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WREN

WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

NOVEMBER ✂ 2019

CENTERPIECE

Contemplating Wyoming's Ranch History

[15]

CO-OP SPOTLIGHT

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[26]

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WREN

MAGAZINE

THE WREN MAGAZINE WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

*The official publication of the
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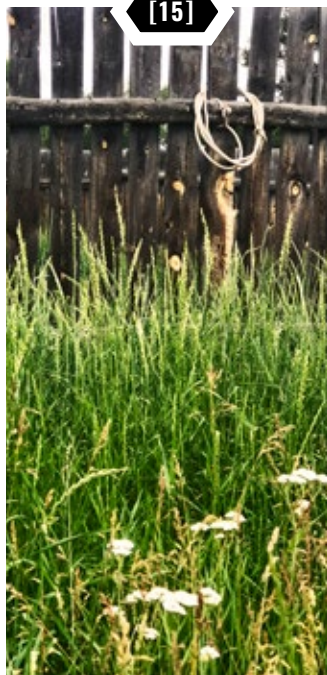
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COVER PHOTO ❖ Snowfall on a
barn in southeastern Wyoming.

PHOTO BY TY STOCKTON

DON'T WAIT



SHAWN TAYLOR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Let me first say that it was nice during my hiatus from column writing over the summer that a few folks told me that they were worried that I didn't work for the cooperatives anymore because I hadn't been writing. But I'm happy to be back and grateful to still be working for the co-ops. I just needed a few guest columnists because of timing.

The title of my column is the same title of the eulogy that I gave at my dad's service when he passed away almost five years ago. My dad was diagnosed with cancer and passed away about five months later. While I was able to spend a lot of time with him during those months, it seemed to pass by in the blink of an eye. Which is why, at his service, I talked about not waiting. Don't wait to make that phone call to a friend or family member, don't wait to take that trip

with your family or friends ... and on and on.

This fall we lost my wife's father and while he wasn't in the best of health, he had a heart procedure that made him feel and look better than he had in a long time, and we thought maybe he was on the road back to better health. Three days after his procedure he passed away, which once again made me think, "Life is short, don't wait."

In the past I've written about the RV trips to national parks that my family and I have taken and we did that once again this year, packing up the crew and heading to Mount Rainer and Olympic National Parks. It seems every year after we take our trips I talk to friends who always say, "We've talked about doing this but haven't yet." My response to them is, "Don't wait."

Don't wait is easy to say but much harder to live. We all have busy lives, and even those who might not still have kids at home and schedules to manage and jobs to do, it's always easier to put off until tomorrow what we think about doing today. It's unfortunate but seems to be a fact of life that sometimes it takes the tragedy of losing a loved one to reunite families and friends or to reignite that fire within us to do something we've been meaning to do.

While this column has nothing to do with the business of rural electric cooperatives I just thought that with the holidays upon us it would be a good time for all of us to make that phone call, give the hugs, reconnect with friends and family and most of all, don't wait.

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MOVE OVER

WYOMING!



IT'S THE LAW!

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

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

WHEATLAND RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

COUNTIES

ALBANY, GOSHEN, LARAMIE, PLATTE

2.28

METERS PER MILE

4,115

METERS SERVED

Wheatland REA is actively engaged in our communities. Each year cooperative personnel teach electric safety to approximately 800 school children and adults. Wheatland REA participates, along with most of the other co-ops in Wyoming, in the electric educational booth at the State Fair. We are proud to award scholarships and send students to Leadership Camp and the Youth Tour each year, and support worthwhile activities of our local organizations.

AT THE CO-OP



20 FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES



26 HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED



29 JOBS CREATED IN
THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



\$8,163,359 SALES

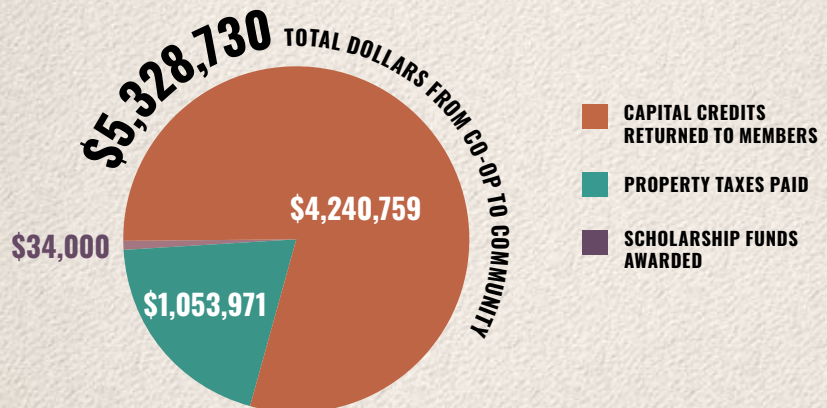


\$1,587,794 PAYROLL



\$1,939,974 PERSONAL
INCOME
GENERATED

IN THE COMMUNITY



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

IN THE COMMUNITY: Between 2007 and 2017, Wheatland Rural Electric Association gave more than \$5 million back to the community.

Numbers are rounded to the nearest dollar.



Tough
training.
Safe &
reliable
power.



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.



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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:

Wheatland Rural Electric Association sent Bailey Fitzwater to the Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp in Colorado last summer.



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.



BAILEY FITZWATER



HOMETOWN:
Wheatland

HIGH SCHOOL:
Wheatland High School

YEAR OF GRADUATION:
2021

COLLEGE:
Undecided

MAJOR STUDY INTEREST:
Considering graphic design, writing
or agricultural management

WREN: Tell us about your studies and interests.

BF: My name is Bailey Fitzwater, I am currently a junior at Wheatland High School. I live in the middle of nowhere on a ranch, where you can see the stars painted in the sky at night. I am involved in the local FFA chapter, 4-H Junior Leaders, National Honor Society, National History Day, National Western Catch-A-Calf and more. I enjoy spending time with my animals; especially showing and raising my own goats. I am drawn to just about anything that involves being creative, specifically painting, sculpting, drawing and writing.

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

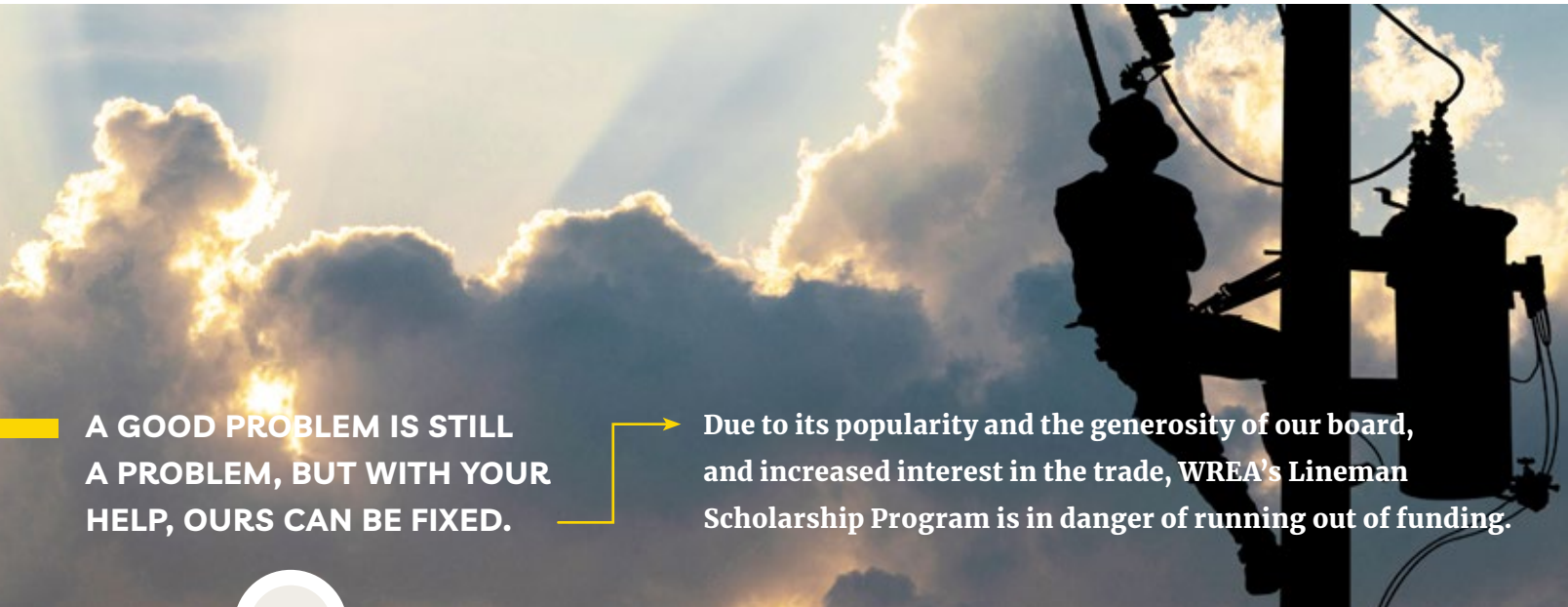
BF: Coming from a small town, everybody knows everybody, and that can be a blessing and a curse. This community has done so much for me as well as others around. I hope to give back to the people who have supported me through all the endeavors that I have been lucky enough to participate in. Recently, my local electrical cooperative encouraged me to go to the 2019 Cooperative Youth Leadership Camp held in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. I agreed to go half-heartedly, believing it to be just another leadership camp, but was I wrong. I met so many new people and was pushed out of my comfort zone! That camp changed me for the better, and since going, I've grown out of my shell and become more confident. I am eternally grateful to the Wheatland Rural Electric Association for letting me go on this life-changing trip.

