLICES FRENCH OR ITALIAN BREAD CUT 3/4" THICK
1/4 CUP BUTTER
1/4 CUP MAPLE SYRUP
1/2 CUP CHOPPED PECANS

Place bread slices in a 9x13 inch pan. Blend or beat eggs, milk, 1 TBS brown sugar, and vanilla. Pour over bread. Cover and refrigerate several hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Carefully remove bread slices from pan and set aside. Place butter in the 9x13 inch pan and put in the oven until melted. Add remaining brown sugar, syrup, and pecans, stir until well blended. Return bread slices and any liquid that drained from them to the baking dish. Bake uncovered 30 minutes or until puffed and lightly browned. Invert the slices to serve.

HANNAH HEGE ★ CARPENTER



MAY'S RECIPES: MEALS FOR KIDS

SUBMIT
A RECIPE

Send complete recipe by April 10!

Please include your name, address and phone number.

✉ wren@wyomingrea.org | ☎ [307] 772-1968
✉ 214 W. Lincolnway Ste. 21C Cheyenne, WY 82001
📄 wyomingrea.org/wren-submissions

JEFF THOMAS ★ BURNS

RANCH GALS

Her hair was plastered to her head, her arms were scratched and bloody,
 Her pants were torn, her shirt was ripped, her boots were wet and muddy.
 They told her to fix some fence that day, she didn't even whine.
 And when they asked her how it went she smiled and said "Just fine!"

They put her on a horse they all knew was kinda snakey:
 But you could tell she wasn't scared, her voice weren't even shakey.
 She stuck her toe into the stirrup and climbed into the saddle;
 You could tell from the look upon her face she was ready to do battle.
 When the dust finally cleared she was lopin' towards the gate:
 And hollered over her shoulder "Fork your saddle boys or we'll all be late!"

Haying time and all the guys were in their air-conditioned cabs,
 But they put her on an antique F-9 with the oldest rake they had.
 She was always the first one out and last one in, until they hayin' was done,
 The boss just shook his head and said "I wish she was my son!"

High heel shoes and a dark blue dress, it's about quarter until eight,
 Her hair is all cleaned and pressed, she's goin' on a date.
 When the boss man calls and says the windmill's down and the cattle are out of water,
 "I'd haul some to them myself but I'm in town visitin' my daughter."
 Her date wasn't surprised that she showed up with a little grease on her upper lip,
 What got him is that she was haulin' a water tank in the back of an antique six by six!

Dedicated to all those gals that help keep our outfits running.

We share a selection of WREN readers' creative writing (poems, limericks, haiku, short verse, and prose) every issue as space and content allow. To be considered for publication, please include the author's consent to be submitted, his or her mailing address, and confirmation that the work has not been published elsewhere. If you would like us to return your work, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

SUBMIT
A PIECE

Put Your Pen to Paper!

Please include your name, address, and phone number.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING REGIONAL MAP



01 | SOUTHEAST

CHEYENNE

FIRST & THIRD SATURDAYS

Winter Farmer's Market:

Local foods, crafts and more.
10a-2p, Cheyenne Train Depot
Lobby, info 307-640-2665,
cheyennewinterfarmersmarket@
gmail.com.



CHUGWATER

APRIL 5

Karaoke Contest Finals: Finalists
will compete for \$500 grand prize.
Stampede Saloon & Eatery, info 307-
422-3200.

ENCAMPMENT

ONGOING

Grand Encampment Museum: Main
Gallery and GEM Store open Mon-Fri
10a-4p, info 307-327-5308.

LARAMIE

APRIL 11

Legacy Collegiate Chorale:

40 faculty, staff, students and
community members will sing.
7:30-8:30p, Buchanan Center for the
Performing Arts, \$12, \$8 senior, \$6
student, info 307-766-5222, kirisk@
uwyo.edu.

SARATOGA

APRIL 20

Treasure Egg Hunt: A day of family
fun at historical sites in Saratoga
during this Saratoga Museum
fundraiser. 10a, Saratoga Museum,
\$30, light lunch included, advance
registration required, 307-326-5511.

TORRINGTON

MARCH 22

Wine Tasting Gala and Silent Auction:

18th annual Rotary Club gala themed
"Shamrock the World with Service
Above Self." 5:30-8p, Rendezvous
Center at Goshen County Fairgrounds,
\$30, info 307-532-2111.

