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THE WREN MAGAZINE WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

The official publication of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association

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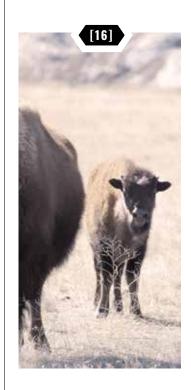
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FEATURES

06 | ECONOMIC BENEFITS GARLAND LIGHT & POWER

07 | CO-OP YOUTH GARLAND'S EMILY HERMAN

16 CENTERPIECE
BISON RETURN
BY GAYLE M. IRWIN

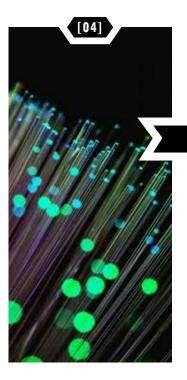
CO-OP SPOTLIGHT FIFTEEN IS ENOUGH BY ILENE OLSON

STATE NEWS & EVENTS

18 | THE CURRENT

4 | COWBOY STATE BUZZ

30 | WHAT'S HAPPENING



ESSAYS & ANECDOTES

04 WREA NOTES
"COMPUTERFICATION"
OF RURAL WYOMING
BY SHAWN TAYLOR

22 HOME ON THE RANGE SUMMER OF THE FAWNS BY CYNTHIA VANNOY

36 | ENLIGHTEN US ACE BY WALT GASSON

FROM OUR READERS

28 | COUNTRY COOKS MEALS FOR KIDS

29 | PEN TO PAPER RAINBOW CANYON

33 | JUST PICTURE IT



JUST FOR FUN

KIDS' CORNER WHITETAIL VS MULIES

PUZZLE
ON THE HOOF
BY KENDRA SPANJER

25 BOOK REVIEW
WILD MIGRATIONS
EDITED BY MATTHEW
KAUFFMAN

COVER PHOTO A bison with two calves follows the herd at Antelope Flats in spring.

PHOTO BY @SCOTTCOPELANDIMAGES

THE "COMPUTERFICATION" OF RURAL WYOMING



SHAWN TAYLOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



f 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 forprofit 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.

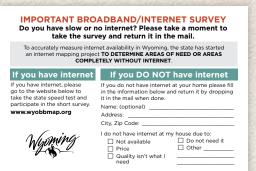
For example, fiber to the home, where an internet provider physically installs fiber optic technology from a central office to the home or business, might be the best option in a densely-populated area, but is too expensive to extend out into the country. But then next year, Amazon deploys thousands 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 to 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 unserved and underserved with internet access.

If you do not have internet service, you can help us do this by filling out the self-addressed stamped postcard and mailing it or dropping it off at your local cooperative. If you do have internet service, please go to wyobbmap.org and take the "speed test" and a short survey. Your participation will help the state address these unserved and underserved areas. Thank you so much for your assistance with this "computerfication" effort.



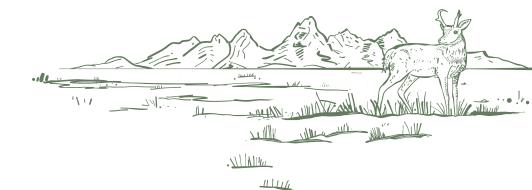




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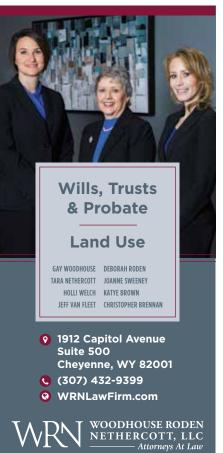
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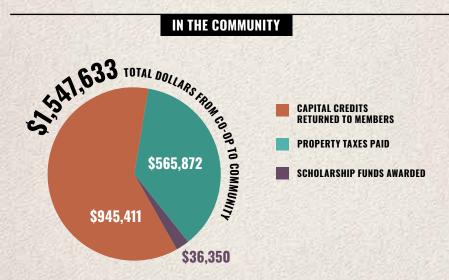
METERS PER MILE

2,032 **METERS SERVED**

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.

AT THE CO-OP **FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES** HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED \$4,137,414 sales \$555,984 PAYROLL

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 Garland Light & Power is an economic driver in the local community.

IN THE COMMUNITY: Between 2007 and 2017. Garland Light & Power gave approximately \$1.5 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:

Garland Light & Power nominated Emily Herman, who received a scholarship from the co-op in 2015.