WREN: What are your plans for the future?

BF: I do not have any set plans for the future, but I strive to become an artist or writer of some sort. I realize this will be challenging to accomplish but I am willing to go the extra mile. I do not know what set form of art I would like to go into yet, but I am considering painting or ceramics. As for writing, I am a published author through two poetry contests. I hope to take this further by one day publishing books about the amazing fictional stories I have made up.

Besides writing and art-related topics, I would also love to go into the agriculture business. I live on a ranch and frequently help out on other ranches around Wheatland. I honestly don't see myself living in a big city, let alone in town. I like living in the country, working with animals and helping my dad build fence.

LINEMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND



**A GOOD PROBLEM IS STILL
A PROBLEM, BUT WITH YOUR
HELP, OURS CAN BE FIXED.**

Due to its popularity and the generosity of our board, and increased interest in the trade, WREA's Lineman Scholarship Program is in danger of running out of funding.



WHAT IT IS

The WREA Lineman Scholarship offers scholarships year-round to one or more individuals, including recent high school graduates who are interested in a career as a lineworker and plan to attend an approved regional lineworker training program.

SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED

Over the past several years the board has awarded many scholarships, donating a total of \$146,540.00 since 2015.



CANDIDATES

To be considered, applicants must submit the application form, a resumé describing their education and work experience, three letters of recommendation and a transcript of grades. (If the candidate has not attended an educational institution in the three years prior to submitting the application, the transcript is not necessary.)

Candidates must submit their scholarship application to the Wyoming Rural Electric Association; they are then passed on to the WREA board for consideration.



FUNDING

For over a decade, the scholarship's main source of funding has come from a fundraising golf tournament during the Cody Hotline School. Vendors, cooperatives and others who do business with cooperatives have been solicited for donations to the fund. It has been very successful, raising as much as \$20,000 in some years.



A GOOD PROBLEM IS STILL A PROBLEM

Because of the board's generosity, and due to the fact that distribution systems statewide have done a good job promoting the lineworker trade, schools and scholarships, the fund is beginning to run out.

In 2019, the WREA board agreed that we should start to look at other sources of income for the scholarship fund by reaching out to our membership and others who may want to make a contribution.

**DONATIONS CAN
BE MADE BY:**



Calling the WREA Office
Manager, Robin Feezer:
(307) 634-0727



Mailing a check to the WREA Office:
2312 Carey Ave. Cheyenne, WY 82001
Make check out to WREA Lineman Scholarship

NRECA CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA) Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for candidates to represent Wyoming on National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Region VII standing committees.



HOW IT WORKS

Region VII members have two representatives on each of three committees:

- 1} Regulations
- 2} Legislative
- 3} Cooperative Management and Employee Issues

Wyoming will be accepting nominations for one seat on the Cooperative Management and Employee Issues Committee.
NOMINATIONS ARE DUE DECEMBER 31!



Committees generally meet once per year, and members are paid a per diem and reimbursed for all travel expenses.

Members and employees from any Wyoming co-op except Lower Valley Energy are eligible (Lower Valley belongs to Region IX).

Board members will vote on the nominated committee members at the annual NRECA Wyoming Membership Meeting on February 27.

Those interested in serving or nominating someone should submit names in writing to: Nominating Committee, WREA, 2312 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001. Include the name of the nominee along with his or her mailing address and phone number. Nominations are due December 31.



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enrollees qualify to save money
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WYOMING

*Kaiser Family Foundation at KFF.org

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OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR MEDICARE AND HEALTH INSURANCE

FROM THE WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

The Wyoming Department of Insurance advises all consumers to be aware of the open enrollment periods for both Medicare and the ACA Marketplace. Wyomingites getting health insurance through their employer should check with their human resources contact to make certain of open enrollment dates for that particular employer group.

MEDICARE

Medicare open enrollment ends December 7. Open enrollment allows people with Medicare to change their Medicare health plans and prescription drug coverage for the following year to better meet their needs.

The Wyoming State Health Insurance Information Program (WSHIIP) is a federally mandated program to help people on Medicare to understand their rights and to answer their questions. **To reach a WSHIIP counselor, call 1-800-856-4398.**

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Open Enrollment for the ACA Health Insurance Marketplace ends December 15 for coverage to begin on January 1, 2020. It is very important for Wyomingites who receive their insurance through Marketplace to re-enroll during open enrollment to avoid any break in coverage. **The federal government operates the Health Insurance Marketplace or Exchange in Wyoming at: [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov).** Be certain that you are looking at the official government site and not a look-a-like imposter site; contact the Department of Insurance if you have any questions.

If you decide to purchase insurance off the Marketplace or Exchange, be a wise consumer and understand what you are purchasing. Be especially cautious of off-Exchange plans that seem too good to be true. Ask about exclusions, provider networks and hidden costs in off-Exchange plans. Plans sold on the Exchange are always Qualified Health Plans (QHP) and cover all ten of the Essential Health Benefits required by the ACA.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WYOMING 2-1-1 (IN WYOMING DIAL 2-1-1 OR 888-425-7138) OR VISIT [WYOMING211.ORG](https://www.wyoming211.org).



WYOMING DAY: A CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Wyoming Day was signed into state law in 1935. The law recognizes Wyoming's role in the women's suffrage movement and calls for proclamations and commemorations every year.

The language of the original bill is as follows:

COWBOY STATE BUZZ

A BILL For

AN ACT designating the tenth day of December in each year as "Wyoming Day," and providing for its proper observance and for a proclamation by the governor.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WYOMING:

SECTION 1. In recognition of the action of the Wyoming Territorial Governor on December 10, 1869 in approving the first law found anywhere in legislative history which extends the right of suffrage to women, the tenth day of December of each year is designated as Wyoming Day, such day shall be observed in the schools, clubs and similar groups by appropriate exercises commemorating the history of the territory and state and the lives of its pioneers, and fostering in all ways the loyalty and good citizenship of its people.

SECTION 2. The governor shall not later than the first day of December of each year issue a proclamation requesting the proper observance of Wyoming Day as outlined in Section 1 hereof.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

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

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our family to care for
your family.**



Cheyenne Regional
Medical Center
We Inspire Great Health!



cheyenneregional.org/awards

WYOMING TRIVIA

ESTHER HOBART MORRIS

Esther Hobart Morris was the first woman to hold judicial office in the United States and is a legendary figure in Wyoming history. Let's take a look at her life and legacy.



1814

Esther Hobart McQuigg was born in Tioga County, New York. She was orphaned at a young age and apprenticed to a seamstress.

1841

Married Artemus Slack, who died three years later. She then moved to Peru, Illinois to settle his estate but faced difficulties because women were not allowed to own or inherit property.

1850

Married John Morris.

1869

Morris moved to South Pass City in Wyoming Territory with her husband and three sons. There they opened a saloon.

1870

According to some sources, Morris hosted a tea party with two candidates for the South Pass seat on Wyoming's Territorial Council, and extracted promises from the candidates to introduce a women's suffrage bill.

1890

Women were granted the right to vote and to hold office on December 10.

1902

Morris was appointed justice of the peace at the age of 55. She was the first woman to hold judicial office in the nation.

1920

Morris had the honor of presenting the flag of the new state to Governor Francis Warren on behalf of the women of Wyoming during the Wyoming Statehood Celebration.

1960

Morris died in Cheyenne at the age of 87.

1963

American women won full voting rights.

A statue of Morris, by Avard Fairbanks, went on display in the U.S. Capitol. The statue is one of two Wyoming statues at the U.S. Capitol, the other is of Chief Washakie.

A duplicate of the statue was erected in front of the Wyoming State Capitol. The statue was moved inside after recent renovations.

2018

Morris' obituary was published in the New York Times' "Overlooked" section.