APRIL 9

Business Round Table: John Marrin
will speak about the New Millennial
Community Business Club, meeting
from 12-1p with lunch provided. 2042
Main Street, info 307-532-3879.

02 | NORTHEAST

CLEARMONT

ONGOING

Historical Center: Center open
Thursdays 2-4p, 1250 Front St, free.
Historical Group meets 2p first Mondays
of the month at Clearmont Library, 1p
third Mondays of the month at Sheridan
Library, info 307-758-4430.

GILLETTE

APRIL 12-13

Spring Fling Dance: Levis & Lace
Square Dance Club hosts its annual
event at Boys and Girl Club, 410
Lakeside Dr. \$40/weekend. Info 307-
660-6318.



APRIL 27

Powder River Energy Lineman

Scholarship Banquet: Fundraiser
includes banquet, benefit auction,
side-by-side raffle. 5 p. Gillette Cam-Plex
Energy Hall. Info 307-680-4747, precorp.
coop.

THIRD SATURDAYS

Winter Farmer's Market: 9a-12p,
Gillette College Tech Center Building.

FEATURED EVENT

DEAR FOLKS, LETTERS HOME FROM WWII



THROUGH MAY 25



GILLETTE

ROCKPILE MUSEUM

Local families gathered letters
sent by Campbell County soldiers as
they served in the South Pacific, Europe
and Asia during the second world war for
this exhibit at the museum.

INFO 307-682-5723
ROCKPILE@VCN.COM

NORTHEAST

ONGOING

Ava Community Art Center: Info avacenter.org or 307-682-9133.

HULETT

ONGOING

Hulett Museum and Art Gallery: 8a-4p Mon-Fri, free, info 307-467-5292.

SUNDANCE

ONGOING

Library Events: Story time for toddlers and preschoolers 10:30a Wednesdays; Lunch Bunch book discussion group 11a fourth Thursdays; Quilting @ the Library 6-8p last Mondays. Crook County Library, info 307-283-1006 or crookcountylib@rangeweb.net.



UPTON

MARCH 23

Festival of Tables: Chamber event, 6p, Upton Community Center, info 307-468-2642.

WEDNESDAYS

All You Can Eat Buffet: Drinks and desserts included, 5-8p, Upton Golf Course, \$10, \$7 seniors, info 307-468-2847.

MONDAYS & THURSDAYS

Zumba: 4p, Senior Center, \$5, info 307-391-0223.

ONGOING

Upton Gun Club pistol shoots: 7p on Mar 29, Apr 12 at indoor range, 705 Ash Street, \$5, info rrrothleutner@yahoo.com.

ONGOING

Indoor Archery: Mon-Sat 5-9p, also 9a-12p Sat, 2741 Hwy 116N, \$10, info 307-468-2506.



Send complete
information for the
May issue's
events by
APRIL 10!

Please remember that events
from the 20th of May to the
20th of June are included
in the May issue.

Be sure to include the date,
title, description, time, cost,
location, address and contact
information for each event.

Photos are always welcome.



Look for more events at
wyomingrea.org/news.

QUESTIONS &
SUBMISSIONS:

✉ wren@wyomingrea.org

☎ [307] 772-1968

✉ 214 W. Lincolnway
Ste. 21C
Cheyenne, WY 82001

💻 wyomingrea.org/wren-submissions

03 | NORTHWEST



DUBOIS

MARCH 21

Let's Go Sheep Hunting: Tory Taylor shares slides and stories of a 1979 bighorn sheep hunt in the Wind River Mountains. 6:30-7:30p, National Bighorn Sheep Center, info 307-455-3429, bighorn.org.

ONGOING

Library Activities: Lego Club for grades K-5, 3:30p Tuesdays; Story time for birth-5 years 10:30a Fridays; and Lego Duplo Club for toddlers and preschoolers 11a Fridays. Dubois Public Library, info 307-455-2992.

LANDER

APRIL 11

Lander in 1919: An illustrated talk on what life was like in Lander 100 years ago. 7p, Pioneer Museum, free, info 307-332-3339.

