For news from your local cooperative, turn to the center of the magazine.

Fifteen is Enough
TV packages built for you.

**FREE** Voice Remote, and Smart HD DVR Included

“Tune to ESPN”

Voice Remote requires internet-connected Hopper.

### TV Packages

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Channels</th>
<th>Programming</th>
<th>Locality</th>
<th>Features</th>
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<tr>
<td>190</td>
<td>America’s Top 120</td>
<td>All-Time Favorites and Locals</td>
<td>Free Standard Professional Installation</td>
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<tr>
<td>190+</td>
<td>America’s Top 120 Plus</td>
<td>Everything Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>240+</td>
<td>America’s Top 200</td>
<td>Everything Sports and Entertainment</td>
<td>Free HD for Life*</td>
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MX_23971
THE “COMPUTERFICATION” OF RURAL WYOMING

If you can patent or trademark a word, I have dibs on “computerfication.” In my world it is the equivalent to electrification but with computers, technology and the internet. A question that I’ve been asked several times over the past few years is, “Why can’t the REA do for rural internet what they did for rural electrification?” It’s a fair question but the answer isn’t that simple. Eighty-plus years ago when ranchers and farmers and rural communities across Wyoming and the country banded together to bring electricity to rural America, it was because the for-profit utilities saw that there was no money to be made building out to these rugged and sparsely-populated areas.

So rural folks joined together to form a cooperative, whereby the people that wanted the service (electricity) invested their own money and became part-owner of the newly-formed cooperative utility. Shortly after this investment was made, poles, wires, transformers and substations were put up in order to receive electricity from a central station power plant and then distribute the electricity to the new owners.

This model has served us very well for over 80 years, and while technology in the electric utility business has changed some of the ways in which we conduct our business, the premise remains the same.

Fast forward 80 years, and while most of rural Wyoming and America enjoy reliable, affordable electricity, many now are clamoring for fast, reliable affordable internet service. But the solution to this lack of access in today’s world isn’t quite as easy as people joining together and using the same technology to accomplish their goal.

Moore’s Law is the observation that the number of transistors in a densely integrated circuit doubles every two years. That’s a fancy way to say that computers and computing technology changes so fast that the best technology for today’s needs could be obsolete tomorrow.

For example, fiber to the home, where an internet provider physically installs fiber optic technology from a central office to the home or business, might be the best option in a densely-populated area, but is too expensive to extend out into the country. But then next year, Amazon deploys thousands of low Earth orbit satellites to offer internet connection which, according to Engadget.com, they plan to do. “With Project Kuiper, it [Amazon] aims to deploy 3,236 satellites to cover areas where about 95 percent of the global population live.” These satellites might then render the fiber to the home option obsolete. I’m not saying this is going to happen, but it could.

All that having been said, what I really wanted to bring to your attention is a postcard inserted in this month’s WREN. The cooperatives are working with the Wyoming Broadband Advisory Council, the Wyoming Business Council, the University of Wyoming and others to find areas that are underserved with internet access.

If you do not have internet, please fill in the information below and return it by dropping it in the mail. If you do have internet, please go to wyobbmap.org and take the “speed test” and a short survey. Your participation will help the state address these underserved areas. Thank you so much for your assistance with this “computerfication” effort.
Better together

We work all hours of the night so she can have her happily ever after. Together, Tri-State and our family of electric cooperatives power all the moments your life has to offer.

We are **brighter, stronger and better together.**

www.tristate.coop/together
Garland Light & Power Co. supports our local community by focusing on safety and education. We partner with the city of Cody and the city of Powell to conduct electrical safety demonstrations at schools and community events, and our linemen provide valuable high voltage safety training to local first responders. Each year our cooperative awards college scholarships to several area high school seniors.

### ECONOMIC BENEFITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>MTR PER MILE</th>
<th>MTR SERVED</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIG HORN, PARK</td>
<td>5.96</td>
<td>2,032</td>
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Garland Light & Power Co. gives approximately $1.5 million back to the community between 2007 and 2017. Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.
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:
Garland Light & Power nominated Emily Herman, who received a scholarship from the co-op in 2015.

WREN: Tell us about your studies and interests.

EH: I graduated from Powell High School in 2016 and went right to Northwest College in fall 2016. When I’m not studying, I stay busy keeping up with my fur babies; my two cats and one dog. I also spend my free time with my family, friends and boyfriend, creating new memories and having many laughs. I am a fan of reading and going to the movies. I enjoy being outside and I hibernate during the winter.

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

EH: I feel very fortunate to have grown up in Powell and consider the people in the community my extended family. Through my time in Powell, I have always felt safe and supported amongst my community members. My mother is a registered nurse and physician assistant in the community and my brother is actively attempting to attend medical school. Through their passions and experiences, I developed and grew my love for medicine and patient care.

WREN: What are your plans for the future?

EH: After I graduate from NWC with my associate degree in nursing, I plan to study and take my state board licensure examination called the NCLEX. After passing my NCLEX, I will be a registered nurse. At this time, I plan to apply for several nursing jobs. I will begin working in the field and then apply to Western Governor’s University online program of ADN (Associate Degree of Nursing) to BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing). I hope to eventually work in a neonatal intensive care unit where I can use my skills to nurture the world’s tiniest patients.

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.
WYRULEC RECOGNIZES LONGTIME BOARD MEMBER

Longtime board member Jack Preston was recognized for his service during the Wyrulec Annual Meeting in Torrington on March 27.

Preston, of Lyman, Nebraska, came on the board 40 years ago to represent the Nebraska district. “I became the first and I’ve been the only Nebraska director since that time,” Preston said.