CENTERPIECE

PHOTO BY GINA SIGEL

Food for Thought :

Contemplating Wyoming's Ranch History

BY GINA SIGEL

A building on the Dunmire Ranch in southeastern Wyoming.



movement of a crowd
metamorphosis - a procession
I believe. Fascinating like a procession
clouds or ocean waves the diabolical dance
of flames, the crowd, by its human significance,
transcends all these to attain drama

W

Wyoming's rich history is found in the land and the people who made this state what it is today. There are at least 42 ranches on the National Register of Historic Places and a tradition of hard work and determination in Wyoming. But these aren't stories that are chronicled in archives, safely tucked away. These are family histories passed down from generation to generation, sometimes by neighbors or even infamous town "lore." And it requires a fair amount of curiosity and digging on behalf of others.

One such soul is Denise Diamante of Wheatland. Diamante came to Wheatland as a travelling nurse and learned about the history of the area from a patient. She started going through an old house on a nearby ranch in 1994 and has been collecting papers from the house ever since. Her hard work has paid off. Treasures include a hand-written ledger from emigrants who came to settle in the house during the Civil War, a hand-written letter from someone's niece in Chicago in 1907 and a newspaper from the same year in the rafters. In fact, she even went to Laramie and met the 80-year-old woman whose brother had lived in that house. Diamante wrote a newspaper article for the Platte County Record-Times a few years ago titled "Proved up Proud" because settlers in the area had to "prove up" the land in order to stay.

The 1862 Homestead Act granted homesteaders 160 acres of land, hardly enough to call a "ranch" or use for agricultural development. In 1916, the Stockraising Homestead granted 680 acres to brave souls who were willing to settle out West and make a claim in agriculture. The courage and hard work it took to survive made ranches a source of family pride and ownership.

Wyoming's rich and colorful history isn't just a scene from a Spaghetti Western or a page from Owen Wister's *The Virginian*. Emigrants and families settled the Wild West and started the ranches and livestock operations still owned and operated by generations today. But even for those who are continuing traditions started long ago, their history is not forgotten. Generations of Wyoming ranchers and historians are making sure of that.

Ranch histories are unique because there are no famous architects represented in the buildings and nothing of significant historical consequence, in most cases. They were families who settled and built a life. Their skills were so diverse that they had to not only chink their log cabin but be able to farm in sandy soil or pull calves during a winter storm. Families worked side by side, as craftsmen, machinists and pioneers.

Some stories are told through seeds of the settlers or the lilac bushes, rhubarb and yellow rose bushes that grow around the homesteads, even if the buildings themselves are falling down. Trial and error and informally passed information on transplanting native spruce or cottonwoods to offer shelter are clues to a life that has since passed. Names and dates carved into beams and rocks tell the story of those that came before. ➡

1862

...to you
assume a
the union of
The movement
continuous me

With the Homestead Act of 1862, an \$18 filing fee and five years of hard work and sacrifice were required to claim a 160-acre parcel of land for anyone over the age of 21 years, including emigrants, single women and formerly enslaved people. Hopeful settlers returned to their land with their receipt and application to build a home, farm and make improvements during the five years in which they had to take legal possession. At the end of five years, they would find two neighbors to sign the "proof" document stating what they had done to "prove up" the land, along with six dollars to receive the patent, signed by the current president of the United States.

... scenes. But here the pastern-ly
 ... role as members of humanity, and
 ... people is in itself the theme
 ... of a crowd is one of unparalleled
 ... temorphoses — a prerequisite for



A view at the
 Dunmire Ranch in
 southeastern Wyoming.

Denise Diamonte found
 an advertisement in old
 house near Wheatland.

❖ The fascination with our roots stems from a time when life was vastly different from what we know now. Even though it was function over form, there were elements of personality woven into the lands around them. Influenced by railroads or historic routes like the Overland Trail or stage stops, who settled where was not left up to chance. Especially because, ultimately, ranchers were left to the mercy of the Wyoming elements.

Throughout Wyoming there are historical ranch tours that offer a peek at the private land and the heritage of the families that settled in the counties. The names that dot the histories of the ranches are a who's-who of Wyoming agriculture families in the areas. The marriage records, the deeds and bills-of-sale, the letters or ledgers kept all weave together the story of who did what. ❖➔



PHOTO BY DENISE DIAMONTE



PHOTO BY DENISE DIAMONTE



PHOTO BY GINA SIGEL

homestead letters

The Old Time Ranch Tours were started in 1951 by Dr. Robert Burns. While he focused largely on the history of sheep production in Wyoming, the land itself became central to the stories that were being told. Since the land and families that operate the livestock ranches are private, the tours offer a glimpse inside a life and history that few have the opportunity to experience.

I was able to attend the Albany County CattleWomen Ranch tour this July, which featured ranches in the McFadden/Arlington area. On this tour I learned about the Dixon family, whose daughters would marry Arch H. LeBeau and Ralph Brokaw. In fact, the present-day LeBeau Family Limited Partnership was honored as a Centennial family in 2015 for having owned and operated their family business for 100 years or more. We stopped for lunch at the Dunmire Ranch Company, which has several locations, including the King Place. It's all food for thought. And the tour is packed with folks of all ages, locals and visitors, who are hungry to learn more about the ranches.

In the book, *Historic Ranches of Wyoming* by Judith Hancock Sandoval, essayists T.A. Larson and Robert Roripaugh summarize the process of documenting historical ranches as:

... reflecting human lives and attempts to fulfill ambitions and dreams as well as needs... change as well as timelessness in customs and the basic cycle of work. Each ranch has its own history, layout of buildings and corrals, its own relationship to land and natural setting — the imprint of the old-timer who first picked the place to live, graze his stock, raise a family, and eventually passed it all on to others who shaped it further by adding, replacing, improving the ranch for different times and conditions. These changes, and the ranches themselves, have been a little-documented part of Wyoming life for over a century. (p. 91)

How do ranchers help people understand the heritage of the family business and how to protect their way of life? Through telling their stories and the stories of those who came before them. Here's to the brave souls piecing those stories together to help preserve our Wyoming heritage. **W**

Originally from Laramie, Gina Sigel draws inspiration from five generations of agriculture to tell the stories of rural living.

A search of a homesite could reveal letters, but those letters are rarely written by the homesteaders themselves. Instead the homesteaders kept letters from friends and family, while sending their own stories to be treasured elsewhere.

Elinore Pruitt Stewart's letters were first written to her former employer in Denver, then published in *The Atlantic Monthly* magazine and in two books: *Letters of a Woman Homesteader* and *Letters from an Elk Hunt*. Her story inspired the 1979 movie *Heartland*, and her cabin, located on private land, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Elinore Pruitt Stewart came to Burntfork, near Fort Bridger, in 1909 as a housekeeper for Clyde Stewart, whom she soon married. She filed and proved on a 160-acre claim, but relinquished it because the Homestead Act required husbands and wives to each live on their separate claims.

Denise Diamonte found a copy of a newspaper in an old house near Wheatland.

Fenceline at the Dunmire Ranch in southeastern Wyoming.



In her letters Stewart told stories of her neighbors, of the beauty of the state and of her own experiences.

In 1913 she wrote about the abilities of women. "Any woman who can stand her own company, can see the beauty of the sunset, loves growing things, and is willing to put in as much time at careful labor as she does over the washtub, will certainly succeed, will have independence, plenty to eat all the time, and a home of her own in the end."

Of her wedding to Clyde Stewart she wrote, "All I can remember very distinctly is hearing Mr. Stewart saying, 'I will,' and myself chiming in that I would, too. Happening to glance down, I saw that I had forgotten to take off my apron or my old shoes, but just then Mr. Pearson pronounced us man and wife, and as I had dinner to serve right away I had no time to worry over my odd toilet."

She told a story about visiting a neighbor's home, "If you traveled due north from my home, after about nine hours' ride you would come into an open space in the butte lands, and away between two buttes you would see the glimmer of blue water. As you drew nearer you would be able to see the fringe of willows around the lake, and presently a low, red-roofed house with corrals and stables."

For more information about Stewart visit Wyohistory.org.

Denise Diamonte found a letter in an abandoned house. It was written to Elizabeth Priscilla Davis-Ferris, who lived in Wheatland with her husband, Albert John Ferris, from 1901 to 1911.

The letter has been recreated below.

Home

March 29, 1907

Dear Aunt Lizzie,

Received a nice letter from you, soon after Christmas and am wanting to take a few minutes to answer it now. I can spare a few minutes to write. I have the most lot of clothes to wash. This is a beautiful wash day.

Mama says to tell you that our fair is to be April 19 and that if she can't write before, she will write afterwards and tell you about it. I wish they could have it while you are here.