APRIL 13

Noble Hotel Walking Tour: Learn the history of one of Lander's grand old buildings. Meet in front of the Noble Hotel at 10a. 25 people maximum, free but reservations required, 307-332-3339.

ONGOING TO APRIL 16

For the Love of Water, Then and Now in Fremont County: Using historic photos and artifacts, the display looks at the importance of water for agriculture, recreation and industry in Fremont County. Pioneer Museum, info 307-332-3339.

ONGOING

Swing Dancing at the Coulter Loft: Sundays in March and April, 6-9p, 126 Main Street, free, info 307-332-8228.

RIVERTON

APRIL 13

Paint a Bird House: Hands-on activity inspired by traditional Native American practices. 2p, Riverton Museum, \$5, \$4 child, registration required, limit 12 participants ages 8 and up. Info 307-856-2665.

THERMOPOLIS

MARCH 23

Chamber Banquet: 98th annual event. 5:30p, Hot Springs Country Fair building, info thermopolischamber.org.

APRIL 6

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Banquet: Doors open at 5p, dinner at 7p, Hot Springs Country Fair building, info thermopolischamber.org.

APRIL 12

2nd Friday ArtStroll: 5-8p, downtown Thermopolis, info thermopolischamber.org.

04 | SOUTHWEST

FORT BRIDGER

TUESDAYS

Bingo: 6:45p, American Legion Hall, info 780-5489.



JACKSON

FRIDAYS TO MARCH 29

Feathered Fridays: View live birds such as owls, hawks and eagles. 12-2p, Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center, free. School and non-profit groups are encouraged to call 307-739-9322 for a private raptor lesson.

ONGOING

National Elk Refuge Sleigh Rides:

Daily 10a-4p through early April. \$25, \$15 for ages 5-12, under 5 free. Jackson Hole & Greater Yellowstone Visitor Center, info go.usa.gov/xPStJ, 307-733-0277.



02

01



03



THIS MONTH:

WINDOWS

- 01** | My dog Rebel looking through a window at an old Copper Mine on Sheep Mountain, Carrie Miller, Laramie
- 02** | Beautiful day at Fremont County Courthouse, Flower Norris, Lander
- 03** | Cold reflection in the window, with large icicles hanging down, Carol Dewey, Carlile
- 04** | Cloud reflections, Pat Nelson, Cody

04



JUST PICTURE IT



MAY (DUE APR 10):

DEER



JUNE (DUE MAY 10):

LEARNING



05

05 | Granddaughters looking through an old window at Fort LaClede, Carrie Miller, Laramie



06

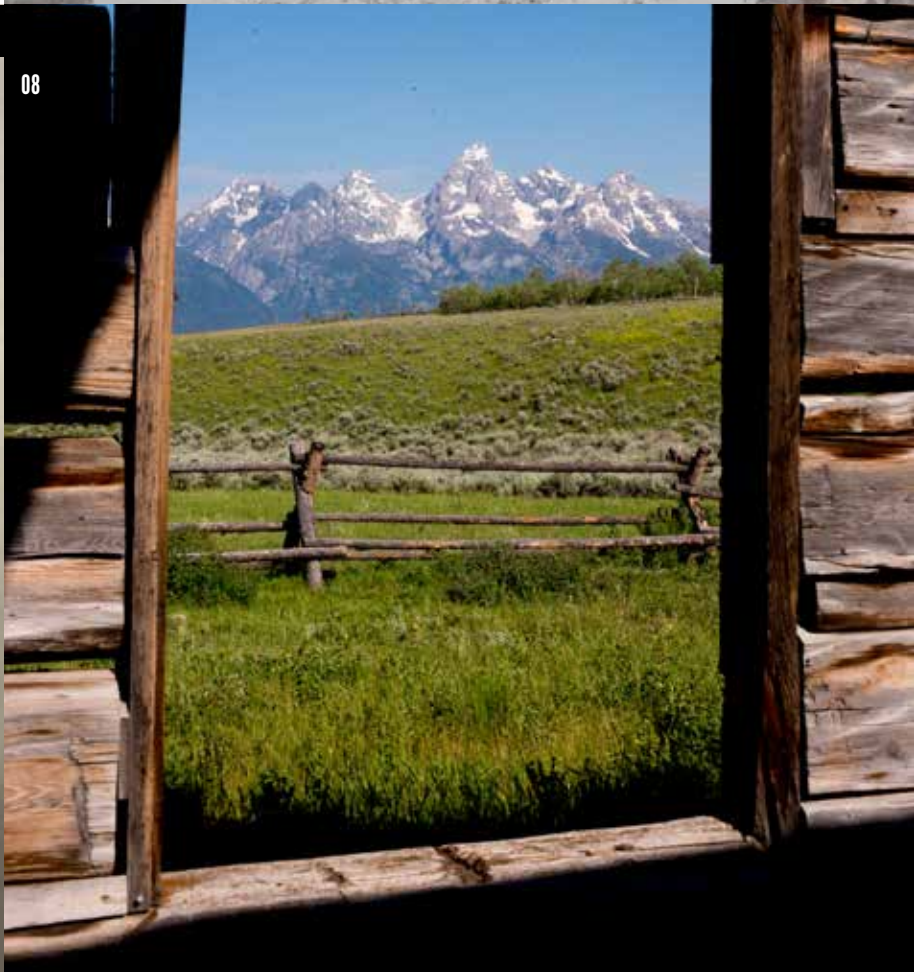
06 | A view of history through the window of time, Sheila Muhlenkamp, Fort Laramie