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.



EMILY HERMAN



HOMETOWN:

Powell

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED:

Powell

YEAR OF GRADUATION:

2016

COLLEGE:

Northwest College

MAJOR STUDY INTEREST:

Nursing

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 Governer'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.

ANNUAL MEETING

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.





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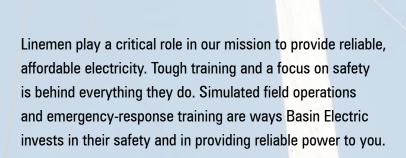
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LINEWORKER APPRECIATION DAY

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.



Sunscreen in all Wyoming State Parks provided by:







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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 oldergetting 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.

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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.

"College students can get an MBA and they're never exposed to the co-op business model," Geiger said.

Co-ops need to always be aware of the members' interests, said Jeff Umphlett, general manager for Big Horn Rural Electric Company. Making sure scholarship money benefits not only students, but members too, is an incentive to teach about cooperatives.



MILTON GEIGER

"We give 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.

Chevenne Regional Medical Center has been named one of **America's 250 Best Hospitals** for 2019 by Healthgrades.

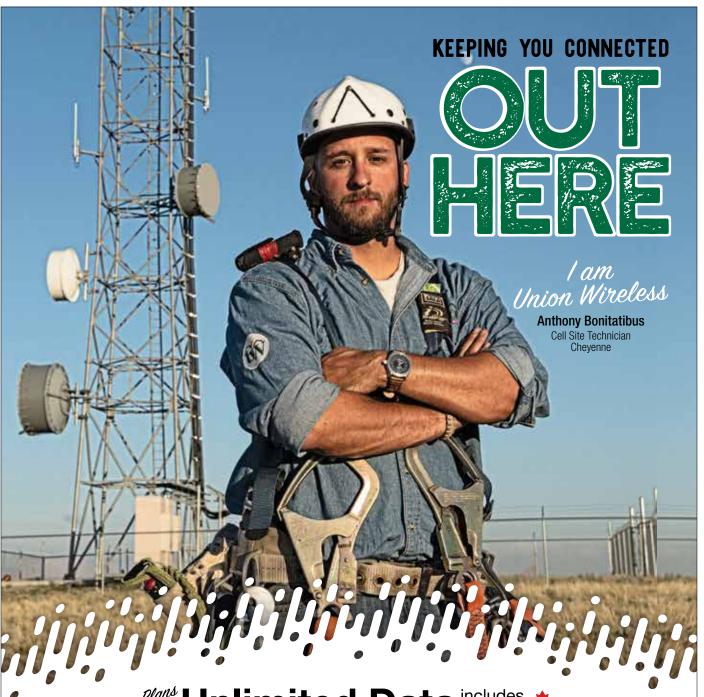
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WYOMING TRIVIA

KEEPING TRACK OF ULMER



The Wyoming Department of Transportation had their hands full during bomb cyclone blizzard Ulmer March 13-14. The department not only kept track of the roads, they kept track of public inquiry during the big storm.



PLATFORM	MARCH 13	MARCH 14
wyoroad.info	9.6	9.9
map	million hits	million hits
wyoroad.info	18.5	15.2
text pages	million hits	million hits
511 Phone	9,359	19,446
System	calls	calls

In comparison, the wyoroad.info website tracked an average of 4 million hits per day in 2018.



EVERY PISSENGER

EIEBI DRIE

BIGIEUPI



CENTERPIECE



SHOSHONE TRIBE WORKS TO BRING BACK ICONIC SPECIES

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.





BISON RETURN TO THE WIND RIVER RESERVATION

"Bison were life's commissary; everything we needed came from the buffalo," said Jason Baldes, Eastern Shoshone tribal buffalo representative and tribal buffalo coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). "Our ancestors utilized the whole animal, for shelter, food, and clothing. It's even central to our spirituality, an integral part of our sweat ceremonies and our Sun Dance ceremonies ... so it's much more than just an animal."

Known as "Boy-zhan" by the Eastern Shoshone, the last bison taken by a tribal member on or near the reservation was in 1885, he said.

"We've been separated from the buffalo for about 133 years, so a lot of our people have lost connection with the buffalo," said Baldes. "But that doesn't diminish the fact of how important it was to us, and in a lot of ways, still is. We see the return of the buffalo as a way for us to heal from the atrocities of the past."