I wrote a short letter to Edith last Friday night. A long time it takes to get her letters as she is so interested in schoolwork. I love to write to her about it too. I do wish she could visit. I am having thoughts, there is nothing nicer than a person who longs for "home." I enjoy it better all the time and realize more and more what it means to me. I would take all my money in the world to do it. I think I'll get thru ... with less than \$200 this year. Maybe ought not to talk enthusiastically about it, but that is just the way I feel about it.

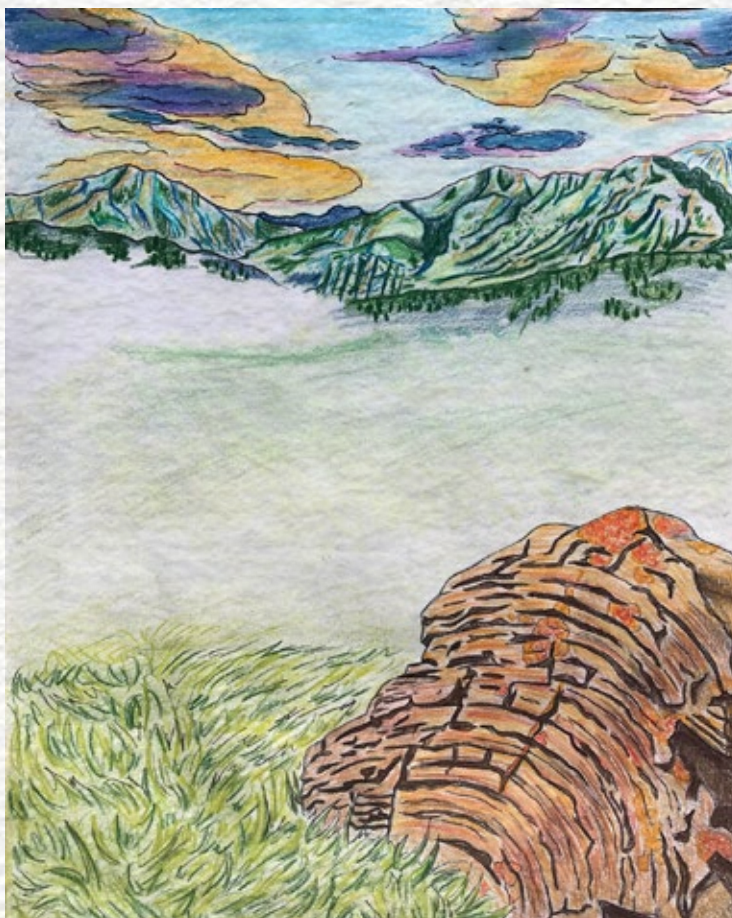
I know and appreciate it. Must close and go to work. Hope all are well and tell (unknown) I am sorry he was (unknown). Wish some or all of you can take a visit out here next summer too.

With all my love, to all ... and keep it to yourself.
Mamie

The "Garden" is the culmination of a series of related scenes. But here we pass on to a new role as members of humanity and the union of people is in itself the theme

Meet the STROMATOLITE

Stromatolites are the oldest fossils, some nearly as old as the oldest rocks on Earth. Though the organisms responsible for stromatolites are microscopic, stromatolites can be quite large — and some of the biggest and best stromatolites in the world are found in Wyoming!



and made life as we know it possible. After a run of more than two billion years of dominance, the abundance and diversity of stromatolites declined rapidly about one billion years ago, probably due to grazing by more complex organisms. Today, living stromatolites are found in only a few places, places with extreme conditions, like very high salt concentrations, where grazing animals can't survive.

Ancient Bacteria

Fossilized stromatolites are layered rocks formed by the precipitation and accumulation of calcareous sediments onto mats of microorganisms growing in shallow water. They can take on many shapes, from flat to domed or conical, even coral-like, and range in size from a few centimeters to a few meters across. The dominant microorganisms involved in stromatolite formation are cyanobacteria, a group of bacteria that make their food by photosynthesis.

Atmospheric Change

Stromatolites were once a dominant and diverse life form on Earth, and they played a major role in the subsequent evolution of life. That's because the early atmosphere was very different from what it is now, and it was photosynthesis by cyanobacteria that produced oxygen,

Where to Find Them

In Wyoming, "giant" fossilized stromatolites, approximately two billion years old, are easily seen up high in the Medicine Bow Mountains west of

Laramie. Much younger and smaller fossilized stromatolites are present in the Green River Formation, which is exposed in much of southwestern Wyoming, including Fossil Butte National Monument. Only 40 million years old, the Green River stromatolites are thought to have formed in extremely salty conditions, much like modern stromatolites.

A guide to the stromatolites of the Medicine Bow Mountains can be downloaded from the Wyoming State Geological Survey at wsgs.wyo.gov/products/wsgs-2014-pic-45.pdf.

Good Dogs Just Doing Their Job

BY BRUCE CONNALLY

As a country veterinarian it is my obligation to like dogs. I really need to like dogs because every ranch, farm, stable and backyard barn has at least one dog. And all of those dogs are good dogs who are doing their designated jobs. After many years of close observation, I have been able to recognize and categorize several of these good dog jobs.



GUARDIAN DOGS:

An excellent example of this category was the black and white border collie lying under a 1974 Dodge conversion van up on blocks in the front yard of a 5-acre ranch. While I was knocking on the door of the house he sneaked up and bit holes in the back of both of my pant legs (and one of the legs inside those pants). This good guardian dog must have mistaken me for an encyclopedia salesman or else his owner had neglected to inform him that I was coming to treat her bloated steer.



CATTLE WORKING DOGS:

Blue heelers are ubiquitous on cattle ranches in Wyoming. They are fearless helpers moving cattle in pastures or corrals. I witnessed an example of this on a beautiful October morning while pregnancy testing cows in Lyons Valley. It was a remarkably efficient operation. Three cowboys were bringing cows up from the big corral to a smaller crowding pen and then into a 40-foot-long alley which

PHOTO BY LESYA UKRAINCHUK



Frenchie plays with Connally's flag during horse training.

led to the squeeze chute. The husband and wife who owned the ranch were working the squeeze chute and vaccinating each cow after I determined her pregnancy status. A beautiful blue merle heeler worked that 40-foot alley by himself. Any cow who stopped would be encouraged to keep moving with a bite on her leg or side. About every 20 or 25 cows the dog would bite me on the butt or thigh to be sure I wasn't holding things up. We checked 300 cows before we stopped for lunch!

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD DOGS:

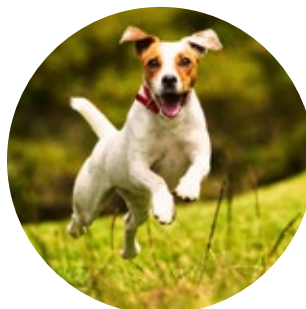
When we lived in Casper my wife bought a Jack Russell terrier. It was a beautiful brown and white year-old male with a rough coat like a fox terrier. We named him Gator as a tribute to the size of his mouth.

"He uses my 6-year-old twins as trampolines!" The seller confided after my wife had paid her for the dog, "He needs a job."

We tried to keep this Jack Russell terrorist in the house or on a leash for the first few days. That was like trapping a bolt of lightning. He terrorized our Australian shepherd and put all three

cats into hiding. On day three I let him out in the pasture behind the house and he found his calling. There were prairie dogs all over that pasture. Gator immediately decided it was his job to put each prairie dog back into its hole. He would sprint toward the closest rodent, who skittered safely down the hole. Another prairie dog would sound the alarm call and Gator would charge toward that one. The cycle repeated.

After 15 minutes I called to Gator so we could go back to the house. He was so intent on his job that he didn't hear me. I called again and again until my voice succumbed to a severe case of canine laryngitis. Panicked that I would lose my wife's new terrier, I began running across the muddy dog town in my cowboy boots with overshoes on. By the time I caught up to him my lungs were on fire, my legs were



quivering, and my throat was sore enough I couldn't even cuss. Gator did not seem to understand the problem and appeared downright dejected as I snapped a leash to his collar and led him home.

I was not about to repeat this, so the next day I put the Aussie's electric dog training collar on the Jack Russell. It was a little big for him: his neck went down and his butt came up a little. The collar had settings 1 to 5 of increasing strength. I chose 5. As soon as we were outside a prairie dog chirped and Gator was off. I let him work for 10 minutes then tried to bring him back.

"Gator, come here." Nothing.

"Gator. Come!" I shouted and briefly pushed the button on the controller.

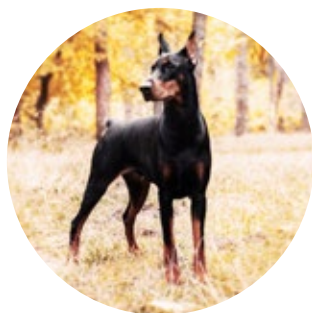
The dog shook his head as if a fly had landed on his ear and then was off after the next prairie dog.