07 | Looking out the airplane window, Brad Lapp, Gillette

08 | The beauty remains, Charles Dirks, Buffalo



07



08

SUBMIT A
PHOTO

✉ wren@wyomingrea.org
 ✉ 214 W. Lincolnway Ste. 21C Cheyenne, WY 82001
 🌐 wyomingrea.org/wren-submissions

Please include your name, hometown and a title.

Please submit high-quality digital files* or an original we can scan, as well as details about the artwork, the artist's name, and the co-op. *Use the highest quality setting on your camera, or save digital artwork as a .jpg or .tif file with at least 300 dpi resolution. Don't use Kodak Easy Share®.

If you would like your work returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



09

09 | Rural farm in northern Iceland,
Vicki Olson, Powell

10 | Wintery yard view from living
room window, Linda Torczon,
Cody

11 | Church ruin on the Hook Peninsula
of Ireland, Vicki Olson, Powell

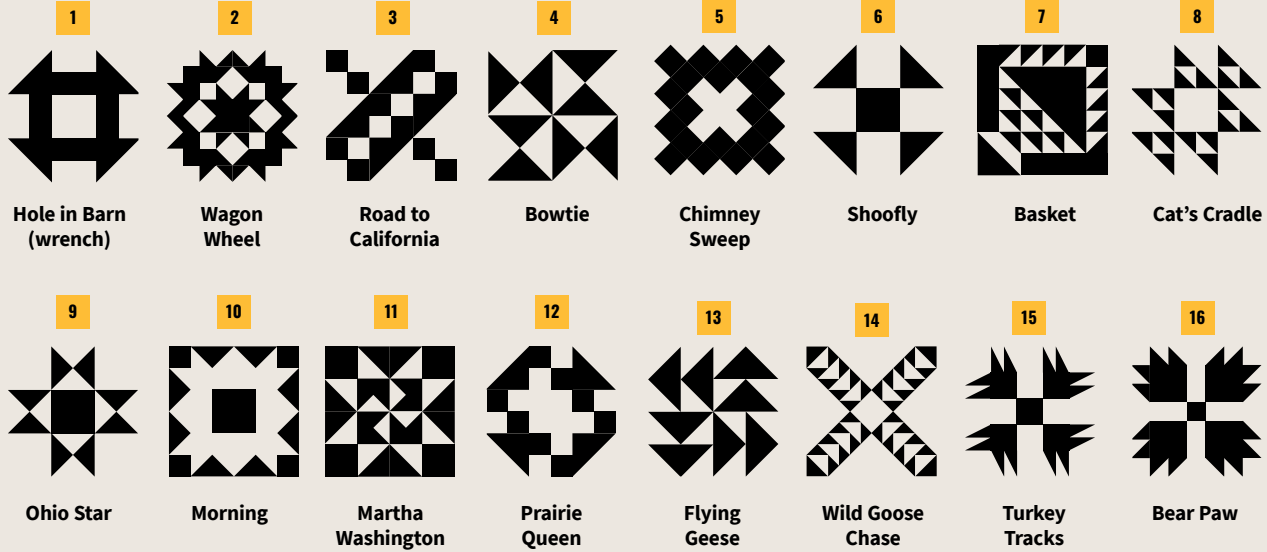
12 | A window on the Moulton
homestead cabin in the Tetons,
Vicki Olson, Powell