Twenty-three animals currently roam 300-plus acres on the Wind River Reservation. The first group of ten arrived in October 2016 from the Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge in Iowa; the second group of ten came the next fall from the National Bison Range in Montana. Calves were born each spring following the releases onto the Wyoming reservation. All are certified brucellosis-free and have genetic links to Yellowstone Park bison, Baldes said, both of which are crucial to restoration at Wind River due to disease concerns by area ranchers and to the tribe's desire for animals linked to the last wild, free-roaming bison herd in the U.S.

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 Voggesser, 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, Voggesser said. In 2012, sixty of those quarantined animals that tested brucellosis-free went to the Fort Peck Reservation in Montana.





RESTORING BISON TO WIND RIVER

Restoration of wildlife, like mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep, took place on Wind River in years past, and bringing back buffalo makes sense, Baldes said.

"I've seen first-hand how successful wildlife management can go. As a cultural, spiritual people, we treat that animal with respect, and the best way to treat it with respect is to manage it as wildlife," he said.

Partnering with NWF is making Boy-zhan Bi-den (Eastern Shoshone for 'bison return') a reality. The tribal council had to approve the bison program, and Baldes and Voggesser held public meetings to address landowner concerns.

"Any time you're dealing with a controversial species, it's imperative to have a broad dialogue about the implications of restoring them," Voggesser said. "The key issue of concern with buffalo is brucellosis, even though there has never been a proven case of buffalo transmitting the disease to cattle. We've been honest and transparent, and shared the data that the bison restored are disease-free. Having an open dialogue and being honest is the best way to deal with concerns."

Decisions regarding where to obtain the animals also took place.

"The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service keeps track of all the genetics on all the herds they have on their refuges," Voggesser said. "So, we did all this research and all this work, including learning about fencing. About three years ago, we launched full steam ahead. The tribe had set aside land, we created the infrastructure, the fencing, the watering ... and got the animals."

More are coming. The Wind River Reservation expects to receive five bulls this spring from the Fort Peck Reservation.

"These come directly from Yellowstone and are disease-free and genetically pure," Baldes said. "Fort Peck has led the way in this bison effort out of Yellowstone, and they want to help other tribes establish bison herds."

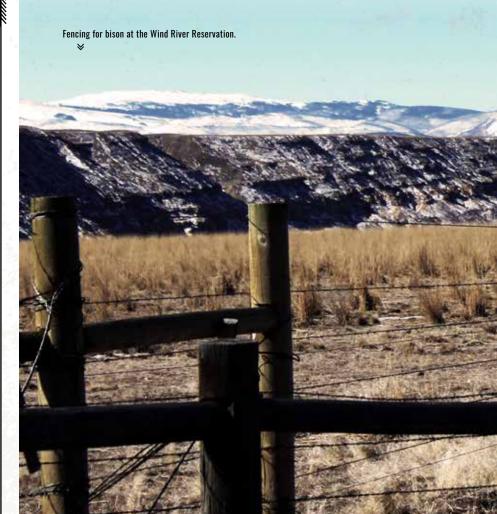
nother conservation organization may assist with the transport. Defenders of Wildlife has been instrumental in helping the tribes at Fort Peck obtain Yellowstone National Park animals after a quarantine period.

"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.





Jason Baldes, Eastern Shoshone tribal buffalo representative and tribal buffalo coordinator for the National Wildlife Federation.

"

The hope is that we establish a (bison) population that benefits all tribal members, not just one tribe over the other.



THE FUTURE OF BISON RESTORATION

A primary goal on the Wind River Reservation is to grow the bison herd. The Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho are discussing possibly increasing acreage and the number of bison roaming the landscape. An education/visitor's center may also be constructed.

"The hope is that we establish a (bison) population that benefits all tribal members, not just one tribe over the other," Baldes said. "The work now is to expand the range, to get more animals, and to also set protections under our tribal laws. That will allow us to bring more animals, grow the population, but on an area that is significantly larger than most tribes have available. Treating buffalo as wildlife is a priority for down the road. There are few places where that happens. We have the opportunity to set the precedent for what bison management can be on tribal lands."

Last fall, the first Tribal Buffalo Conservation Summit took place, bringing together representatives from 40 tribes from different states as well as several conservation organizations. Discussions and strategies for future bison restoration on more tribal lands were shared. Such a vision is worthwhile, for the Eastern Shoshone, Northern Arapaho, and other tribes and for the country, Voggesser said.