"Gator!" I screamed through bruised vocal cords. My knuckles were white as I squeezed the button on the controller. This training collar had a safety switch that would shut off after squeezing the button for 8 seconds. At about 8 seconds Gator's head shot up and he turned to me with a look on his face that plainly said, "What? I'm working here."

The spell of the prairie dog was broken and he came to me. Gator's environmental stewardship was accomplished for this day.

HORSE TRAINING DOGS:

This is a category that I only recognized recently. I have started young horses under saddle for several decades without the assistance of a dog. It seemed to be effective and I had become accustomed to it. This summer I had two 2-year-old stallions and a 3-year-old gelding to start. My wife's



Doberman ran wildly around the outside of the round pen as I worked the colts inside. The dog would turn with the colts, panting and occasionally barking her enthusiasm. I tried to make her stop but since she always stayed outside the fence and didn't bite the horses, I finally decided this was desensitizing the colts to dogs so I let her keep helping. (The other possibility here is that I am not a good enough dog trainer to make her stop so I just put up with it.)

Everything was going great until the fourth ride on the 3-year-old. The first three rides had been easy but a quarter of the way around the round pen this horse split in two. His head was between

his front legs and his hind legs were kicking above my head. He bawled and squalled and did his best impression of a seventh-round saddle bronc at the NFR. I had my hand in the night latch strap on the pommel of the saddle and miraculously stayed on for two laps around that 60-foot round corral. On lap three the colt started running more than bucking and I decided to bail off.

"Get up!" My wife yelled as I lay in the sand, "He is coming around again."

I kinda wanted to just lay there but I jumped up to see the colt step right in the middle of my straw hat lying in the sand. I grabbed my flag in the middle of the round pen. Horse trainers often use a flag to move a colt around the round pen, my flag is a 5-foot long stock whip with a piece of orange irrigation dam canvas tied to the end. I held that and began chasing the colt around the pen, trying to help him understand that bucking meant he would get chased until he was too tired to run. The Doberman was barking and running around the outside of the pen. I was flapping the flag, swearing, and running around the center of the pen. The colt was running full speed between us. After a few laps the colt began to tire and appeared to be regretting his indiscretion. I was getting tired and one leg was starting to hurt when inexplicably I couldn't lift the flag to speed

the horse on. I looked down and my daughter's French bulldog puppy was attached to the orange canvas flag. She had apparently not cared about the Doberman running frantically or the horse pounding around the pen. She had seen that flag and recognized it as an invitation to play. I shook her off and tried to chase her out of the pen by spanking her with the flag. She loved that new game and attacked the flag with renewed vigor. I got her picked up and stuffed through the bars of

the corral into my daughter's arms before the colt ran us both over. Frenchie was still struggling to get back into the pen as I turned my attention to the horse again. He was tired now and I stepped back on. No bucking! The colt was puffing like a steam locomotive. My leg hurt, my hat was squashed, and my hair was full of sand. The Doberman and the Frenchie were both still ready to go. Just good horse training dogs trying to do their job. My horses are not at all troubled by dogs. **W**

Dr. Bruce Connally practices equine medicine in central Wyoming and northern Colorado from his home in Berthoud, Colorado.



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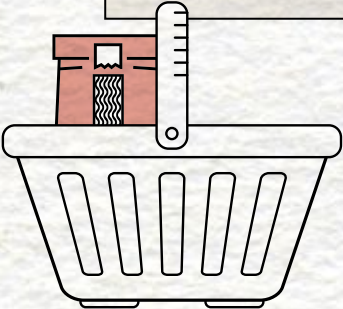
Recipe for Disaster

Hours before the neighborhood holiday potluck, Agnes, Ricardo, Mary-Ann, Donna and Fred just ran into each other at the grocery store – literally! Help each cook claim the ingredients needed for his or her signature dish from the mixed-up pile in the center of the aisle by writing each item name in the basket where it belongs.

Finally, can you guess what dish each cook plans to bring to the party based on the contents of his or her basket? Casse-roll over to page 35 for the solution.


AGNES

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. EGG NOODLES
- 5.



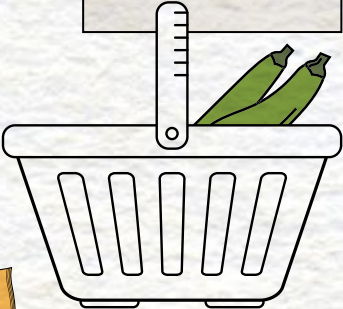
RICARDO


- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. POULTRY SEASONING



FRED

1. ZUCCHINI
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.






MILK (tag 2), EGGS, ONION, DAY-OLD BREAD, GARLIC, GREEN BEANS, CHEDDAR CHEESE, CELERY, GROUND BEEF, FROZEN TATER TOTS, FROZEN PEAS, MUSHROOM SOUP (tag 3), BROTH, CANNED TUNA, HEAVY CREAM

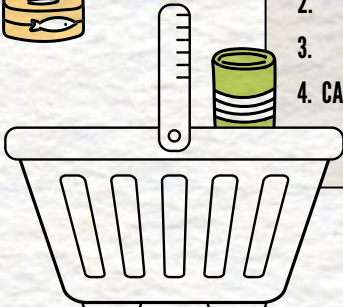
MARY-ANN

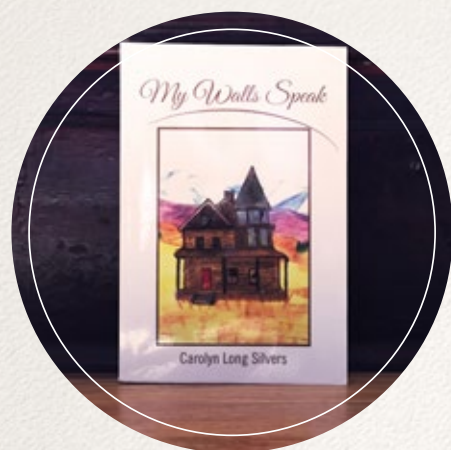
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. CRISPY FRIED ONIONS



DONNA

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. CAN OF MIXED VEGGIES





MY WALLS SPEAK

BY CAROLYN LONG SILVERS

ORDERING INFORMATION:

2014 | 310p. | \$19.99

ISBN: 978-1499017205

Publisher: XLIBRIS

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Description by the author

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Volunteer Firefighters Serve the Community

BY ELIZABETH SAMPSON

When Wheatland's volunteer firefighters talk about the weather, it probably has less to do with making idle chitchat and more to do with being aware of what kind of situation stands between them and a full night's sleep.

Assistant fire chief Willie Deglman of Wheatland said there is really never a slow time for those who are their community's first line of defense against accidents and disaster — and the weather plays a big part in that.

"Different hazards come with different times of the year," he explained. Fall means the days are getting colder and people start buttoning up their homes to keep warm, which can lead to chimney fires and carbon monoxide and fire alarm incidents. Winter brings snowy roads and accidents on treacherous roadways. It can also mean structure fires thanks to things like wood burning stove malfunctions.

Spring winds herald blow-over accidents for high profile vehicles, and summer is the season for wildfires caused by campfires, people welding or burning ditches or lightning strikes.

"With the seasons it's a perpetual cycle," Deglman said.

Last summer the Britania Mountain Fire saw this department giving support to national firefighting teams. Though the fire was out of their district, they offered mutual aid to help put out the fire that burned more than 30,000 acres.

"Nobody is overflowing with personnel or equipment, so we always help each other," Deglman said.

RURAL ELECTRIC PARTNERSHIP

All the members of the department volunteer their time to help people on their worst days. The work they do without pay and the training they undertake to make sure they do it well prompted Al Teel of the Wheatland Rural Electric Association to recognize the entire team.

"I've seen them at fires and in action," Teel said. "They may be part-time volunteers, but they are full-time professionals and they know what they're doing. They spend a lot of hours training, and it

shows. They don't train until they get it right — they keep training until they can't get it wrong."

Firefighters and the REA work together anytime electricity is a factor in fires or accidents. Whether that means calling on the REA to determine if there are live electrical utilities attached to a structure that is burning, or asking for their aid when dealing with an auto versus electrical pole accident, the fire department relies on the REA — and vice-versa.

Teel said once they had a pole that was burning, which of course the fire department responded to.

"They secured the area, called dispatch, who called us," Teel said. "We got a crew out there right away and shut the power off."

Deglman said the firefighters receive frequent training from Teel and the REA regarding the hazards of electricity and how to recognize situations where



Wheatland volunteer firefighters extinguish a fire on a power pole with an irrigation service in 2015. Wheatland Rural Electric Association was also on scene.