12



HIP TO BE SQUARE

FROM PAGE 24



16 correct: Blue Ribbon Quilter | 12-15 correct: Sew close! | 6-11 correct: Just warming up | 0-5 correct: All thumbs

MOVE OVER WYOMING!



IT'S THE LAW!

Drivers in Wyoming are required to move over or slow down for stopped emergency and utility crews.



ONE-CALL OF WYOMING

Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Call 2 business days before you dig.
It's fast, it's free, and it's the law!

811 or 1-800-849-2476

DON'T BE UNLUCKY THIS
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RIDE WITH A DESIGNATED
SOBER DRIVER.



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driving is
drunk
driving
designate a sober driver

BY JULIETTE RULE

W

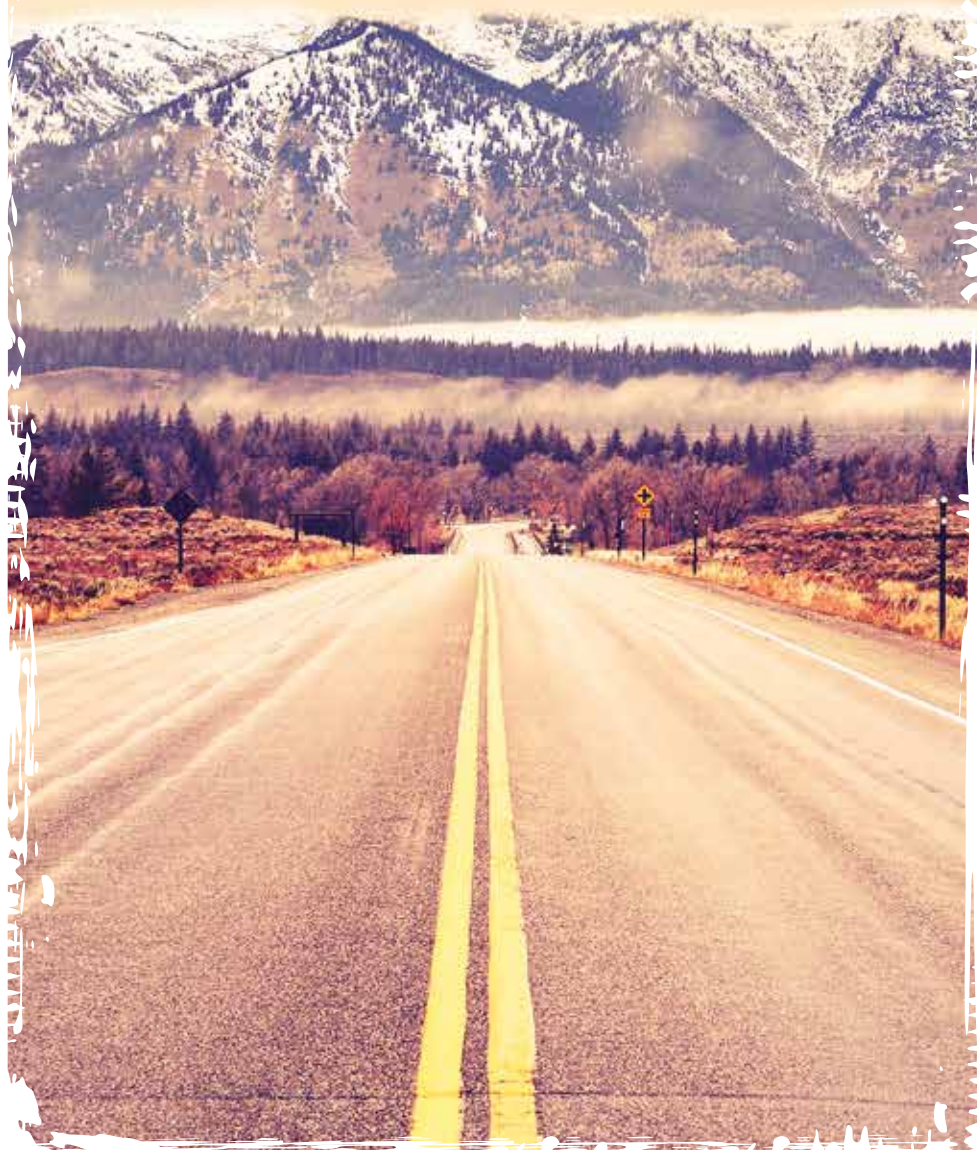
YOMING ALWAYS
HAD BEEN A PART OF
MY CHILDHOOD.
IT WAS MY MOTHER'S
LEGACY, REALLY, BUT
WE NEVER VISITED.