"The buffalo has a unique place in the American consciousness," he said. "When many people think of the west, they think of places like Yellowstone and Grand Canyon, and when they think of wildlife, they think about buffalo and wolves, those iconic species. So, for many Americans, the buffalo is important; it's an iconic species that represents what America is about, our values for the environment and for wildlife."

He added, "We feel we have an obligation to restore the species to the American landscape, not only because of the species itself, but also because of its connection and its importance to the people who were the original inhabitants of this continent."

A new season dawns, and as Boy-zhan grazes, the rugged Wind River Mountains at its back, Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho dance, welcoming renewal of life.

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



Biodiversity



Mule Deer

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

Whitetail Deer

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

Mostly forbs (including crops) all year round, also shrubs, especially in winter. Some favorites: alfalfa, big sagebrush, western snowberry.

Most of the continent, from the Yukon to South America, except for the great Basin (Utah, Nevada and adjacent regions, and California). In Wyoming, whitetails are most abundant in the eastern half of the state, especially the northeast corner, and in the Bighorn Basin. The range of whitetails is expanding, causing concern that they may be displacing mule deer. However, whitetails were nearly exterminated in the region in the late 19th century, and it's difficult to know if they are now repopulating their historic range, or if the range of both species is changing due to habitat and land use changes.

Common, mostly short distances (5-10 miles). Summers and winters are usually spent in grasslands and croplands or sagebrush steppe.

Whitetail deer have adapted to human landscapes, especially agricultural fields. The rich diet of alfalfa and grains leads to rapid growth, females breeding during their first autumn, and a high reproductive rate compared to mule deer.











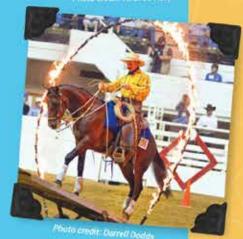
HYBRIDS



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.









YOUR OWN WILD HORSE & BURRO

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) 468-7826.







SUMMER of the FAWNS



We don't know yet how animals really think. But I think sometimes they know more than humans actually give them credit for.

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.

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.

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 whitetails 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.

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. W

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

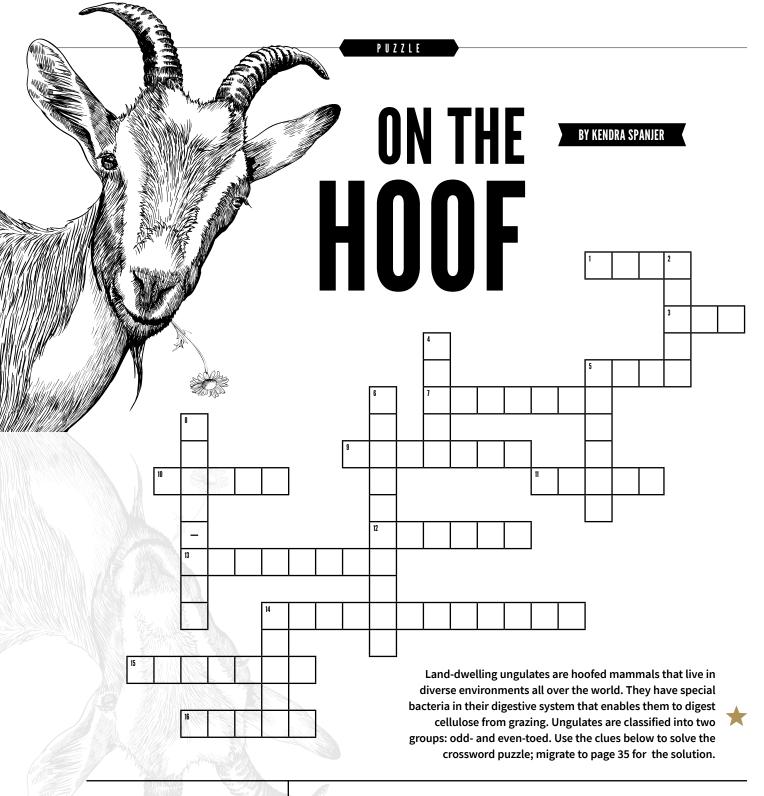


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DOWN: ODD-TOED

- 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 »—





EDITED BY MATTHEW KAUFFMAN



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WILD **MIGRATIONS**

FROM THE FORWARD BY ANNIE PROULX

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.