PHOTO BY AL TEEL

electricity may put the lives of firefighters in jeopardy.

"Our gear may be really good to protect us from fires — not so much from electricity," Deglman said. "It kind of humbles the guys and lets them know to respect electricity."

SERVING LOCAL NEEDS

Wheatland Volunteer Fire Department/Platte County Fire District 1F is unique in that it includes both town and rural coverage. They are responsible for Wheatland and about a 10-mile radius around the town into Platte County.

Firefighters in this department go through extensive training to learn the basics of the job and then continue having twice-monthly classes with the department to keep up-to-date on situations they may encounter. They also attend state fire schools that take place around the state throughout the year, including in Wheatland, Deglman said.

But being a volunteer firefighter isn't just about fighting fires and keeping up on education. The department puts a strong emphasis on public service to the Wheatland community and surrounding areas.

They visit schools for Fire Prevention Week, help manage various parades and put on the fireworks show every year. They are very visible at the local high school, serving on the chain gang at football games, giving returning state championship teams a ride around town on firetrucks and lighting a large W on fire during homecoming.

"The thing I am most proud of is people are willing to put their lives, and their family's lives, on hold to give up the most valuable resource they have, which is their time," Deglman said.

He pointed out that none of the volunteers receive compensation for their time, other than a very small state pension when they reach the age of 60. Rather, they risk their lives and devote countless hours for the good of the community.

“ They don't train until they get it right — they keep training until they can't get it wrong.”

"The thing they do day-in and day-out is answering the call at three in the morning and getting back to the station at four in the morning and then working all day," Deglman said.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Unfortunately, the numbers of these dedicated volunteers have fallen over the years. When Deglman started, he was one of 44 members of the department. Now there are only 27, so the department is actively seeking more.

He said his department never asks people to do anything outside their comfort zone.

"We will challenge you," he said. "You're going to do things that you never thought you could do."

No matter where people live in Wyoming, Deglman encourages them to stop into their local firehouse to learn more.

"If you are able-bodied and willing, your local fire department can find something for you to do," he said. "You'll get some experiences you can't get anywhere else on earth." **W**

Elizabeth Sampson lives in Cheyenne with her husband and two young daughters.

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POTLUCK

REUNION SALAD (FROG EYE SALAD)

- 1 PKG. ACINI DE PEPE MACARONI,
COOKED AND DRAINED
- 1 CUP SUGAR
- 2 TBS FLOUR
- 1 - 3/4 CUPS PINEAPPLE JUICE
- 2 EGGS, BEATEN
- 1 TBS LEMON JUICE
- 3 (11 OZ) CANS MANDARIN ORANGES, DRAINED
- 2 (20 OZ) CANS PINEAPPLE CHUNKS, DRAINED
- 2 CUPS MINIATURE COLORED MARSHMALLOWS
- 1 CUP COCONUT
- 1 LARGE (9 OZ) CARTON OF WHIPPED TOPPING

Mix juice, flour and sugar and cook in a saucepan over medium heat. Add beaten eggs, beat until thick and smooth. Add lemon and cool. Pour over fruit and marshmallows, stir. When completely chilled, mix with pasta and whipped topping.

Serves 20-25.

RUTH ZELLER ★ LOVELL



LINDA'S "MORE"

- 1 - 8 OZ PKG AMERICAN BEAUTY FLUFFY
DUMPLINGS OR WIDE EGG NOODLES
- 1 - 1/2 LBS GROUND BEEF
- 1 LARGE ONION, CHOPPED
- 1/2 GREEN BELL PEPPER, CHOPPED
- 1 SMALL CAN MUSHROOMS, DRAINED
- 3 CUPS GRATED CHEDDAR CHEESE
- SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE
- 1 TBS OREGANO
- 1 TSP GARLIC SALT
- 2 - 8 OZ CANS TOMATO SAUCE

Cook meat and onions until meat is browned. Add peppers, mushrooms, spices, tomato sauce and 1/2 of the cheese. Cook dumplings until done. Spray 9x13 casserole dish with cooking spray. Put 1/2 of the dumplings in the casserole dish, then layer with meat and cheese. Add remaining dumplings and top with more cheese. Bake at 350 degrees until bubbly or about 30 minutes. Serve with salad and garlic bread.

LINDA WOOLHETHER ★ HILLSDALE

MY FAVORITE WINGS

- 5 LBS CHICKEN WINGS
- MCCORMICK MONTREAL CHICKEN SEASONING
- 4 CLOVES GARLIC, MINCED
- TEXAS PETE SAUCE

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line a baking sheet with tin foil and spray with Pam. Put chicken wings on pan in a single layer. Sprinkle Montreal Chicken Seasoning over wings. Bake in a 400 degree oven for 30 minutes. Remove wings from oven and place in a large frying pan. Add minced garlic and enough Texas Pete Sauce to cover wings.

Sauté wings on medium heat until wings are caramelized with sauce. Serve with ranch dressing and celery sticks.

NANCY DENK ★ RIVERTON

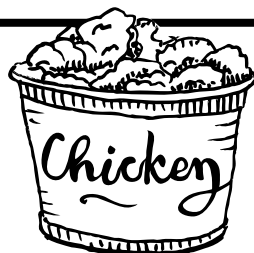
SHRIMP DIP

- 1 - 1/2 CUPS WATER
- 1 - 1/2 CUPS VINEGAR
- 1/4 CUP OLD BAY SEASONING
- 1 - 1/2 LBS RAW SHRIMP IN SHELL
- 1 CUP MAYONNAISE
- 1 CUP SHREDDED MEDIUM CHEDDAR CHEESE
- 2 JALAPENO PEPPERS, DICED

Put water, vinegar and Old Bay Seasoning in a large pot, cover and bring to a boil. Add raw shrimp and bring to a boil again. Boil shrimp until they turn pink and are done, about 5 minutes. Cool shrimp, peel and dice. Mix mayonnaise, cheese and diced jalapeno, then add diced shrimp and mix well. Put in a casserole dish and bake in a 350 degree oven for 20 to 30 minutes until bubbly. Serve with your choice of cracker.

NANCY DENK ★ RIVERTON

FEBRUARY:
CHICKEN



SUBMIT
A RECIPE

Send complete recipe by January 10!

Please include your name, address and phone number.

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FLYING ACES FROM WORLD WAR II

BUZZ AND LOU

These men were from the valley
When they were called to the war
Flying high above the earth
How the planes did soar

When flying to a new assignment
And they flew across our hometown
They would buzz the town of Lyman
Flying too close to the ground

One of the men got his nickname
Of Buzz and he didn't seem to mind
Even after the war he was still called
That name for quite a long time

The men came home from the war
And pursued their future goals
They had some highs in their lives
And they also had some lows

Both men are gone now and have
God as their copilot in the sky
They are in their planes soaring in heaven
Enjoying their time to fly

LOUISE DAVIS ★ MOUNTAIN VIEW

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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A PIECE

Put Your Pen to Paper!

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING REGIONAL MAP



FEATURED EVENT



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSES IN DUBOIS

DECEMBER 6 ★ 4-7P

Headwaters Arts Center

Vendors, Christmas tree decorating and gingerbread house contests, live caroling, cash prizes, warm chili and Santa, info 307-455-2687.

DECEMBER 7 ★ 10A-4P

Dubois Museum

Decorations and goodies for guests along with discounts in the gift shop and free admission, info 307-455-2284.

National Bighorn Sheep Center

Christmas gifts on sale, holiday treats and cider and free admission, info bighorn.org/event/holiday-open-house-2/.

NORTHWEST

01 | SOUTHEAST

CHUGWATER

ONGOING

Live Music: Acoustic jam session Thu, live music Fri & Sat. Stampede Saloon & Eatery, free, info 307-422-3200, stampedefun@aol.com.

ENCAMPMENT

ONGOING

Grand Encampment Museum Winter Hours: Main Gallery and GEM Store most days 10a-4p, info 307-327-5308.

MEDICINE BOW

FOURTH TUESDAYS

Bingo: 7p, Community Hall, info 307-710-4045.

PINE BLUFFS

TUESDAYS

Bingo: 1-3p, Pine Bluffs Senior Center, info 307-245-3816.

TORRINGTON

SECOND WEDNESDAYS

Rex Young Rock Club: 7-8p, Senior Friendship Center, info 308-632-5574.

02 | NORTHEAST

CLEARMONT

ONGOING

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

GILLETTE

DECEMBER 21

Saturday Farmers' Market: Come out and enjoy a unique blend of crafts, produce, meats, jams, jellies and community. Always welcoming new vendors. 9a-noon, Gillette College Tech Center, info on Facebook.

HULETT

ONGOING

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

LUSK

NOVEMBER 29

Black Friday: Kick off shopping with cookies, hot cocoa and coupons, 9-11a, at Clark & Associates, info 1-800-223-LUSK.

DECEMBER 7

Christmas Events: Gift bazaar at the fairgrounds from 10a-3p. Parade, Santa and more downtown, info 1-800-223-LUSK.

DECEMBER 8

Library Christmas Program: 1:30p, Niobrara County Library, info 1-800-223-LUSK.

ONGOING

Open house for local business: Spirits Liquor & Gift Mart Nov 21, Same as It Once Was Dec 5. Info 1-800-223-LUSK.

MOORCROFT

ONGOING

Library events: Story hour 10a Wed; book clubs 1p third Thu and 6p fourth Tue. Info 307-756-3232, moorlibrary@rtconnect.net.

ONGOING

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

THIRD MONDAYS

Moorcroft Historical Society: 5:45p, West Texas Trail Museum.

ONGOING

Senior Center Events: Third Thu Birthday and Anniversary Dinner, meat provided, bring a side dish. 5p social hour, 6p dinner; fourth Thu toenail clinic 9a, info 307-756-9550.

NEWCASTLE

FRIDAYS

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

RANCHESTER

DECEMBER 7

Arts & Crafts Bazaar: 8a-2p, Ranchester Town Hall.

SHERIDAN

NOVEMBER 23

Swim Team Christmas Bazaar: 9a-4p, Sheridan County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall.

NOVEMBER 29

A Rockapella Holiday: 8:15p, WYO Performing Arts & Education Center, \$35, \$22.50 student, info 307-672-9084, wyotheater.com.

NOVEMBER 31

Warren Miller's Timeless: 4p, WYO Performing Arts & Education Center, \$14.50, \$11.50 student, info 307-672-9084, wyotheater.com.

DECEMBER 5-7**San Diego Ballet's Nutcracker:**

7:30p, 2p Dec 7, WYO Performing Arts & Education Center, \$40, \$36.50 senior & military, \$20 student, info 307-672-9084, wyotheater.com.

SUNDANCE**NOVEMBER 30**

Shopping Events: Shop specials throughout town, 9a-5p; Ladies' Night Block Party begins 5p at Grid Hardware, \$15, \$20 at the door, info sundancewyoming.com.

DECEMBER 6

Lighted Christmas Parade: The theme is An Old Time Christmas, 5:30p, downtown Sundance, info sundancewyoming.com.

DECEMBER 13**Sundance Holiday Hoopla:**

Raffle drawing and 50/50, 5:30p, Longhorn Saloon & Grill, info sundancewyoming.com.

ONGOING

Library Events: Storytime for toddlers and preschoolers 10:30a Wed; Lunch Bunch book discussion group 11a fourth Thu Sep-May; Quilting @ the Library 6-8p last Mon. Crook County Library, info 307-283-1006 or crookcountylib@rangeweb.net.

UPTON**NOVEMBER 28**

Thanksgiving dinner: 11a-1:30p, Upton Methodist Church, free.

DECEMBER 14

Christmas Bazaar: 9a-3p, Goose Landing, free, info 307-468-2506, gooselandingwy.com.

WEDNESDAYS

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

03 | NORTHWEST

DUBOIS**NOVEMBER 30**

Christmas in Dubois: Skip Ewing Concert. Award-winning singer, songwriter and recording artist will perform. 4:30p & 7:30p, Dennison Lodge. \$15, children under 6 free. Tickets/info skipewing.com/tour, 307-455-2556.

DECEMBER 19**Wild Game Harvest and Potluck Feast:**

Bring your favorite big game, harvest dishes and drinks to share. 5-8p, National Bighorn Sheep Center, info 307-455-3429, bighorn.org/event/wild-game-harvest-potluck-feast.

ONGOING

Family Movie Night: See Toy Story 4 Nov 22; the new release of The Lion King Dec 20. Movies start at 6p. Dubois Public Library, info 307-455-2992.

LANDER**NOVEMBER 30**

Light-Up Lander: Cookies & cocoa with a special visit from Santa, 3-5p, Mr. D's Food Center. Lighted parade down Main Street, 6p. Info lightuplander@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 1

Art in the Afternoon: Regional art show, entertainment and refreshments. 10a-3p, Lander Community Center, \$2, info 307-332-5772 landerartcenter.com/artintheafternoon.

DECEMBER 7

Old-time Christmas Open House: Enjoy Christmas music, crafts, treats, Christmas exhibits and discounts in the museum gift store. 5-7p, Pioneer Museum, free, info 307-332-3339.

DECEMBER 28-30

Hand-Game Tournament: Guaranteed payout awards, Shoshone Rose Casino & Hotel. Free to watch. Info 307-349-7805, shoshoneros.com.

SUNDAYS

Swing Dancing at the Coalter Loft: 6-9p, 126 Main St. Free, info 307-332-8228.

MEETEETSE**DECEMBER 14**

Christmas in Meeteetse: Craft Fair with activities at Santa's Workshop for kids, visit with Santa, carriage rides, games, memory tree lighting, a bonfire, beer garden and food. Info 307-868-2454, events@meeteetsewy.com.

RIVERTON**DECEMBER 5-6**

Festival of Trees: This year's theme is The Land Of Oz. Thu: photo with Santa, cakewalk and face painting, 6-8p, \$10 per family. Fri: Gala with dinner, entertainment, auctions. 6:30-9:30p, \$50, \$75 couple. Riverton Fairgrounds, info 307-856-5576, ckeele@ces-usa.com.



Send complete information for the February issue's events by **JANUARY 10!**

Please remember that events from the 20th of February to the 20th of March are included in the February issue. *WREN does not publish a January 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:

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☎ [307] 772-1968

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

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DECEMBER 14**Christmas Open House and Children's Tree Decorating:**

Hot cocoa, snacks and discounts in the museum gift store from 10a-4p. Children are invited to make Christmas decorations with the staff of the museum from 2-4p. Riverton Museum, info 307-856-2665.

THURSDAYS

Music Jam: Sing or play folk, classic, country, bluegrass, old time rock n' roll and more. 6:30-8:30p, Brown Sugar Roastery, free, info 307-856-2518.

TEN SLEEP**ONGOING**

Live Music Winter Hours: Open Mic Night 3-5p, second Sun; Jam Night 7p, third Thu. All ages welcome, Ten Sleep Brewing Co., info tensleepbrewingco.com.

THERMOPOLIS**NOVEMBER 23**

Holiday Affair Craft Fair: 9a-3p, Thermopolis Middle School.

DECEMBER 1

Tour of Homes: See campers decorated for the season, 4-8p, Hot Springs State Park Headquarters parking lot.

WORLAND**DECEMBER 7**

Parade of Lights: The theme will be A Storybook Christmas, 6p, Big Horn Ave., info 307-347-3226.

DECEMBER 14, 19, 20, 21

A Christmas Carol Musical: Washakie Museum, info 307-347-4102.

04 | SOUTHWEST

FORT BRIDGER**DECEMBER 15****Victorian Christmas at the Fort:**

Visit the Commanding Officer's Quarters for children's activities, caroling, pictures with Santa, readings of *The Night Before Christmas*, and refreshments. Sponsored by the Fort Bridger Historical Association. 2-5p, Fort Bridger State Historic Site, \$5 per person, 12 and under free, info 307-782-3842.



01



02



03

- 01** | Old homestead 1913, Lori Archer, Gillette
- 02** | Another time, Kara Badura, Riverton
- 03** | Vintage play, Ruth Zeller, Lovell
- 04** | An old wagon in northeast Wyoming, Janet Lake, Sundance
- 05** | Dad and friends piling beans for threshing, Linda Torczon, Cody
- 06** | Chevy grill, Abby Maidl, Riverton



04



05



06

THIS MONTH:
VINTAGE



FEB (DUE JAN 10):
SNOW

MAR (DUE FEB 10):
EXPERIMENTING



07

07 | An Advantageous Match – Ed Wilkes and Maude Bennick, submitted Jean Harm, Sheridan



08

08 | School, Sandy Pokorney, Gillette

09 | A wheel of time (this 1800s wheel was used as a hoist on a ranch near Bates Hole), Marilyn Norman, Cheyenne

10 | Out to pasture, Scott Cocharo, Pine Haven



09

10





11

11 | It looks like it didn't make the trip through the Big Horn Mountains, Lauree Scott, Gillette



12

12 | Tasting the salt lick, Sue Ward, Elk Mountain

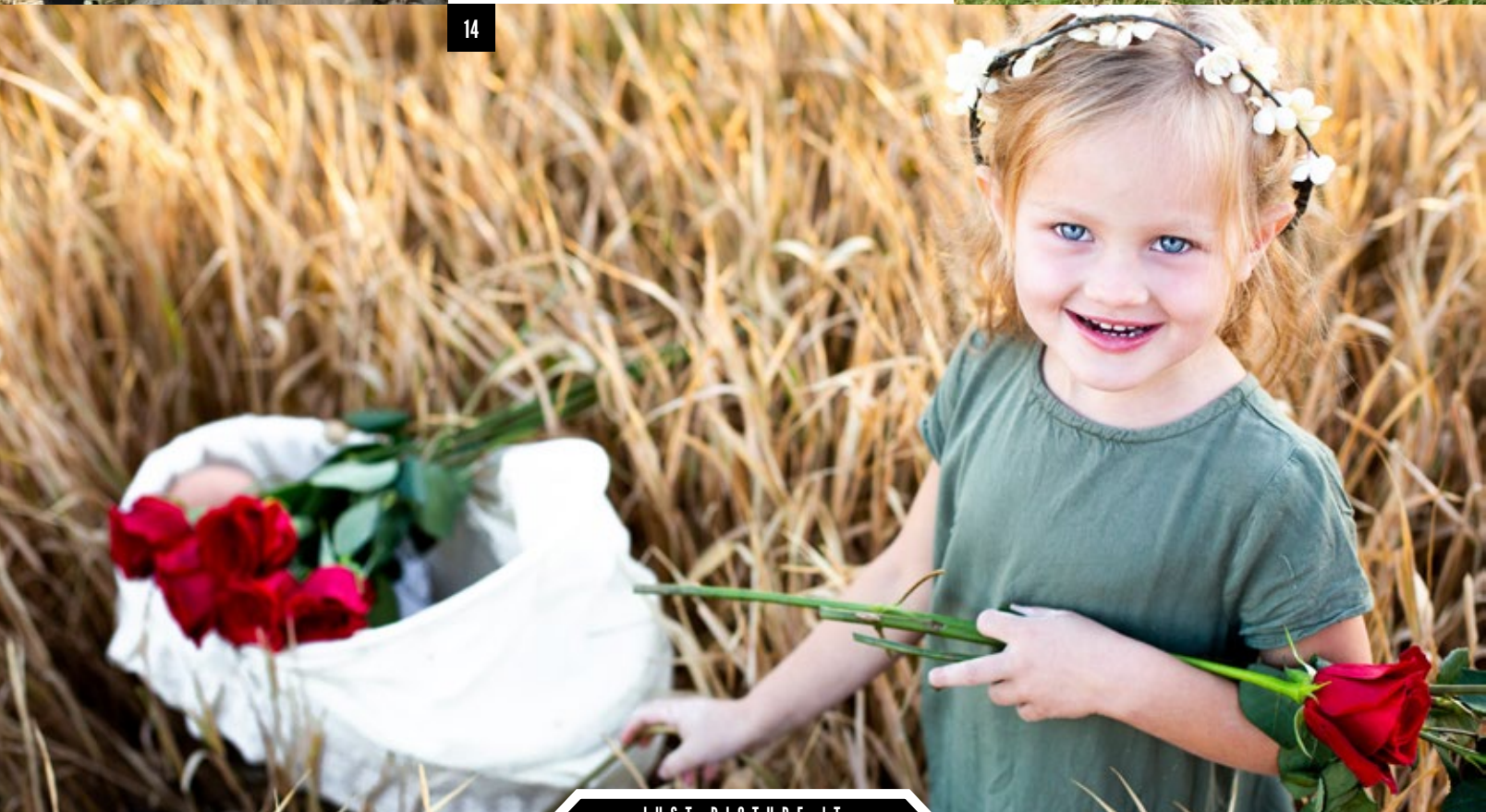
13 | My grandson on an old Inchworm, Gina Knight, Newcastle

14 | Blue-eyed girl, Cathlin Nichols, Cheyenne



13

14



JUST PICTURE IT

SUBMIT A
PHOTO

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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.

RECIPE FOR DISASTER

FROM PAGE 24

AGNES IS MAKING: TUNA NOODLE CASSEROLE

1. Cream of mushroom soup
2. Milk
3. Frozen peas
4. Egg noodles
5. Canned tuna

RICARDO IS MAKING: DRESSING/STUFFING

1. Day-old bread
2. Celery
3. Onion
4. Broth
5. Poultry seasoning

MARY-ANN IS MAKING: GREEN BEAN CASSEROLE

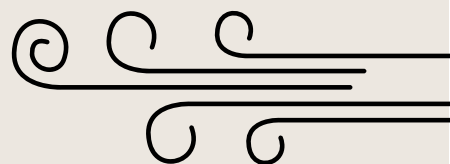
1. Cream of mushroom soup
2. Milk
3. Green beans
4. Crispy fried onions

DONNA IS MAKING: TATER TOT HOTDISH

1. Cream of mushroom soup
2. Ground beef
3. Frozen tater tots
4. Can of mixed veggies

FRED IS MAKING: CHEESY ZUCCHINI CASSEROLE

1. Zucchini
2. Heavy cream
3. Eggs
4. Cheddar cheese
5. Garlic



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Things that Last



BY WALT GASSON

It had been a long day. We were up long before the first gray on the eastern horizon. We attacked the biscuits and gravy and bacon and spuds like there would be no lunch, because there wouldn't.

Snow on the Powder River Breaks.

PHOTO BY WALT GASSON

W

We worked hard until it was dark. And after dinner, we headed for home – two hours away. When the day was young and full of promise, we were full of words and laughter. But now, we were just toughing out to get home to a warm bed and it was very quiet in the truck. And when that big full moon came up over the Powder River country, my heart went east to meet it and suddenly, somehow it was 1979.

I was young then, and this hard and broken country was a friend to me. A young kid with his first real job, I became friends with the Basque guys who ran sheep in the Powder River breaks. Second and third generation sheepmen, they knew the juniper draws, the canyons and badlands from horseback, and they knew the history of the people. Most of them weren't big talkers, but in time they began to tell me their stories. They told me about their families – the Falxas and Harriets and Irrigarays and Iberlins and more. They told me too about the ones who went belly-up. The people who gave it up when lamb and wool prices were down, or maybe when they just couldn't listen to the wind one more day. When I'd ask about that old cabin on Powder River or those old broken-down corrals on Cat Creek, they'd tell me about the people who moved on to some other place, some other life. This one was just too hard.

The next morning, I was up and gone again before the sunrise. I think it's one of the blessings of being a gentleman of a certain age that I seldom linger in bed much anymore. But that same full moon was setting now over Chalk Mountain, an image so stunning that only God or Charles Marion Russell could have created it. And again,

“

And just like in the Powder River country, there were stories of the people – the people who stayed and the people who left. Each of those people left behind them the relics of their time here.

my heart went out and my mind went back to those old guys who knew the place so well, and who kindly allowed me to learn it from them: Bob Meer, Martin Lee Sullivan, Louie Irene and the rest. And just like in the Powder River country, there were stories of the people – the people who stayed and the people who left. Each of those people left behind them the relics of their time here. The lodgepole logs cut with

an axe and trimmed with a drawknife, the juniper posts and the root cellar hand dug into the side hill all remain as testimony to their hopes and dreams.

They say the winners get to write the history, the losers just quietly move on. But when I think back now on those old faces and those old places, I think that each had something to teach me. Something about optimism in the face of overwhelming odds, something about courage in the face of possible failure, something about being willing to work hard for your family and their future. In a time of social media influencers and superficiality, maybe we have to be reminded about things that last. **W**

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



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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.

10|MISCELLANEOUS

Mark your calendar. WEST! Ag Days in Worland Feb 11 & 12. Washakie County Extension, 307-347-3431.

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.

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Years of work by innovative engineers have resulted in a personal electric vehicle 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 miles on a single charge.

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The Zinger Chair is a personal electric vehicle and is not a medical device nor a wheelchair, and has not been submitted to the FDA for review or clearance. Zinger is not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. It is not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid.

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83974

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD'S LANGUAGE SKILLS

Receptive language (understanding words and expressions) and expressive language (the ability to express yourself through speech and language) are both important components to your child's development of communication and language skills. You can encourage their development by ... singing!

Pick a song!

Pick a favorite classic song you know the melody to, like *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star* or *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*. Sing this first.

Then, change the words!

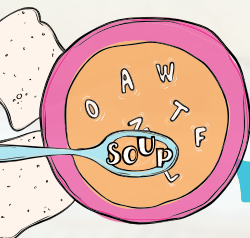
Use the tune of the song you chose but add your child's name and sing about what you're doing.

Next, add visuals!

Sing about things around you and point to them or pick them up.

Sing together!

Have your kids sing along or make up their own song next!



**FOR MORE SPEECH AND
LANGUAGE 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:

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