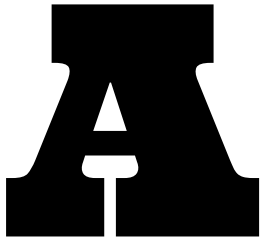


Two generations before mine had called Montana home, and most of us adventured through Yellowstone National Park regularly on foot and in cars, sometimes even on horseback.

Here's an inventory of what I knew about my homesteading great-grandfather. Albert Fiedler immigrated from Budapest, Hungary to Chicago as a cabinet maker and then to run his ranch in northeast Wyoming. (Or was it a dryland farming operation? Either way, we could only make assumptions about how he acquired the land.)

Making Stories in Wyoming





Albert had two children: A daughter, Lydia, my maternal grandmother. Then a son, Walter. His wife died in childbirth, and how bittersweet that must have been. A son to help with the ranching. But the loss of a wife who had seen him through the many tribulations of running the operation near Arvada in the 1920s and 30s and maybe into the 1940s.

My great-grandfather's sisters stepped in to help raise Lydia, which I hope was a welcome relief for her as my great-grandfather never was accused of being an overly indulgent father.

In retirement, he would move to Butte, Montana, to be closer to his daughter and her family. My parents would meet in college there, and the rest, as they say, is family history.

We always said my grandmother was raised on a Wyoming ranch. This is the seed that planted in me an early fondness for pastoral and wide but not empty spaces. It was there long before I knew Willa Cather, Annie Proulx and Gretel Ehrlich.

It was part of every family road trip we took, which as a reminder, never was "back to the ranch." My grandmother would say "On the ranch," and "Powder River Let 'er Buck," and when we'd see a Wyoming license plate, she'd proudly declare "There goes Big, Beautiful Wyoming!" That was all she said. Really. And we didn't probe for more.

I, of all the Fiedler offspring, am the only one who called Wyoming home as an adult. Evidently, I was the only one who felt its primordial pull.

I moved to Cody in 2000 for a job at the Cody Enterprise. Excited to start my career in journalism, the location was perfect: Three hours from my hometown, Bozeman, and it bordered the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. From Cody I moved to Laramie, and from Laramie I moved to Cheyenne – each migration for a newspaper job.

That was nearly 20 years ago, and I still haven't gotten to Arvada. The lack of information available online about the place does more to intrigue me than to inspire a road trip.

I can't drive Casper to Shoshone – as I often do on my way home to Montana – without stopping at Hell's Half Acre. I found an old highway marker of the Oregon Trail on the road to Laramie Peak's trailhead. I saw a two-headed calf encased in glass in the basement of the Lusk museum. (Why keep that kind of wonder in the basement, I asked my guide who ignored my question.) I've eaten a meal at every state penitentiary facility in the state – very short visits owed to my career as a reporter. I've been to the Smithsonian of the West, as I believe Al Simpson christened it, dozens of times. I've been awed by big horn sheep rambling the highway west of Cody.

My mom helped me move to Cody, and she was somewhat begrudging about it. As we drove the Belfry Highway, I marveled at the landscape. The hoodoos. Those wind-molded features of dirt, dust and little water. I imagined cowboys running sheep and cows. Cattle dogs and sheep dogs nipping at heels. Native Americans standing stoically – aren't they always stoic in my whitewashed imagination? – on the dissected plateaus that rise from the basin that holds Highway 120. The mystery and the history.