Preston told members how, 40 years ago, the co-op’s electrical needs were similar to today, with several large commercial loads purchasing the most power. Since that time, the electric needs of the area changed a few times, and now, the large commercial loads are once again making up the larger share of Wyrulec’s electricity sales.

“Wyrulec remains in a healthy position and we’ve continued to grow our sales and margins,” General Manager Ryan Schilreff said.

Schilreff recognized the cooperative’s employees for their hard work several times during the year. He noted that linemen came in to work to “keep things afloat” during the March blizzard. He also praised staff for their openness and dedication during a financial audit of the co-op.

Former employee Larry Paules came back to work to help install the advanced metering, which is on track to be complete in two more years. The new meters help the co-op to find outages and make readings more quickly.

The guest speaker at the meeting was Ty Stockton, host of the Great Outdoors radio show on the Cowboy State News Network and writer for WREN magazine. Stockton told stories of his work as a photographer and his love of country life.

Two board members, Clay Peterson and Dewey Hageman, ran uncontested and were re-elected to the board.
Linemen play a critical role in our mission to provide reliable, affordable electricity. Tough training and a focus on safety is behind everything they do. Simulated field operations and emergency-response training are ways Basin Electric invests in their safety and in providing reliable power to you.
On Monday, April 8, Governor Mark Gordon signed a proclamation designating April 8 as Lineworker Appreciation Day. Lineworkers from Carbon Power & Light, High West Energy, Powder River Energy Corporation, Wheatland Rural Electric Association, Rocky Mountain Power and Black Hills Energy attended the ceremony.

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month!

Protect yourself from the sun’s harmful rays.

- Stay in the shade, especially during midday hours.
- Wear clothing that covers your arms and legs.
- Wear a hat with a wide brim to shade your face, head, ears, and neck.
- Wear sunglasses that wrap around and block both UVA and UVB rays.
- Use sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 30 or higher, and both UVA and UVB (broad spectrum) protection.
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.

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 275 pounds, and it goes up to 6 mph and operates for up to 8 hours on a single charge.

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your independence and quality of life?

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Please mention code 110798 when ordering.
The Co-op Business Model Comes to UW

This fall, University of Wyoming students will have a chance to learn about the cooperative business model in a brand-new, credited class that was implemented by the Wyoming Rural Electric Association.

Farmers, credit unions, housing and rural electric cooperatives all share a business model that’s been around for 100 years, but it still resonates, said the instructor, Milton Geiger. “What’s the relevancy going forward? It’s the people helping themselves.”

Geiger noted that when rural electric cooperatives were formed, members shared what little resources they had for a common cause they believed in. He believes these values still exist, and co-ops are an intriguing option for today’s economy and for today’s students.

“He gave out all sorts of money, and do these kids really know where it’s coming from?” Umphlett said.

Big Horn is taking the next step; their latest group of scholarship winners who attend UW can increase their award by taking the class in the fall.

“We’re just enticing them to take the class,” Umphlett said the students can receive additional scholarship money for completing the class, and Big Horn will also pay the tuition for the three-credit-hour class.

Wyoming Rural Electric Association Executive Director Shawn Taylor wants the students to understand what a co-op is and realize how they can participate.

“My hope is they can come out of this class with an entrepreneurial spirit and bring that home,” Taylor said. He believes the students can use the co-op model in rural Wyoming.

Cheyenne Regional Medical Center has been named one of America’s 250 Best Hospitals for 2019 by Healthgrades.

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Class 16 runs from Sept. 2019—Nov. 2020

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- Trent Boner, Douglas
L.E.A.D. Class 15

For an application or more information contact:
Cindy Garretson-Weibel
307.214.5080 or wylead@gmail.com.
Or request an application online at https://www.wylead.com/apply.html

Application Deadline – June 15, 2019

www.wylead.com

Wyoming L.E.A.D. is administered by the Wyoming Agricultural Leadership Council
P.O. Box 5, Cheyenne, WY 82003

In comparison, the wyoroad.info website tracked an average of 4 million hits per day in 2018.
The American bison once roamed the American landscape in numbers estimated between 30 and 60 million animals. By the late 19th century, however, that incredible wild population cratered to an estimated 1,000. In 1902, only 23 animals were found in Yellowstone National Park, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The demise of a species became the demise of a society. This century, however, restoration comes to both species and culture.

BY GAYLE M. IRWIN
A LONG AND WINDING ROAD TO THE RESERVATION

Montana officials kill bison that step across the Yellowstone National Park boundary onto U.S. Forest Service and private lands in the state, a practice that began more than 25 years ago. The fear of brucellosis, a disease which causes cattle, bison, and elk to abort their calves, brought on this controversial practice. In 2017, more than 1,700 bison were killed outside Yellowstone’s borders, one of the largest culls since the mid-1990s. State and federal officials came to an agreement to set up quarantine facilities at which some bison reside for years during testing; now tribes are able to obtain those that are disease-free.

“Rather than being shot, the animals go through that process to make sure they are disease-free, with the goal of getting the bison out to other places,” said Garrit Vogesser, Director of NWF’s Tribal Partnership Program. “It took a long time to make that happen. A group in 2005 went to Ted Turner’s Ranch, and he kept them until 2011 as an external quarantine.”

In exchange, Turner retained eighty-percent of the offspring, Vogesser said. In 2012, sixty of those quarantined animals that tested brucellosis-free went to the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana.

continued »
Another conservation organization may assist with the transport. Defenders of Wildlife has been instrumental in helping the tribes at Fort Peck obtain Yellowstone National Park animals after a quarantine period.