FREE S COPY OF WILD MIGRATIONS



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

wyomingrea.org/ wren-submissions

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

Name:		STATE
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PHOTO BY II FNF OLSON

THE SPIERINGS







Fifteen is Enough

BY ILENE OLSON

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.



Janet and Tom Spiering with four children who still live at home, from left to right; Maggie, Jonathan, Rachel and Cecilia.

"We always said yes."

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 today."

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 newest 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.

Just how does one set of parents raise 15 children?

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.

family Janet's 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.

Having eight

teenagers at the

same time was a

huge challenge.

"One." ... "Two." ... "Three." ... "Four." ... "Five." ... "Six." ...

"Where's Seven?" a parent would ask.

"He's in the bathroom at church," a child responded.

"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.

"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.

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





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

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 APPLESAUCE

8 MEDIUM APPLES
1/22 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

BARBECUE



Send complete recipe by June 10!

Please include your name, address and phone number.

- wren@wyomingrea.org | 📞 [307] 772-1968
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LUCY SPIERING * POWELL

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.



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.



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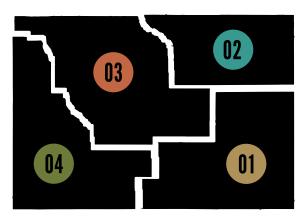


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₩ WHAT'S HAPPENING REGIONAL MAP —



FEATURED EVENT

COWBOY CARNIVAL



MAY 26 ★ 10:30A ★ HYATTVILLE

Family event with horse races, Calcutta, working dog trials, sharpshooter contest, a history display and lectures, quilt show, book sale, live and silent auctions, pony rides, petting zoo, live music, pie contest and a home-cooked barbecue lunch. Money raised supports the Hyattville Community Center.

\$10 adults, \$5 children, \$25 immediate family, includes lunch

INFO 307-431-8690 | WWW.HYATTVILLE.ORG

NORTHWEST

01|SOUTHEAST

CHUGWATER

JUNE 15

Chugwater Chili Cookoff: Worldclass 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.

CENTENNIAL

ONGOING

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

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.

JAY EM

MAY-SEP

Historic Jay Em on the Rawhide:

Tours available by appointment only, 307-735-4364 or 307-322-2839

LARAMIE

JUNE 7-9

Wyoming Writers Conference:

Open to members and nonmembers. University of Wyoming Gateway Center Complex. Info wyowriters.org.

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.

TORRINGTON

HINF 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.

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.

HULETT

ONGOING

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

LUSK

MAY 23, JUNE 20

Business After Hours: 5-7p, Niobrara County Fairgrounds in May, Lusk Herald in June, free, info 1-800-223-LUSK.

JUNE 19

History of the American Legion Post #1: 6p, Niobrara County Library, free, info 1-800-223-LUSK.

MOORCROFT

ONGOING

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

ONGOING

West Texas Trail Museum hours: Mon-Fri 9a-5p. Info 307-756-9300, wttmdirector@rtconnect.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 307-281-0568.

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.

JUNE 13

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

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.

WRIGHT

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

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.

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-

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.

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.

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

IUNF 20

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

03 NORTHWEST

DUBOIS

MAY 31-JUNE 2

Packhorse Races: Calcutta at Outlaw Saloon 8a Fri. Packhorse Race 10a Sat. Ladies' Race 10a Sun. Dubois Overlook on McKinley Dr., info 307-455-2556, duboiswyoming.org.

JUNE 5

Whiskey Basin Collaborative Meeting: Final public meeting focused on local bighorn sheep. 6-9p. Headwaters Conference Center, info 307-455-3429.

BEGINS MAY 29

Duboiz Jamz Wednesdays:

Professionals, amateurs and listeners welcome. 6-8p, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church Community Room, free, Info, 407-718-3880, petergottfried@gis1. com.





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-horseand-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

Brewfest and Golf Tournament: Info 307-332-3892, landerbrewfest.com, landergolfcourse.com.

JUNE 7-JULY 20

The Garden Party Show Reception: 6-8p June 7, show through July 20. Lander Art Center, free, info 307-332-5772, landerartcenter.com.

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 cooldown at Lander City Park, 6:30a-3p, info 307-332-3394, landercyclingevents.org.

JUNE 13

Carol L. Deering: Poet: Local poet Carol L. Deering will present her first published book of poems. 7p, Pioneer Museum, free, info 307-332-3339.