My grandmother would say "On the ranch," and "Powder River Let 'er Buck," and when we'd see a Wyoming license plate, she'd proudly declare "There goes Big, Beautiful Wyoming!"

My mother, unimpressed with yet another of my choices, said "Really? This is what you want?" I was unemployed and living in her house, so you wouldn't think she'd complain.

She just couldn't conceive of the appeal. Just couldn't see its raw beauty. She couldn't see how moved I was by the landscape. How pleased I was to be so close to Yellowstone and with a job, too!

The East Gate became a nice change from my well tread journeys through the North Gate at Gardiner, Montana, and West Gate at West Yellowstone, Montana.

It took me more than a decade of living in Wyoming to finally concede that though most entrances to the park are in Montana and though it is federal land, Wyoming could rightly claim Yellowstone as its own in its tourism promotions. And even though Montana lays claim as "Big Sky Country," it's got nothing on Wyoming's skies.

Thirty years after those road trips with Lydia, I still know next to nothing about her family's history in Wyoming, but I've made my own stories.

Powder River, let 'er Buck. 

Juliette Rule is a writer who misses Wyoming and Montana from the home she shares with her cowdog, Maszlo, in Colorado.

CATEGORIES

01. EQUIPMENT
02. FOR SALE
03. HORSES
04. LIVESTOCK
05. POULTRY
06. REAL ESTATE
07. WANTED
08. CRAFTS
09. OPPORTUNITIES
10. MISCELLANEOUS
11. BUSINESS CONSULTING
12. FOR RENT
13. HELP WANTED
14. DOGS
15. EMPLOYMENT SOUGHT
16. BUILDING SUPPLIES
17. TRAVEL & RECREATION
18. HEALTH
19. PERSONAL
20. FREE

02|FOR SALE

New & Used Coal Stokers, parts, service & advice. Available for most makes. Thanks. 307-754-3757.

Shaver Outdoor Wood Boiler Furnace. Aermotor Windmills and parts, cylinders, pipe, rod, submersible pumps, motors, control boxes, Hastings 12 ga. bottomless stock tanks and more. Herren Bros., Box 187, Harrison NE. 1-308-668-2582.

Surplus Equipment New and Used: Generators, air heaters, engine driven pumps, (all sizes), solar pumps, 3" and 4" polypipe, etc. A variety of types and sizes available. Call for pricing and details: Premier PowerPlants & Pumps, Farson, WY 307-273-9591.

07|WANTED

Antique Collector Looking For Oil Company Gas Pumps, Globes And Signs. Will pay fair market value! Also looking for general antiques for our antique shop. Please go to our website FrontierAutoMuseum.com. Located in Gillette WY, our passion is to preserve Wyoming history and the nostalgia of the past, especially Parco, Sinclair, Frontier, Husky and any car dealership along with all brands. We are also always looking for WY license plates and WY highway signs and State Park signs. Please call Jeff Wandler 307-680-8647 jwandler@LNH.net or daughter Briana Brewer 307-660-2402 bbrewer@frontierauto.net.

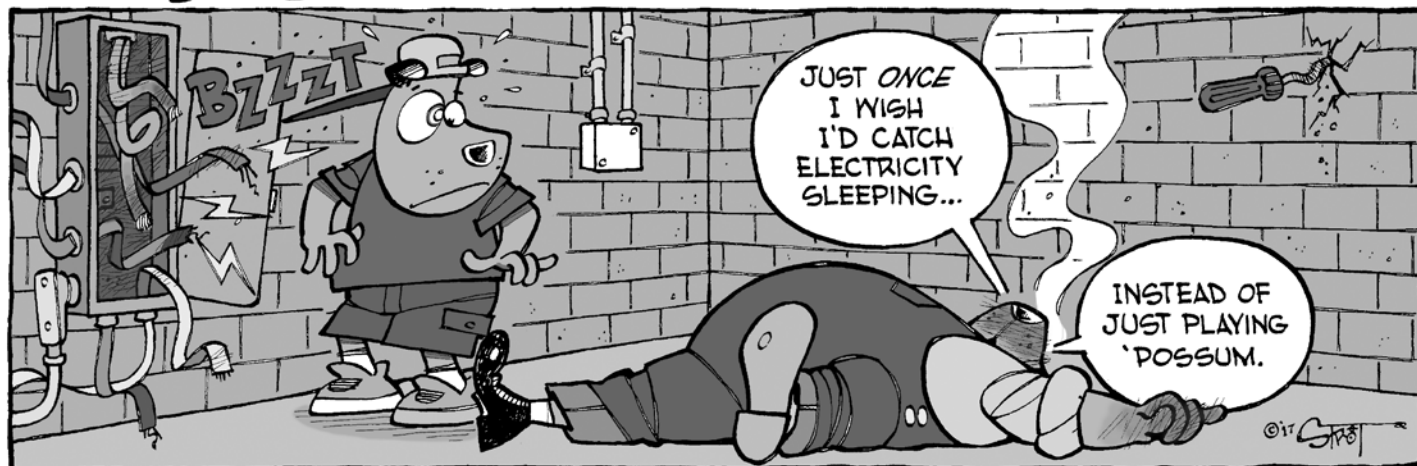
Want to purchase minerals & other oil/gas interests. Send details to: PO Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201.

We Pay Cash For Mineral & Oil/Gas Interests producing & non-producing. 800-733- 8122.

20|FREE

Soon Church/Government uniting, suppressing "Religious Liberty" enforcing "National Sunday Law." Be Informed! Needing Mailing address. TSBM Box 99, Lenoir City, TN 37771, thebiblesaystruth@yahoo.com, 1-888-211-1715.

Murphy





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The Zinger folds to a mere 10 inches.

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More and more Americans are reaching the age where mobility is an everyday concern. Whether from an injury or from the aches and pains that come from getting older—getting around isn't as easy as it used to be. You may have tried a power chair or a scooter. The **Zinger** is NOT a power chair or a scooter! The **Zinger** is quick and nimble, yet it is not prone to tipping like many scooters. Best of all, it weighs only 47.2 pounds and folds and unfolds with ease. You can take it almost anywhere, providing you with independence and freedom.

I can now go places and do things that I wasn't able to go or do before. It has given me a new lease on life and I am so happy I found it!

—Dana S., Texas

Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a mobility device that's truly unique. They created a battery that provides powerful energy at a fraction of the weight of most batteries. The **Zinger** features two steering levers, one on either side of the seat. The user pushes both levers down to go forward, pulls them both up to brake, and pushes one while pulling the other to turn to either side. This enables

great mobility, the ability to turn on a dime and to pull right up to tables or desks. The controls are right on the steering lever so it's simple to operate and its exclusive footrest swings out of the way when you stand up or sit down. With its rugged yet lightweight aluminum frame, the **Zinger** is sturdy and durable yet convenient and comfortable! What's more, it easily folds up for storage in a car seat or trunk—you can even gate-check it at the airport like a stroller. Think about it, you can take your **Zinger** almost anywhere, so you don't have to let mobility issues rule your life. It folds in seconds without tools and is safe and reliable. It holds up to 265 pounds, and it goes up to 6 mph and operates for up to 8 hours on a single charge.

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Zinger is not a wheelchair or medical device and is not covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

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ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD'S **sense of self**

Feelings of autonomy and having the confidence to express themselves are important ingredients for your child's social and emotional development.

TO BOOST YOUR CHILD'S SELF-AWARENESS:

1

Talk about experiences they've had and how those memories make them feel

2

Practice mindfulness; try simple yoga poses or breathing exercises

3

Look at photos and talk about how families, friends, and loved ones are connected

4

Express yourself: be a role model by expressing your own thoughts and feelings out loud

5

Sing, dance, tell stories, and make art!

Children learn from watching and imitating the important people in their lives – that's you!



DISCOVER YOUR UNIQUE TREASURES TOGETHER!

For a fun activity about self-discovery, visit:

wyqualitycounts.org/wren

**wy
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counts
.org**

WY Quality Counts, housed in the Department of Workforce Services, helps Wyoming parents and child care providers identify and create quality learning experience for children, thanks to the funding of the Wyoming Legislature.



All WY Quality Counts activities are supported by the Wyoming Early Learning Foundations and Guidelines, as well as the Domains of Development, which include:

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SENSE OF SELF & RELATIONSHIPS

CURIOUS MINDS

STRONG & HEALTHY BODIES