“It has required cooperation among NWF, Defenders, and other NGOs and tribes to get bison out of Yellowstone and onto tribal lands,” Voggesser said.

“We work collaboratively with NWF on many bison projects,” said Chamois Andersen, Defenders’ senior representative of the Rockies and Plains. “We have similar conservation missions to restore wildlife, that includes bison of high genetic value.”

She attended the 2017 release on the Wind River Reservation, along with more than 200 other people.

“It was so amazing to watch those animals hit the ground running, with the Wind River Range as the backdrop – it was beautiful!” Andersen said.
The hope is that we establish a (bison) population that benefits all tribal members, not just one tribe over the other.

Gayle M. Irwin is a freelance writer based in Casper.
Coat is reddish-tan in summer to gray in the fall. Narrow tail with a black tip. Large ears. The antlers of adult males fork evenly, and may have small tines near the base.

Mule deer are larger than whitetails, especially the adult males. Forbs and shrubs in the spring and summer, and mostly shrubs during the long winter. Some favorites: big sagebrush, antelope bitterbrush, and mountain mahogany.

Western North America, from the Great Plains to the Pacific Coast. In Wyoming, nearly everywhere except dense forests.

Common, and sometimes very long (longest recorded migrations in North America). Most spend summers in conifer forests, and winters on the sagebrush steppe.

When alarmed, mule deer hop, or "stott", instead of running. This allows them to clear shrubs and other barriers, and may communicate danger to other mule deer. Females don't breed until they are over a year in age.

Meet the

Mule Deer

Food

Apperance

Distribution

Migration

Hybrids

Adaptations

Specal

Adaptions

Coat is medium brown, fading to gray-brown in the autumn. Tail is wide, and entirely white, and is held upright when alarmed. Antlers have a main stem (beam) with branches.

Most of the continent, from the Yukon to South America, except for the great Basin (Utah, Nevada, and adjacent regions, and California). In Wyoming, most of the range of white-tailed deer is located in the eastern half of the state. The range of white-tailed deer in the Bighorn Basin is expanding. The range of mule deer is expanding, causing concern that they may be displacing white-tailed deer. However, white-tailed deer may be competing for habitat and land use changes.

Mule deer and whitetails sometimes interbreed to produce hybrid offspring. The hybrids are unable to stott like a mule deer or run like a whitetail, making them easy targets for predators. The hybrids are unable to stott like a mule deer or run like a whitetail, making them easy targets for predators.

Mostly forbs (including crops) all year round, also grasslands, and croplands or sagebrush steppe. Summers and winters are usually spent in grasslands and croplands or sagebrush steppe.

Common, mostly short distances (5-10 miles). Summer and winter ranges are hard to define, but overall, whitetails have a larger range than mule deer. They may be spreading and may be competing for habitat and land use changes.

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Meet the

Mule Deer Whitetail Deer

Food

Apperance

Distribution

Migration

Hybrids

Adaptations

Specal

Adaptions

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Wild Horse & Burro Events

Wyoming 2019

Wyoming Honor Farm, Riverton
- May 17-18

Wind River Wild Horse Ranch, Lander
- May 31- June 1

Deerwood Wild Horse Ranch, Laramie
- June 7-8

Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne
- July 19-28

Wyoming State Fair Mustang Days, Douglas
- August 13-17

Wyoming Honor Farm, Riverton
- September 13-14

Wind River Wild Horse Ranch, Lander
- September 20-21

Deerwood Wild Horse Ranch, Laramie
- September 27-28

Visit the Wild Horse & Burro Program on Facebook to view available animals. There is a wild horse or burro waiting for you!

For more information on other events or adoption and direct purchase options, visit BLM.gov/whb or call (866) 468-7825.
This seemed to be the case in the summer of 2016. My house sits in the middle of about 200 acres of ranch land, and a two-acre lawn, with large mature trees and grass that I try to keep green. I am used to mule deer more than whitetail, as the whitetail have just begun to move up from Clear Creek, about three miles away, to the dry hills where my ranch is.

But, one evening as I came home from my job in Sheridan, I saw a whitetail doe with two spotted fawns. She was near the stock tank where I water the horses, and rather than disturb her I waited to pump water. Suddenly I heard the sound of something falling on an aluminum ramp near the water tank: the doe had fallen down. When she staggered to her feet, I saw the reason. Her right back leg was badly broken, but she was taking care of the fawns.

After that the fawns appeared on the lawn every day. Sometimes the doe was with them, but they were mostly alone. I talked to Game and Fish, and they recommended I let nature take its course. “If she can raise them until August, they will be old enough to wean,” they told me.

Around the first of August, the fawns became permanent residents in my yard. One day I saw the fawns walking below my house and one of them was crying piteously. After that day I never saw the doe again, and I could assume she had died of the broken bone and probably infection.

But the fawns continued to hang around the yard, and would come in for a portion of grain each morning when I fed my horses. They also enjoyed the green grass, the shade from the trees, and laying close enough to the sprinklers to take advantage of the cool mist during a heat wave.

We don’t know yet how animals really think. But I think sometimes they know more than humans actually give them credit for.
IS IT FALINE?

Fast forward to the winter of 2018. A young whitetail doe, with one very gentle fawn, is coming in every day for a feed of oats with molasses. If I try to feed them unsweetened whole oats, they just look at me like, “Where’s the molasses?”

Both are much tamer than would be expected for wild deer. Is it Faline, bringing her fawn back to where she felt safe as a baby? I am pretty sure that it is her. I have no idea what happened to the other one, but there is a young whitetail buck hanging around, and he comes in occasionally, but he is much spookier than the doe is.

One funny incident happened last fall. I was late one morning, so Cutie the fawn came up to the deck to see where I was with her oats. My cat Gabe was sitting on the deck railing. Deer sees cat, cat sees deer. For a moment they stare at each other, then the cat leaps off the deck, and Cutie leaps away, white tail flashing as she scoots under the rail fence. Her fright didn’t last long. Fifteen minutes later she was back, eating her pile of oats.

I enjoyed my “fawn-sitting” job and felt rather privileged that a wild creature would trust me enough to give the charge of her precious babies when she realized she would not be around to take care of them and protect them. And I feel fortunate to share my space with the wildlife.

Cynthia Vannoy lives on her family ranch near Clearmont, where Faline, her fawn and two bucks are frequent visitors.

They would occasionally take a brief journey into the pastures, and once made friends with another doe and fawn, but they usually came back to the yard, knowing it was their safe space and that coyotes wouldn’t come that close to the house.

They were a conversation piece. The health care workers who came to help take care of my ailing mother, who had Parkinson’s disease, enjoyed seeing the fawns hanging around. Many times I would put my mother in her wheelchair and wheel her out on the deck or up to the picture window so she could watch the fawns play and graze.

My uncle came up to visit and at first thought the fawns were “lawn ornaments” until they flicked an ear or a tail.

We don’t know how animals think, but I believe that the doe knew she was dying, and that she couldn’t take care of her babies much longer, so she felt that the yard, near the human’s house, would be a safe place for her babies. I didn’t let her down.

Come fall, the fawns lost their spots, and fell in with a small group of white-tails that moved into my pasture. I don’t know now which of the deer might be my buddies from that summer, but I have confidence that they are out there somewhere safe.

I am wondering if one of the fawns is a doe; if, when she has her own babies next spring, if she will bring them into the yard to park them in a safe place while she goes out to graze or “hang out” with the other does. Time will tell on that one.

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Our Heritage Builders have been building High-Quality Custom Heritage Homes using our Off-Site Construction System for over 41 years. You save time, money, and get your own design. A typical 1600 sq. ft. Heritage Home will cost less than $400 a YEAR to heat and cool. Call for the location of a Heritage Distributor/Builder near you, or for a catalog. See our factory tour online.

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Land-dwelling ungulates are hoofed mammals that live in diverse environments all over the world. They have special bacteria in their digestive system that enables them to digest cellulose from grazing. Ungulates are classified into two groups: odd- and even-toed. Use the clues below to solve the crossword puzzle; migrate to page 35 for the solution.

DOWN: ODD-TOED
2. Mini-trunked jungle-dweller
4. Uniquely striped
5. Pack animal
6. One-horned megafauna
8. Hardy horse relative
14. Domestic mount

ACROSS: EVEN-TOED
1. Horned, with horizontal pupil
3. Omnivorous food animal
5. Diverse group of game animals
7. Large wild bovine
9. Long-necked, born with horns
10. South American camelid
11. Fleecy flock animals
12. Most common domesticated ungulates
13. Deerlike bovid
14. Semi-aquatic swamp-dweller
15. Aka javelina or skunk pig
16. Desert transport

ANSWERS ON PAGE 35
Wild Migrations: Atlas of Wyoming’s Ungulates is the book that Wyoming has been waiting for its whole life. The essence of the place is compressed into its pages, information so revelatory it seems to stand in three dimensions. As the essays unscroll, we learn that the deep and complex character of Wyoming is tied to the wildlife species that have traversed its topography for thousands of years. The richly detailed pages are also a preparation for the future as climate alteration, increasing human development, and population inflow affect the state.

The atlas is part of an emerging scientific field called “movement ecology” that is concerned with a fundamental characteristic of all living entities – they move. It is a field that by definition is multi-disciplinary, here the interleaving of migration research with wildlife management. All the world over, everything that lives is in motion; indeed, the characteristic movements of a species may define it. Movement ecology presents existence as quivering with the perpetual motion of shifting rivers; toppling forests and swaying kelp beds; migrating birds, insects, fishes, amphibians, mammals; flying, diving, spinning, burying, burrowing life intricately making up the whole web of existence. Disturb one thread and a shiver surges through the entire corpus.
That brought the number of children in the Spiering family to their magical number of 10 — five boys, and five girls. Family complete — or so they thought.

But that wasn’t the end of God’s plan for them, Tom said. “One day I came home from work, and Janet said, “God called to-day.”

Janet told him about the call she’d gotten from a caseworker about a 7-year-old girl who needed a home and the love of a family.

Once again, “We couldn’t say no,” Tom said.

So, 10 stretched a little more to become 11.

Later, the Spierings learned that their new-est adopted daughter had a 5-year-old sister who needed a home and the love of a family.

Once again, “We couldn’t say no,” Tom said.

Later, the Spierings learned that their new-est adopted daughter had a 5-year-old sister who had already been placed for adoption. The sister’s adoptive parents asked to meet the Spierings and let the girls spend some time together, and they obliged.

About a month later, the Spierings got another call from the caseworker, telling them that, after meeting them, the other couple was willing to let them adopt the sister as well.

Then, with 12 children, the Spierings once again thought their family was complete.

Then, in 2011, they got another a call from a caseworker about two siblings, a brother, 9, and a sister, 5, who needed parents and a family. Again, Tom and Janet said yes.

Three years later, that caseworker called again. She had a 7-year-old girl — would they like to adopt her?

“She was just contacting me for an update,” Janet said. But one thing led to another and, as Tom put it, “By this time, we had learned not to say ‘No’ to God.”

Adding that last daughter brought the total number of children in the Spiering family to 15, their new magical number. This time, their family was, indeed, complete.

The math is pretty simple: Five children plus 10 more equal 15. But the story behind the adoption of 10 children by Tom and Janet Spiering, who already had five children of their own, is more complicated.

The Spierings, members of Garland Light & Power who live in rural Powell, decided when they got married that they wanted to have 10 children. It just sounded like a nice, round number.

But, after having five children, Tom and Janet were unable to have any more children of their own. Once that reality set in, they began considering adoption.

After completing the lengthy adoption application process through Catholic Social Services in Sheridan, the Spierings learned about a 5-year-old girl who needed a home and a family.

“We said yes,” Janet said. “We thought it was God’s will.”

Two years later, they heard about three siblings from Oregon who also needed a new family. Once again, they said yes. “We always said yes,” Janet said.

Later, a caseworker told them about a boy in Thermopolis. They went down to see him, and when the boy heard that the child accompanying the Spierings was adopted, he asked, “Well, why don’t they adopt me?”

“So we said OK,” Janet said.

“We always said yes.”

“Living in the country made it possible, Tom said.

“We couldn’t do it in town,” he said. “They need room to run. We’ve always had cows or sheep or pigs or all three at the same time. That’s been a big part of their responsibility. We’ve got a couple bum lambs in the shed now that the kids are bottle-feeding.”

Indoor space proved to be a bigger problem. An addition to their home was needed
before they could adopt their first child, so Tom's four brothers helped pay the cost to add three bedrooms and a living room. In 2011, the Spierings added a family room, two more bedrooms and another bathroom.

Janet's family was supportive as well. Occasionally, her mother came and stayed with the children to give Tom and Janet some time away.

Janet, a certified teacher, homeschooled all the children. That simplified their family's life, and made it more complicated as well.

Homeschooling helped strengthen the bonds between their children, Janet said. "They were around each other all the time. They got to form relationships with each other, even with all their differences."

Tom and Janet found ways to cope with other challenges and difficulties too, such as growing a garden, buying groceries in bulk and having the children count off with their assigned numbers when they loaded into vehicles.

“Why didn’t you tell us?” the parent asked.

“They would mess with us all the time,” Tom recalled.

Having eight teenagers at the same time was a huge challenge.

“Where’s Seven?” a parent would ask.

“He’s in the bathroom at church,” a child responded.

“One.” ... “Two.” ... “Three.” ... “Four.” ... “Five.” ... “Six.” ...

“We've had a few mutinies, but we survived,” Janet said. “We had to decide how to parent.”

Religion also is important. They took the children to daily Mass every Tuesday.

“We've given them to God over and over again; it’s an essential part of our lives,” Tom said.

The Spierings provided the parenting, the home and the love, but only God could meld all of their natural and adopted children into a cohesive, caring family, Janet said.

Today, their children's ages range from 36 to 12. After years of the noise and commotion that come with 15 kids, “we're down to four children at home, which seems very, very quiet,” Janet said. W

Ilene Olson is a freelance photographer, writer, editor and public relations specialist in Powell.

Nicely done, beef.

You put some heat and green into spring with this Spicy Beef Salad.

(Recipe can be found at beefitswhatsfordinner.com)
BARBECUE

JULY:

ENGLISH MUFFIN PIZZAS

6 ENGLISH MUFFINS
1 SMALL CAN OR JAR OF PIZZA SAUCE
FAVORITE PIZZA TOPPINGS (PEPPERONI, CANADIAN BACON, PINEAPPLE TIDBITS, BLACK OLIVES OR NONE AT ALL!)
8-OZ PKG SHREDDED PIZZA CHEESE OR MOZZARELLA CHEESE
Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Cover cookie sheet with aluminum foil. Split muffins in half and lay muffin halves cut side up on cookie sheet. Spread about 1 tablespoon pizza sauce on each half. Top with pizza toppings, and sprinkle cheese on top. Bake 10 minutes or until toasty.

When my two boys were little we ate these a lot. What made it more fun (and delicious) was that they helped make them. Their favorites were Canadian bacon and pineapple, or pepperoni, but you can use any pizza toppings. Even more, I got the recipe from a child.

ANNE METZLER ★ RIVERTON

PINK APPLESALSAUCE

8 MEDIUM APPLES
1/2 CUP SUGAR
1 TBS RED HOTS OR 2 DROPS RED FOOD COLORING
Wash, peel and core the apples, put them in a medium-sized saucepan. Add water to about ½-inch deep in the pan, cover tightly and bring to a boil. Turn down the heat and simmer until tender.

Stir in the sugar, add more or less depending on taste. Reheat to boiling, remove from heat. For the pink color, immediately stir in red hots or food coloring. Sprinkle with cinnamon or nutmeg and serve hot or cold.

ADAPTED FROM BETTY CROCKER’S COOK BOOK FOR BOYS AND GIRLS copyright 1957

EASY MINI BAGEL PIZZAS

8 MINI BAGELS, SPLIT
1/4 CUP PIZZA SAUCE
1/3 CUP PIZZA CHEESE BLEND
16 SLICES PEPPERONI
Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with foil. Arrange bagels on baking sheet, cut sides up. Spoon a thin layer of pizza sauce over each bagel half and sprinkle with pizza cheese. Place two pepperoni slices on each bagel. Bake in the preheated oven until cheese is melted and pepperoni is lightly browned, about 6 minutes.

NANCY DENK ★ RIVERTON

Send complete recipe by June 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

K

MEALS FOR KIDS

ENGLISH MUFFIN PIZZAS

PINK APPLESALSAUCE

EASY MINI BAGEL PIZZAS
We went to seek Rainbow Canyon, one day,  
Although not one of us knew the way.  
Into three different groups, we drifted apart. 
Some followed their brains, and some followed their hearts. 
Jamie and Dad went up and onward.  
Rosy and Lucy climbed hills and wandered.  
The rest chose to take the easiest course,  
Thinking best to comply with gravity’s force.  
Rosy paused, as she found a cool rock. 
Lucy began to pick seeds from her sock.  
As the others worried and pondered, 
Our brave father, he cried, "Ever onward!"  
A rattlesnake, by Karen was found. 
It was mad and loud, and quite big around.  
Far away from there, she swiftly did fly. 
And a black spearhead caught Katy’s eye.  

Two well-fitting pieces of shiny black stone,  
An Indian spearhead, the maker: unknown.  
Rosy and Lucy joined up with the rest.  
Driven by thirst, it must be confessed.  
For Marion carried both water and snacks.  
And these two things were what Lucy lacked.  
When Jamie’s feet were beginning to tire,  
“Excelsior,” said Dad, “Ever higher.”  
In the end, the people who traveled downstream, 
Were the ones who found the long sought-for scene.  
A rainbow of girls, looking down the ravine,  
Made long ago, by a river or stream.  
When we all felt too tired to go back to the van, 
The van drove up; towards it we ran.  
For Jamie and Dad had observed our distress,  
And came to our rescue, so we could walk less.
**SARATOGA**

**MAY 25-26**

**Pig Digger Mud Rally:** Mud trucks compete for cash & prizes, camping available. Whistle Pig Saloon/Beaver Liquor. Info whistlepigsaloon.com.

**JUNE 12**

**Denim Pocket Craft:** Learn why denim was important to Wyoming. 1p, Saratoga Museum, $3, advanced registration required 307-326-5511.

**JUNE 19**

**Gema Pearl Concert:** Seven-time Grammy nominated vocalist will perform at museum benefit. 7p, Saratoga Museum, $25, or $50 for meet-and-greet. Info 307-326-5511.

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**TORRINGTON**

**JUNE 20**

**Vintage Night Third Thursday:** Main Street closes to vehicle traffic to make room for vendors and live music. 4-7p, Main Street Torrington, free, info 307-532-3879.

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**CHUGWATER**

**JUNE 15**

**Chugwater Chili Cookoff:** World-class chili cooking and tasting, live music, ranch rodeo, art show, car/tractor show, games and vendors at this family event. Info 307-715-9518.

**ONGOING**

**Live Music:** Acoustic jam session Thursdays, live music Fridays and Saturdays. Stampede Saloon & Eatery, free, info 307-422-3200.

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**CENTENNIAL**

**ONGOING**

**Nici Self Museum:** Open 12-4p Mon-Thu. Info 307-745-3108.

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**ENCAMPMENT**

**JUNE 2**

**Spur Outfitters Sporting Clays Shoot:** 9a, Spur Outfitters, 3224 Unit B Hwy 230, info 307-327-6505, spuroutfitters.com.

**JUNE 15-16**

**Encampment Woodchoppers Jamboree and Rodeo:** Parade at 9a Sat, Lumberjack championships, rodeo, barbecue lunch. Lions Club Arena, $10, 12 and under free, info 307-327-5429.

**ONGOING**

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

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**JAY EM**

**MAY-SEP**

**Historic Jay Em on the Rawhide:** Tours available by appointment only, 307-735-4364 or 307-322-2839.

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**LARAMIE**

**JUNE 7-9**

**Wyoming Writers Conference:** Open to members and non-members. University of Wyoming Gateway Center Complex. Info wyowriters.org.
**MOORCROFT**

**ONGOING**

**Library events:** Story hour 10a Wed; Book club 1p third Thursdays and 6p fourth Tuesdays. Info 307-756-3232, moorlibrary@rconnect.net.

**ONGOING**

**West Texas Trail Museum hours:** Mon-Fri 9a-5p. Info 307-756-9300, wttmdirector@rconnect.net.

**NEWCASTLE**

**FRIDAYS**

**Bingo:** 7:30p, VFW Hall, free.

**SHERIDAN**

**MAY 31-JUNE 1**

**Donna Dance Academy Recital:** 6p & 8p, WYO Theater, $21, $18.50 senior/military/students, info 307-672-9084, wyotheater.com.

**JUNE 12-15**

**Mary Poppins Jr:** 7:30p, WYO Theater, $14, $12 student, info 307-672-9084, wyotheater.com.

**SUNDANCE**

**JUNE 1**

**Old Stoney Art Auction:** Live music, hors d’oeuvres and drinks at fundraising event. 4p, auction for artwork starts at 5p. Schoolhouse grounds on 4th St. Info 307-281-0368.

**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**

**MAY 28**

**Summer Reading Program:** Ongoing library program during library hours. 12-5:30p Mon-Fri, Upton Branch Library, info 307-468-2324.

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**JUNE 13**

**Chamber Meeting:** 12p, Cedar Pines Country Club, info 307-468-2642.

**TUESDAYS TO MID-SEPTEMBER**

**Farmers Market:** 5-7p, Old Town, info 307-468-9323.

**WEDNESDAYS**

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

**ONGOING**

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

**JUNE 21**

**Taste of Wright:** Centennial Museum BBQ fundraiser. Brandon Jones Band will play. 5-10p, Southern Campbell County Ag Complex, $10, info 307-464-1222, wrightcentennialmuseum@yahoo.com.

**BEGINS MAY 29**

**Dubois Jamz Wednesdays:** Professionals, amateurs and listeners welcome. 6-8p, St. Thomas’ Episcopal Church Community Room, free. Info, 407-718-3880, petergottfried@gis1.com.

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**BEGINS JUNE 14**

**Friday Night Rodeos:** Events take place at arena south of town, 5649 Hwy, 287/26. 7:30-10p, $10, $5 age 5-12, info 307-486-2214, duboiswyoming.org.

**JUNE 18**

**Ramshorn Guest Ranch Historic Tour:** Craig Pine will lead visitors on a tour of the historic Ramshorn Guest Ranch. 10-3p, $8, advanced registration required, 307-455-2284.

**WEDNESDAYS IN JUNE**

**Children’s Exploration Series:** With a new topic each week, the program begins at 9a at the Dubois Museum and will head over to the National Bighorn Sheep Center from 10-11a, info 307-455-3429.

**TUESDAYS AFTER JUNE 11**

**Square Dancing:** All ages and dance levels welcome at Dubois tradition since 1948. 8-9:30p Jun 11-Aug 20, Rustic Pine Tavern, $4, 12 and under $2, info 307-455-2313.

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**ETHETE**

**MAY 31-JUNE 2**

**Chief Yellow Calf Feast & Powwow:** Blue Sky Hall, 506 Ethete Rd. Info 307-332-5286, aldene.skypeople@yahoo.com.

**FORT WASHAKIE**

**JUNE 20**

**Boys and Girls Club Youth Contest Powwow:** Grand entry 7p, 19 Old Wind River Hwy. Info 307-349-8031, easternshoshone.org.

**MOORCROFT**

**ONGOING**

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**MAY 28**

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HUDSON
JUNE 15
Hudson Daze: Old-fashioned Western games, events, car show, skateboard demos, BBQ and more. 10a-3p, Gold Star Memorial Park, info 307-335-8125, bnicol@wyoming.com.

LANDER
LANDER MAY 31–JUNE 1
Wild Horse & Burro Adoption: Silent bidding 12a-5p Fri, 9a-3p Sat. Wind River Wild Horse Sanctuary, info 866-468-7826, blm.gov/programs/wild-horse-and-burro/adoption-and-sales/events.

JUNE 1
The Rawlins/Ft. Washakie Stage Line/Ferris Mountains: A talk on the history of the stage line between Rawlins and Fremont County. 1p, Pioneer Museum, free, info 307-332-3339.

JUNE 7–8

JUNE 7-JULY 20

JUNE 8
Gold Panning Day: Children are invited to pan for gold along Baldwin Creek on the museum grounds. Store your gold in your own bag that you design. 1-2:30p, Pioneer Museum, $4, limit 15 participants, register in advance 307-332-3339.

JUNE 8
Fremont Area Bicycle Tour: Peddle through colorful vistas before a yoga cool-down at Lander City Park, 6:30a-3p, info 307-332-3394, landercyclingevents.org.

JUNE 13

JUNE 15
Atlantic City Cemetery Trek: Participants will meet at the Pioneer Museum in Lander and take a bus to Atlantic City for the trek. 10-2p, $8, maximum 25 people, reservations required, 307-332-3339.

MEETEETSE
JUNE 1
Party in the Pasture Rodeo: 2nd rodeo in the Big Horn Rodeo Circuit. Full rodeo including event for kids. 4p, Meeteetse Rodeo grounds. Info 307-868-2454, events@meeteetsewy.com.

JULY 19
Taste of Meeteetse: Taste some of Meeteetse's local cuisine and vote with money as you stroll our local Boardwalk and visit with locals. Proceeds go to local organizations. 4-6p. Info 307-868-2454, events@meeteetsewy.com.

RIVERTON
MAY 25-26
Wyoming Weapons Collectors Memorial Weekend Gun Show: 9a-5p Sat, 9a-3p Sun, Fremont County Fairgrounds, $5, 12 & under free with an adult, info 307-742-4630.

JUNE 1
Trek to the Tie Treating Plant: Walk along the old railroad tracks down to the location where the rail ties were treated before being shipped out. Bring water and good walking shoes. 9a, Pre-registration is required by calling the Riverton Museum at 307-856-2665.

JUNE 13
Kettle & Crackers: Oil Refineries in Wyoming: Robert King will talk about the History of Wyoming Oil Refineries, 6:30p, Riverton Museum, free, info 307-856-2665.

JUNE 12-15

TUESDAYS STARTING JUNE 4
Native American Song and Dance: 6-7p, Wind River Hotel & Casino, info windriverhotelcasino.com.

SHOSHONI
JUNE 8
Shoshoni Day: Pancake Breakfast at the Community Room 7-10a, Day in the Park at City Park for the kids 2-4p, Dutch Oven Dinner 5-7p then a Cobbler Cookoff. Dancing with a DJ 7-11p with adult beverages. Info 307-856-1164, shoshoniwy chamber.com.

JUNE 8-9
Don Layton Memorial Antique Tractor & Engine Show: Hosted by the Wind River Flywheelers. 9a-5p Sat and until 2p Sun, East Park, free, info 307-856-1164.

THERMOPOLIS
SECOND FRIDAYS

FORT BRIDGER
TUESDAYS
Bingo: 6p, American Legion Hall, info 780-5489.
Whaaat?! Hope Farrin, Saratoga
Muley Bucks on a frosty morning, Maggie Heller, Lander
Mule deer fawn, Clyde Chapman, Lander
Hunting season is over, Robert Theobald, Pine Bluffs
Just east of Wyodak, Sheri DeRoos, Rozet
Frosty cuteness, Sandy Pokorney, Gillette

See more reader photos at wyomingrea.org/wren-magazine/just-picture-it.
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.
ON THE HOOF

ANSWERS

DOWN: Odd-toed
2. Tapir
4. Zebra
5. Donkey
6. Rhinoceros
8. Wild Ass
14. Horse

ACROSS: Even-toed
1. Goat
3. Pig
5. Deer
7. Buffalo
9. Giraffe
10. Llama
11. Sheep
12. Cattle
13. Antelope
14. Hippopotamus
15. Peccary
16. Camel

Look twice.
Save a life.
Watch for motorcyclists.

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ONE-CALL OF WYOMING

Look twice.
Save a life.

Watch for motorcyclists.
He was a teacher and a mentor. He gave me assignments, and I’d do my best to fulfill them. Sometimes things went pretty well. Other times, not so much.
“When I first hired on at the old Double Diamond, I was a ... poor excuse for a man.”

I expect I was indeed. But he didn’t hold it against me. He was a teacher and a mentor. He gave me assignments, and I’d do my best to fulfill them. Sometimes things went pretty well. Other times, not so much.

I tell my grandkids about the day when he went into town to pay for a $50,000 center pivot irrigation system. We’d been preparing the area for months, working like beavers to clear the brush and get it ready for the center pivot. It was a tight fit because of the cottonwood trees on the south side of the field. But Ace was a man on a mission and we worked from dawn to dark. We got the field all ready to go, helped the contractor install the pivot and got the water to it. He left me in charge and took off to pay for it. We worked through the morning while he was gone, and all was well. But then when I went to check on it at lunchtime, the last two towers of the pivot were wrapped around a cottonwood tree. There were bent pipes and water gushing everywhere.

I was pretty sure I was going to be fired on the spot. But when he came back, he just took one look at it and said, “It’s OK kid. Stuff happens.” He never said another word about it. He cared about me more than he cared about that pivot.

I like to think that those early experiences had a lot to do with shaping me and teaching me about what was really important. Doing the right thing is important. Getting the job done right is important. Being honest and working hard is important. But people – they’re the most important thing of all.

Thanks, Ace.

Walt Gasson called me other night, out of the clear blue. We hadn’t talked in a decade, not since his wife passed. I should have called him long ago. I kept meaning to stop by his place east of Pavillion. I wanted to tell him how much my time with him there had meant to me and what a good man I thought he was. I wanted to tell him how much being there with him and Shirley had meant to me and to my family. I wanted to tell him how much I appreciated him being willing to give me a shot at a career. I wanted to thank him for being my friend.

But it always seemed like I was passing through at an inconvenient time – early morning or late at night – and I didn’t want to bother him. I was afraid I wouldn’t know what to say, or maybe I’d say what was in my heart and it’d come out all wrong. But there in my living room, I picked up the phone and I heard his voice and 40 years melted away like it was nothing.

He hired me in 1976, pretty much sight unseen, based on the recommendation of a friend. When I think back on starting out there at Ocean Lake with Ace, I’m reminded of the lyrics of the old Ian Tyson song:

Walt Gasson is a fourth-generation Wyoming native and the director of endorsed businesses for Trout Unlimited.
**01 | EQUIPMENT**


**Antique Tractors for Sale.** 1949 John Deere MC Crawler, 44 Massey Harris, many more. Call 307-742-7370.

**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 dealerships 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.

**09 | OPPORTUNITIES**

**Want to work from home?** We are a legitimate work from home company. Call or email Karen at 307-222-4403 or Karen@fpc-1.com. No sales, no risk, no inventory. Your life, your dreams, your business. Website: livetotalwellness.com/karenhippe.

**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.**
Introducing the “Just My Height™” Adjustable Bed...

A Recliner for The Bedroom

NEW!

Includes FREE Mattress a $500 value for twin

Sit-up, Lie down or anywhere in-between with just the touch of a button---for the most comfortable, restful night’s sleep you’ve ever experienced. Plus, it can be raised, or lowered(also with the touch of a button) to allow you to easily and safely enter and exit the bed.

Lately there has been a lot of press about the many benefits of a good night’s sleep. When you wake up rested, everything from your memory and focus to your diet and stress levels can improve. Some even believe it can help you live longer. Unfortunately, many older Americans have to choose between comfort and safety in a bed. If it’s too high or too low, getting in and out of bed (particularly in the middle of the night) can be dangerous. Hospital type beds feature adjustable heights and railings, but they are hardly comfortable. Now, thanks to innovative design and superior engineering, you get the best of both. Plus, with an infinite number of positions controlled by remote control, you can pick a custom position for sleeping, reading, watching TV or just relaxing with your feet up! It looks just like a regular bed...not institutional, and the free mattress is luxurious and super comfortable.

Considering we spend (or should spend!) a third of our life sleeping, why spend another restless night or risk injury getting in and out of bed? Call now and find out more. Call today!

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Please mention code 110799 call toll free for our lowest price
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Because this is a bedding product, we only accept returns if damaged or defective.
Movement, dance, and active play can support your child’s growing physical awareness and excitement about the world, as well as stimulate their overall development.

**Physical Development**
Children learn about their bodies and grow strong by moving.

**Intellectual Development**
Physical activities help children learn problem-solving skills as they try different actions.

**Communication**
Children first learn to communicate using movements, like facial expressions and pointing.

**Self-confidence**
With each new physical accomplishment, a child’s skills, strength, and sense of mastery grows.

Relationships with people we love are nurtured through our experiences with them. Active play helps you learn important details about the unique way your child moves and prefers to be touched, and your child learns about how you feel, sound, and move. Sharing in your child’s joy of movement helps you build a close bond!