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

HINF '

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.

IIIIY 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, Preregistration 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.



Send complete information for the July issue's events by JUNE 10!

Please remember that events from the 20th of July to the 20th of August are included in the July 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

JUNE 12-15

Indian National Finals
Qualifying Rodeos & Northern
Arapaho Rodeo: June 12:
youth rodeo 10a, team roping/
barrel racing 1p. June 13: rodeo
slack 1p. June 14-15: rodeo 7p,
Fremont County Fairgrounds, info
307-349-1168, fremontcountyfair.
org. After hours party at
the Wind River Casino, info
windriverhotelcasino.com.

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 307856-1164, shoshoniwychamber.
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

ArtStroll: Stroll on Broadway Street in Historic Downtown Thermopolis. Info 307-864-3002, gatherer@panix.com.

04 SOUTHWEST

FORT BRIDGER

TUESDAYS

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



★ See more reader photos at wyomingrea.org/wren-magazine/just-picture-it.









wren@wyomingrea.org

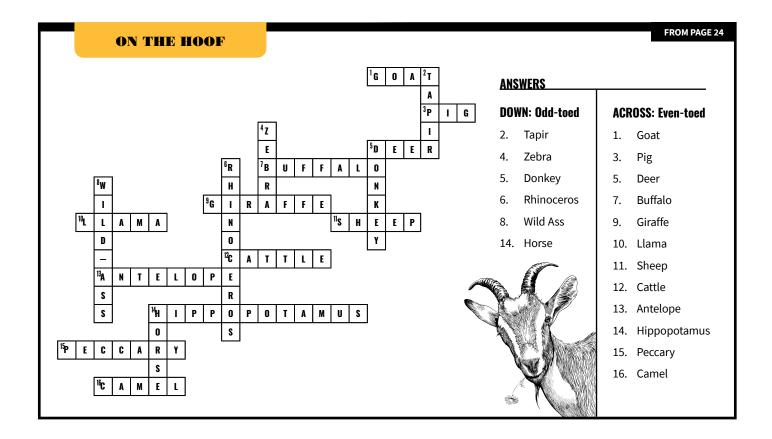
214 W. Lincolnway Ste. 21C Cheyenne, WY 82001

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.







ONE-CALL OF WYOMING

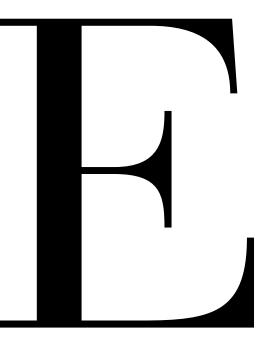
Know what's **below**. **Call** before you dig.

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

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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.

"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.

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:

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. W

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

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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

01 EQUIPMENT

Antique Tractors. Farmall F20, A, Super A, B, BN, Cub, Super C, IH Cub Loboy, Gibson D & John Deere H 307-755-4250.

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 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.

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.

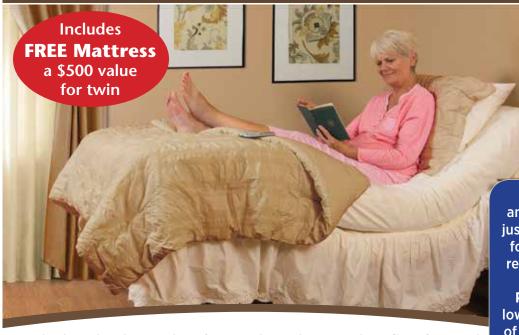
Murphy





Introducing the "Just My Height" Adjustable Bed...

A Recliner for The Bedroom



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!



This height-adjustable bed raises or lowers to a level that makes it easier to glide into or out of bed-even when transferring from a wheelchair, rollator or walker. When you're ready to get up, you adjust the bed height with the remote control until you can place both feet firmly on the floor. What a great aid to safety and independence! The bed height(measured from the top of the mattress) adjusts from 33.5 inches down to 21 inches and anywhere in between.

Because this is a bedding product, we only accept returns if damaged or defective.

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.





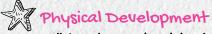
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ACTIVE PLAY FOR YOUR CHILD'S STRONG & HEALTHY

30 DY & MI

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.



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.



Strong Relationships

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!



GET MOVING WITH YOUR KIDS!

For fun, age-based activities to do together, visit:

wyqualitycounts.org/wren



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:







