

## This is one of the best areas in the nation to raise bees."

— Dusty Backer, Backer Bees

Environment isn't just a buzz word at Basin Electric.

Backer Bees has bees at Glenharold Mine, a reclaimed coal mine that used to supply coal to our first power plant. The reclaimed pasture has a variety of flowers—alfalfa, clover, sunflowers, wildflowers – making it one of the best areas in the nation to raise bees.

Environmental stewardship has always been a guiding principle for us. That's why we're committed to reclaiming and restoring land back to its natural state, like Glenharold Mine.





#### THE WREN MAGAZINE WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

The official publication of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association

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#### ON THE COVER

16 | CENTERPIECE

# Training Wind Techs

#### STORY BY BY ILENE OLSON

**Cover photo:** Laramie County Community College student Danial Aspen checks the exterior of a wind turbine on F.E. Warren Air Force Base near Cheyenne.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LARAMIE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

#### **FEATURES**

06 CO-OP YOUTH
PRECORP'S
DALTON BUTLER

23 CO-OP SPOTLIGHT
JEFFREY CITY
COWBOY
BY ILENE OLSON

OCT > 2020



## STATE NEWS & EVENTS

**∩7** | THE CURRENT

15 | COWBOY STATE BUZZ

39 | WHAT'S HAPPENING

## ESSAYS & ANECDOTES

04 WREA NOTES
LOSS OF A LEGEND
BY SHAWN TAYLOR

HOME ON THE RANGE TURN RIGHT AT THE NEXT LIGHT BY DR. BRUCE CONNALLY

BENLIGHTEN US
ELECTRIC SKIES
BY WALT GASSON



## FROM OUR READERS

30 | COUNTRY COOKS

31 PEN TO PAPER

34 | JUST PICTURE IT

#### **JUST FOR FUN**

21 KIDS' CORNER WIND TECHNICIAN

BOOK REVIEW
JERRY'S STORY
BY ROBERT W. SCHRADER

PUZZLE
TURN RIGHT ...
OR WAS IT LEFT?
BY KENDRA SPANJER

## Loss of a Legend

I had started writing this month's column on my family's annual RV trip to national parks. However, after hearing the sad news of the passing of friend and longtime Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA) attorney Dave Uchner, I wanted to use this space to pay tribute to him.

I'm a bit ashamed to admit that I don't know how long Dave was counsel for WREA, but I know it has been decades, dating back to before former U.S. Sen. Craig Thomas was at the helm of the association. I do know, for the 16 years that I've been here, Dave was not just our attorney, but our historian, our advocate and most importantly a dear, dear friend to countless cooperative directors, employees, legislators and other elected officials, and to pretty much anyone who had the pleasure of knowing him.

For me personally, yes, he was a friend and our lawyer, but he was so much more. He was my biggest advocate and personal sounding board and was always there to support me through various trials and tribulations—not just for work but in my personal life as well.

He was notorious for the unannounced "pop-in" at the office but he seemed to have a sixth sense for knowing when I needed a break and a visit. We would sit in the office and talk politics, our families (including our dogs who often joined us for our visits), our community, Cheyenne Frontier Days and especially University of Wyoming football. He loved his Cowboys. I'll miss those visits a great deal.

Dave was hit with a 1 - 2 punch a few years ago. First Jane passed away and he lost the love of his life, and shortly after, his dog Houston passed away as well. I can't imagine the void he felt after those losses, and when "the Rona" and the associated quarantine followed, my wife and I

Dave Uchner meets his dog Bailey for the first time at the WREA office in March.

SHAWN TAYLOR

decided to surprise Dave with a dog to keep him company during the craziness. We didn't tell him about it but rather I had him come down to the office and "meet a dog." I knew, or at least was fairly confident, that he would be up for the companionship. And he didn't disappoint. I could tell he and the dog loved each other from the get-go, and the picture tells the story.

When I first met Dave it was obvious that he was "old school." With his flip phone and computerless office I remember thinking, "How is this going to work?" But it didn't take long to know that we would be just fine. Whenever I would ask him to help out on a piece of legislation or a project, he would usually deliver it the next day with a note that said "The watchdog never sleeps."

Well Watchdog, I hope you can rest in peace and know that you will be missed.







## CO-OP YOUTH

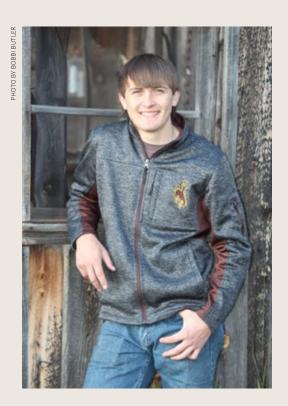
Wyoming's rural electric cooperatives are proud to support our youth, giving college scholarships and lineman scholarships. In addition, our co-ops sponsor high school students on the NRECA Youth Tour in June and Youth Leadership Camp in July.

#### THIS MONTH:

Dalton Butler was awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship from PRECorp.



While Youth Tour and youth camps were canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, your co-op may be taking applications for next year. See the insert in the center of the magazine for information from your local rural electric cooperative.



## DALTON BUTLER



#### **HOMETOWN:**

Hulett

#### **HIGH SCHOOL:**

**Hulett High School** 

#### **YEAR OF GRADUATION:**

2020

#### **COLLEGE:**

**Casper College** 

#### **MAJOR STUDY INTEREST:**

Range Management and Aviation

#### WREN: Tell us about your studies and interests.

DB: I played football, wrestled and ran track in high school, was president of the Devils Tower FFA and class president. I enjoy woodworking, welding and taxidermy, and have won awards in all of them. I like to hunt and raised commercial crossbred sheep with my brothers. I recently exhibited the grand champion market lamb, grand champion market hog and reserve champion market goat at the Crook County Fair.

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

**DB:** Living in a small town has its challenges, but the benefits far outweigh those. My family and hometown community support me in nearly everything I do, from playing in the six-man Nebraska vs. Wyoming football game, to purchasing my fair animals at the county fair, to helping me learn new techniques in the wood shop or welding shop, you can't beat the support of a small town.

#### WREN: What are your plans for the future?

**DB:** I'm attending Casper College to study range management and aviation. I have been interested in aviation for as long as I can remember. I plan to fly airplanes and helicopters. I hope to find an occupation in the aviation field that keeps me close to my hometown and Wyoming. I plan to do what I love by flying as well as being able to live a rural way of life.

## 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 Fund is in danger of running out of funding.



#### WHAT IT IS

The WREA Lineman Scholarship Fund offers grants 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.



#### 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.

#### SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

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

14.9K

2018



#### **FUNDING**

The scholarship's main source of funding has been a golf tournament, which was canceled this year. 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.



#### **APPRECIATION**

#### We appreciate your support!

During the last few months, WREA members and friends have contributed to the scholarship fund. A heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who has reached out!

But we aren't done yet. If you haven't already, please consider donating to the WREA Lineman Scholarship Fund.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE BY:



Calling 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

## Co-op Trivia













The electricity that powers your home can seem as simple as the flip of a switch. Stay safe by understanding the electrical systems inside your home.

#### **ELECTRICAL OUTLETS**

Electrical outlets have been redesigned and upgraded through the decades to protect both the safety of the user and the electrical system in your home.

GFIs, or ground fault circuit interrupters, have been installed in homes since the 1970s. These plugs are designed for safety. They protect people from electric shock both from water hazards and

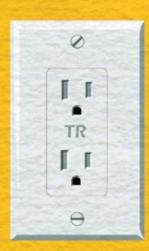
from improperly grounded wires. You'll find GFIs in kitchens, bathrooms and other areas where water is available.

AFCIs, or arc fault circuit interrupters, are a relatively new invention that protects an entire circuit. While the circuit breaker in your breaker box protects against overload, the AFCI outlet will protect against arcing faults that can cause electrical fires.

## **WATT'S THE DIFFERENCE?**







#### **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter**

Prevents electrical shock by detecting variations in current.

Install in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity.

Test outlets with GFCIs monthly; if they don't work properly, consult your electrician.

#### **Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter**

Prevents electrical fires caused by arc flash. Usually installed by an electrician.

An arc is an electrical discharge that can cause intense heat or light.

It interrupts the circuit when it detects an arc or other abnormalities in the flow of electricity.

#### **Tamper Resistant Outlet**

Prevents shocks caused by tampering with an outlet.

The protective shutters are designed to move when a plug is correctly inserted.

Became part of the National Electrical Code in 2008; if your home does not have these, install childproof devices.

Electricity.org\*



## Mountainside Maintenance

A contractor uses a spider excavator to help Lower Valley Energy crews replace a power pole above the Snake River, just south of Jackson Hole, in August.

Lower Valley Energy Communications Manager Brian Tanabe said the pole replacement was part of the co-op's regular maintenance schedule. He explained that the contractor replaced seven poles in three days; without the special equipment the project would have taken three weeks.

#### WEARING A MASK REDUCES RISK OF TRANSMISSION.

Protect yourself and others.

Asymptomatic COVID-19 Carrier

Uninfected Person

VERY HIGH

HIGH

MEDIUM

VERY LOW

FEET

FEET



cheyenneregional.org/covid

## Annual **Meeting Roundup**

At this time of year in any other year, almost all of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association's 11 utility cooperatives would be finished with their annual meetings. Members would have had the chance to elect board members, share a meal, and possibly bring home a door prize.

With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and statewide ban on gatherings of large groups of people, cooperative leadership had to decide how to proceed. Each of the cooperatives made a decision based on their particular membership's needs.

#### PRECORP CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

It's a wonderful thing when a cooperative can last 75 years, a milestone celebrated during Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp)'s 75th annual meeting August 22 in Sundance. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the masked attendees and the livestream video, there was a feeling of light-heartedness as the group looked back at the work that is finished and forward to new challenges.

The meeting began with an introduction from board President Walt Christensen and General Counsel Mark Hughes. They explained that the PRECorp board had made sure the meeting could take place this year, even if the number of members present was too small to meet a quorum.

"Welcome everybody to our 75th annual nonmeeting. By that what I mean is that we don't have 100 members here presently," Christensen said. "The board passed a bylaw here last month to have an election. We'll have a nonmeeting and it's going to be just like our annual meeting and hopefully we don't bore anybody."

Hughes then stood up to explain that the board had voted that the quorum would be bypassed due to exigent circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He finished with a few jokes.

Gov. Mark Gordon was the next speaker at the event, attending the meeting remotely via Zoom. He began by apologizing. "Sorry I'm not there to hear more jokes in person," he said.

"As a loyal PRECorp member I'm happy to tell you that I'm still using the Crock-Pot I won 15 years ago. That's the only thing I've ever won from PRECorp but I really appreciate it," he said.

Gordon spoke in detail and at length of upcoming budget cuts due to an economic



PHOTO BY MISSY BIEGLER/PRECORP

Sens. John Barrasso and Mike Enzi also had remote appearances during the meeting. After the PRECorp board president's and treasurer's reports, CEO Mike Easley gave an unusual and personal speech to members.

Easley admitted that he attended his first PRECorp annual meeting 20 years ago, when he "had a lot more hair and was a lot more scared." But he noted that the co-op had been around for much longer than that, and that its focus remained the same—helping each other.

"Walt [Christensen]'s dad, Earl, and a bunch of other folks got together and decided to make life easier for those in northeastern Wyoming," Easley said. At that time it was \$5 to sign up for membership, "if they didn't have the \$5, guess what; Earl did."

"The neighbor helping neighbor, the vision to look forward and dream about what PRECorp could be—who knew 75 years ago when they started this journey that PRECorp would be the second-largest utility in the state of Wyoming, the largest electric cooperative in the state of Wyoming, that we would be sort of the barometer for what's happening in the state of Wyoming as it relates to the energy industry and booms and busts," Easley said.

Easley talked about challenges with the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Things that have happened this past year have taken me to my knees ... nowhere to look but up," he said. Easley spoke of his faith, and how he believes that, because of the members, PRECorp will last another 75 years.

"It's going to withstand the decline of coal, it's going to withstand whatever happens politically because the magic that we have is each other," Easley said. "Look around, look at your neighbor, look at yourself, look at your family.

"It's people that are going to get us through it, that's how God works."



#### FINAL NUMBERS

While short of 100, 90 members registered at the meeting and approximately 200 people attended. Members cast a total of 452 ballots in person and by mail, the second highest in 10 years for the cooperative.

Members who attended the meeting were given a 75-year anniversary book, which was compiled by Shelly Ritthaler, who is a local author and wife of board member Reuben Ritthaler.

Four seats were up for election on the PRECorp board this year. Incumbent Alison Gee won reelection against challenger Barry Hayden. Weston County's Clay Branscom was elected over Lucas Keeler, and incumbents Philip Habeck and Mike Helvey were each reelected in uncontested races.

# Wyoming State Fair General Manager Courtney Conkle tries climbing an electric pole at the WREA booth at the Wyoming State Fair.

## First-Place Float at Wyoming State Fair

Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA) cooperatives won a "blue ribbon" at the Wyoming State Fair in August. WREA cooperatives won first place in the Service/Non-Profit division for their entry in the Wyoming State Fair Parade. The co-ops' entry was a banner identifying what powers electric vehicles: Wyoming Coal, Natural Gas and Wind; followed closely by a Tesla electric car. WREA cooperatives take part in the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas every year, participating in parades, putting up an educational booth and giving electrical safety demonstrations.







## Tell us what YOU think of WREN!

As we prepare for upcoming issues of WREN, we want to hear from you, our readers. What do you like about WREN? How can we improve? We take our readers' feedback seriously at WREN, so we would greatly appreciate your input on this survey!

NB L.	LL US ABOUT YOU  How old are you?	4.	Why is the section you rated "10" above your	9. I want WREN to cover more news about co-ops	WHAT IDEAS DO YOU HAVE?
	□ 12–18		favorite?	and energy.	
	☐ 19-25			☐ Yes ☐ No	15. What story ideas do you
	☐ 25-34			10. I know more about	have to share with us?
	☐ 35-44			Wyoming because of	
	☐ 45-54			WREN.	
				☐ Yes ☐ No	
	□ 55-64			i fes i No	
	☐ 65 or over	5.	Why is the section you rated "1" above your	11. Do you subscribe to any other printed magazines?	16. Any other suggestions for
۷.	What is your gender?		least favorite?		how we can improve WREN?
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	☐ Female			If you answered yes, which	
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	1 to 10, with 1 being		reading? Pick your top two		\\\\\
	"least favorite" and 10		choices.	12. Do you have access to the	
	being "most favorite."		☐ Farming and ranching	Wyoming Rural Electric	
	Shawn Taylor's column (pg. 4)		☐ Energy and cooperatives	Association website at wyomingrea.org?	THANK YOU
	News briefs about		☐ Business	☐ Yes ☐ No	
	energy and co-ops		☐ Environment		
	(pgs. 7-8)		and wildlife	13. Have you read the WREN	
	News briefs about		☐ Education	online in the past?	
	Wyoming (pgs. 9-13)		☐ Tourism	☐ Yes ☐ No	When you're finished
	Feature news stories				with the survey, cut it out
	(pgs. 14–19)		☐ Personality profiles	If so, how often?	and send it to:
	Personality profiles and	7	The stories in WREN are		WREN Magazine
	interviews (pgs. 22-23)				214 W. Lincolnway
	Creative essays like		☐ Too short	14. Would reading WREN	Ste. 21C
	Home on the Range		☐ Just right	be the same experience	Cheyenne, WY 82001
	and Enlighten Us		☐ Too long	if it was digital instead	-OR-
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	(pgs. 20, 25)		ES OR NO	165	wren@wyomingrea.org
	Book reviews (pg. 24)	-	ES OK NO	If you'd like to explain your	
	Reader-submitted	8.	I know more about	answer, please do!	-OR-
	recipes, poems and		my cooperative because		Take this survey online!
	pictures (pgs. 28, 29,		of WREN.		wyomingrea.org/
	32-34)		☐ Yes ☐ No		wren-magazine/
	Other				wren-reader-survey
	Other				wren-reader-survey

WREN MAGAZINE

## Call for Photos

We live far apart in Wyoming.

Some people say it's a small town with long roads. Electric co-op lineworkers might say it's a small town with miles of power lines.

Why do we live here? What draws us to the remote places in this spread-out state?

For the 2021 editorial year, Wyoming Rural Electric News (WREN) magazine will feature stories about our lives in big spaces. We'll follow some of our friends and tell the stories that brought them to this place.

We need your help! Will you share the call that brought you to Wyoming? We are collecting photos centered around the theme "Life Out West" for our February 2021 issue. This will be a photography issue, with photos from you, the reader.

Please send photos by
December 10. Photos must
include information about
the photograph: who took the
photo, where they took the
photo, and what the photo
represents. Share the story of
your photo—what does it mean
to you to live here?



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





## **Votes for Women**

Women in the United States have been able to vote for 100 years, but generations of women fought for more than 100 years to win that right.

Celebrations honoring the women's vote have been taking place across the country and especially in Wyoming where Louisa Swain of Laramie cast the first-ever vote by a woman 150 years ago. It would be 50 years later, in 1920, that the 19th Amendment to the Constitution would grant voting rights to every woman in America.

Swain's historic vote was celebrated in Chevenne and Laramie in September as an American Trucking Associations convoy, driven by four outstanding female truck drivers, arrived in town. The convoy included a tractor-trailer with Swain's larger-than-life image on the side.

#### SUFFRAGISTS

There to greet the convoy were a group of women in white outfits and hats, with gold and purple sashes that read "Votes for Women." The women belong to a Cheyenne League of Women Voters acting troupe who perform the play "Wonderful Wyoming Women Voters" at various events around the state. The 20-minute play, written by Chevenne League of Women Voter members Mary Guthrie and Rosalind Routt Schliske, tells the story of the women's vote in Wyoming.

The play "Wonderful Wyoming Women Voters" is available for groups to perform. For more information, find your local chapter of Wyoming League of Women Voters by visiting wyominglwv.org.

new American government

The first (of many) National Women's Rights conventions takes place

**Wyoming Territory grants** 1869 women the right to vote

1850

Louisa Swain successfully votes 1870 in Laramie

1872 Susan B. Anthony arrested for voting in Rochester, New York

A woman suffrage amendment is proposed in U.S. Congress. 1878 It is introduced and voted on many times again before it is finally passed in 1920

Colorado and New Zealand grant women voting rights. By 1893 1913, women have the right to vote in eight countries and 10 U.S. states

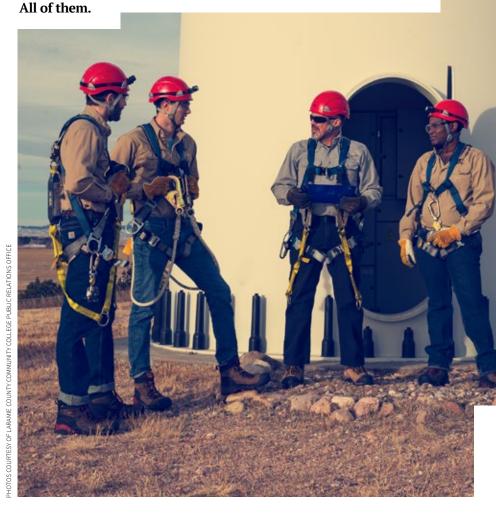
The 19th Amendment to the 1920 Constitution is ratified in Congress, giving women the right to vote

> For more information, visit the National Women's History Museum at womenshistory.org.



working in a job where you must maintain and repair electrical, hydraulic and mechanical systems. Not just one of those systems.





You must be physically strong, and strongwilled as well. You need to be a quick thinker and a good problem-solver, and you should work well with a team.

Staying warm in the winter can be difficult, but in the summer, the temperature in the work environment can swell past 100 degrees. Workplace safety is a primary concern.

Now, mentally move that job up a 300-foot ladder, and you begin to understand what it takes to be a wind turbine technician; wind tech for short.

"Being a wind tech, you have to be a jackof-all-trades, and you have to be an expert in all of them," said Steve HrKach, wind technology instructor at Laramie County Community College (LCCC) in Cheyenne. "It's dirty, it's hard, and it takes strength and brains."

In fact, Mike Rowe did a "Dirty Jobs" television episode about being a wind technician a few years ago.

"Your dog might not recognize you at the end of the day," HrKach said. "I've come home with globs of grease in my hair."

A quick-thinking mind is vital if you want to be a successful wind tech. In addition to being mechanically inclined, a wind tech must be able to think when they encounter an electrical fault, HrKach said during a telephone interview.

"You need to be able to do math, and you have to have good writing skills," he said. "The notes you take have to be pretty concise. You need to convey the most information in the least amount of words. The next person needs to know what you did, and what you didn't do."

The reward: pride in a job well done and a starting pay scale of \$19-23 per hour, with full benefits and a good chance you'll get hired.

"There's a huge manpower shortage now," HrKach said. ►



# Salety

Wind techs must be well-versed on all aspects of safety precautions. Students learn safety standards set by OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration), NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), and ANSI (American National Standards Institute).

They learn to tie off with a safety cable while climbing a 300-foot ladder, or when they're on the outside of a wind turbine.

They must understand the dangers involved in other processes as well.

For example, wind techs use hydraulic torque wrenches to check power poles.

"It could be a bolt 50 mm [1.5 inches] thick that they torque to 3,000 foot-pounds [the energy required to raise 3,000 pounds by 1 foot]," HrKach said. "If you put your hand between the wrench and what it's reacting on, the pressure will crush your hand."

It's also important for wind techs to be willing to speak up when they see something that's not done correctly.

That's often handled by a simple conversation, HrKach said, such as: 'Look, you need to fix this, or I'm going to call the supervisor. If it's not fixed, you're going to get hurt, or I'm going to get hurt.'

"You don't want to have to say, 'Yeah, I saw that, but I didn't say anything,'" he said.

Safety violations can result in immediate firing, HrKach said.

Wind technicians have to train and work hard, often under difficult and unpleasant conditions. What would motivate anyone to do that?

Logan Prenger has some good answers to that question.

Prenger, who completed Laramie County Community College's Wind Energy program in May, said working as a wind tech keeps him in shape for the rock-climbing sport he loves. His wind tech career took half the time to train for than anything requiring a four-year college degree. It pays very well, and it's a growing field.

"I was attracted to wind energy specifically," Prenger said in a telephone interview. "I was looking for a faster avenue to joining the workforce and supporting myself. I'm not a big fan of programs that take a four-year degree."

Prenger attended a semester at a university in Missouri before changing to the two-year wind tech program at LCCC. He said the program taught him to maintain and repair electrical, hydraulic and mechanical systems, and how to use programmable logic controllers.

"LCCC is frequently cited as one of the top 10 wind tech programs in the country, and it's in a place I love to be," he said.

Prenger said he visited Wyoming as a high school senior to do some rock climbing, and he fell in love with the state.

"I always had plans to come out West, but wind gave me an opportunity to come out here a lot sooner," he said.

Prenger lives in Cheyenne and works at the Happy Jack Wind Farm for Duke Energy. A site manager hired him and a friend "on the spot" just two days after they graduated, based on their training, he said.

"People tend to know about the LCCC program and that it turns out good technicians," he said.

Being a wind tech keeps Prenger in shape for rock climbing, and rock climbing keeps him physically fit for his work on wind turbines. Both involve working with ropes, being safety conscious, and other challenges and rewards.

"It's extremely fulfilling," Prenger said of his work. "It doesn't feel like a dead-end job. It doesn't feel like a 9-5 job or something you're just doing every day. It feels like a lot more than that."

#### WHAT'S IN IT FOR MF?



# working at 300 Feet

LCCC student Danial Aspen

checks the exterior of a wind turbine. Successful wind techs learn to reason and figure things out for themselves, such as reading schematics and diagrams. Complex by nature, the fact that different companies use different symbols in their schematics and diagrams, and put them in different places, makes understanding them even more challenging.

The ability to think critically is one of the most important skills required to be a good wind tech, HrKach said.

"I think that's something that's missing these days," he said. "People are used to being able to Google the answer."

Planning ahead for a job and anything that might come up during the maintenance or repair of a wind turbine is important as well. If, for instance, a wind tech needs to replace a yaw drive (the drive that turns the turbine to face the wind), they have to make sure they have the right slings,

The time to prepare and gather tools, supplies and equipment is before starting a job, not after they've climbed 300 feet. If they forget or drop something, or bring the wrong wrench size, they must climb back down, get the missing item(s) and climb back up, often resulting in a delay of an hour or more, he said.

"Get the manual and go over it the night before, read up about the procedure, but understand it may not tell you everything you need to know," he said.

About 10-14 students graduate from the wind tech program every year, HrKach said.

The demand for wind techs is so high right now that about a third of them are offered jobs before they graduate. Some even enter the workforce ahead of graduation. When that happens, HrKach helps them catch up on the weekends if they wish to complete the program.

"I want my students to be successful,"





## 02

## What do Wind Turbine Service Technicians do?

These high-climbers perform maintenance and repair work on wind turbines, sometimes 300 feet above the ground!

## Wind Turbine Techs in Wyoming

160 wind turbine technicians working in Wyoming in March 2019 and reported their average wage at \$22.49 per hour.



WHEN I GROW UP

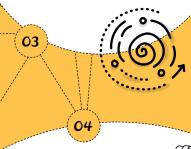
want to be a

Wind Turbine Tech



#### How to Become a Wind Turbine Tech

After graduating high school, you'll need to attend a vocational school and earn a wind tech certification or a certification in a similar technical field.





What does a wind tech need to work every day? Circle the correct items.



0



There are so many wind technicians working in Wyoming! What else do you know about wind power in the state?

- 1) How many wind turbines are in service in Wyoming?
  - a. 100
- c. 2,500
- b. 1,000
- d. 10,000
- 2) In Wyoming, 85% of electricity produced comes from coal-fired power plants. How much comes from wind turbines??
- c. 9%
- b. 5%
- d. 15%







A D



Sources: Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Indeed.com, U.S. Energy Information and Administration Department.

**∀uswers:** 1) b 2) c





#### The only adjustable bed that helps you "Get Up and Go" by yourself!

For millions of Americans, "Rise & Shine" has become a thing of the past. Mobility and balance issues have forced many people to struggle getting in and out of bed. Not being able to get out of bed by yourself can be inconvenient, undignified and downright dangerous. To solve this problem, this product has been introduced in continuing care and other health care facilities. Now, thanks to *first*STREET, the leading marketer of innovative products for seniors in the United States, that same bed can enable people to get up, get going and live independently in their home. It's called the UpBed™, and there is nothing else like it. The secret to the UpBed™ is its revolutionary system for raising the mattress to any position for a variety of activities. It features a state-of-the-art mattress with memory foam for a great night's sleep... like sleeping on a cloud. With the touch of a button, it gently raises your upper body to a "sitting up"

position, perfect for reading a book or watching TV. Another touch and it moves to a full sitting position, enabling you to eat, knit, play cards... all in a comfortable position. Time to get out of bed? It's never been easier or safer. The bed elevates slowly, and the bottom of the mattress curls in, enabling you to put your feet firmly on the floor while the bed lifts you gently towards the "nose over toes" position where you simply stand and walk away. It's easy, safe and no other bed can do it.

Nothing is worse than spending the night worrying about how you are going to get out of bed. Call now, and a helpful, knowledgeable product expert can tell you how you can try out the UPbed™ for yourself, in your own home. Delivery of the bed is most convenient as we offer to-your-door delivery or we can provide White Glove delivery and we will completely set up the bed where you would like. Call today!

Call now to find out how you can get your own UpBed! Please mention promotional code 113515.

For fastest service, call toll free 24 hours a day. 1-888-992-0673

#### **4 PRODUCTS IN ONE!**



It's a "Bed"for a comfortable and relaxing night's sleep



It's a "Sit Up Bed"for reading, watching TV and resting



It's a "Chair"for crafting, eating, visiting with friends and family



It's a "Lift Bed"that puts your feet safely on the floor you're ready to go!



#### **JACK DARNELL**

## Jeffrey City Cowboy

BY ILENE OLSON

Former rural electric board member inducted into Cowboy Hall of Fame For three-quarters of a century, Jack Darnell of Jeffrey City spent most of his time riding a horse and caring for cattle. He's done it for so long, and so well, that Darnell, now 94, was inducted into the Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame in September. But that isn't his first recognition for volunteerism or valor.

**Darnell is a former Hot Springs Rural Electric Association board** member. His time on the board ended in 1997, when that co-op merged with Riverton Valley **Electric Association to create** High Plains Power (HPP) rural electric cooperative. Current HPP board member Matt Brown, who also served on the Hot Springs board at that time, said there were 12 seats on the new HPP board, and almost twice that many board members between Hot Springs and Riverton Valley. Darnell, who remembered a time without electricity, was very invested in the board. Even so, he chose to give up his seat at that time.

"He did it gracefully," Brown said.

Brown said he thinks of Darnell as honest and straightforward, "pretty quiet, but when he did talk, you wanted to listen."

•

#### RANCH LIFE

Born in Riverton and raised outside of Lander, Darnell began his ranching career in 1946 when he returned home from three years of service with the Marines during World War II. He was just shy of his 20th birthday. He returned as a Purple Heart recipient after he was struck by a sniper's bullet during the five-week-long battle of Iwo Jima.\*

Darnell got a job as a cowboy on the Pitchfork Ranch near Meeteetse, beginning the career that would occupy most of his life.

His marriage to his wife, Geraldine, in 1949 resulted in a brief interruption in his cowboying career.

"Ranch workers only got paid about \$150 a month," Darnell said. He figured he'd need to earn more to support a wife and a family, so he went to work on an oil rig.

It didn't take long for him to realize that, although he was earning more money, it also cost more to live while following a drilling rig from place to place, and he was separated from his young family much of the time.

So, he gladly said goodbye to the oil rig and the extra money and went back to the work he loved, this time on the Flagg Ranch in the Jeffrey City area. Money was still tight, but he enjoyed working with horses and cattle and being with his family.

"Working on ranches didn't pay a whole lot, but ... it kept the kids fed and the wolf away from the door," he said.

Ranch work is seasonal in nature: calving in March and April; herding and branding cattle in late spring and early summer; growing and stacking or baling hay in the summer; weaning the calves and rounding up the herd in the fall; and feeding cattle to get them through the winter.

Each came with rewards and challenges.

During late-winter and early-spring storms, Darnell had to go looking for newborn calves.

"Trying to save them little buggers when the snow is blowing is a challenge, all right," Darnell said. "You'd have to pack them in."

But making his way through the snowpacked willows by the Sweetwater River to find the calves was no easy thing. And getting a tiny, chilled calf away from its protective mother could be harder still.

"I tried to explain to them I was trying to help their calves, but the old cows didn't listen. She just knocks the starch out of you. I got knocked flat a time or two, but nothing got broke."

Another big challenge was making sure you had enough hay to last the winter, Darnell said.

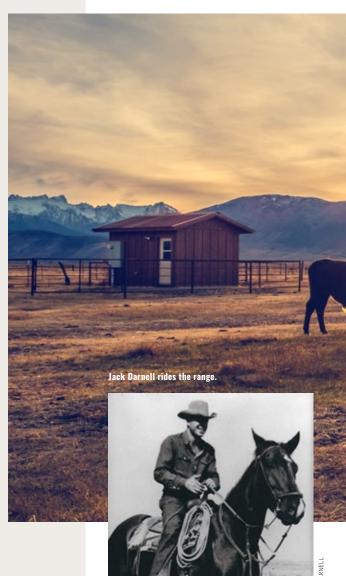
"You hoped you had enough to last until spring," he said. "Years ago, the trucking system wasn't like it is now. There just wasn't hay available. A lot of cattle starved and froze."

Darnell said cold weather was a challenge for him as well, but he knew where to go to weather a storm.

"I can't think of any time when I couldn't find any shelter in a storm.

But I can think of a lot of times when I got too hot," he said.

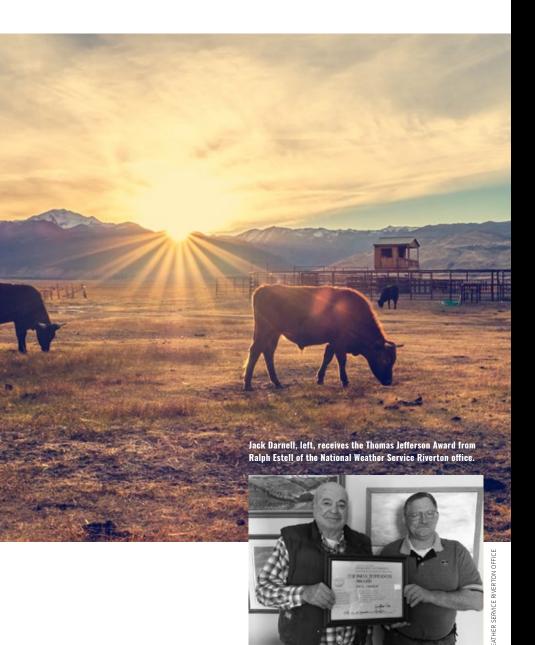
His daughter, Polly Burch, recalled ranch life when Darnell and his partner, Floyd Kreb, ran up to 1,200 cattle on four ranches.



"Every fall, they rounded up all the yearlings off the Red Desert, and a lot of people came along to help.

"Once you left Jeffrey City, you didn't really have another fence until Rock Springs," Burch said. A lot of times, those yearlings would go clear to Rock Springs."

Darnell and Geraldine moved into Jeffrey City from the Flagg Ranch in 1988 or '89, Burch said. "Then we just had the Clayter place and the Hoffmaster place running."



"I tried to explain to them I was trying to help their calves, but the old cows didn't listen. She just knocks the starch out of you. I got knocked flat a time or two, but nothing got broke."

#### THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD

Darnell's life of service includes keeping faithful records of the daily temperature and precipitation in Jeffrey City—something he's done for the National Weather Service for 32 years.

"It's not very complicated, I guarantee you," he said. "I record it on a form here by my chair and call it into the weather bureau in Riverton at 8 o'clock."

The National Weather Service honored Darnell with the prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award earlier this year. The award is presented to only five weather observers nationwide each year.

#### SOMETHING TO DO

Geraldine died in 1996, and Krebs died in the late 1990s. Darnell gave up the ranch leases in about 2000, Burch said.

But that didn't end his love of ranching.

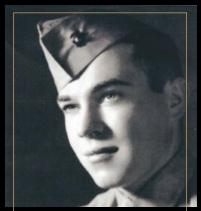
"He still goes out and helps the neighbors all the time," Burch said. "His idea of fun is fixing fence or going out and getting firewood."

Burch said her father still helps feed his cows on the nearby JJ Ranch in the wintertime, or whenever his help is needed. "This is the first year he hasn't done it on a horse," she added.

Darnell said he likes to stay busy outdoors.

"I ride in my pick-'em-up and try to find something to do every day or so," he said. "I can watch water wells and keep gates shut. For an old codger in his 90s, I'm pretty healthy."

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



Jack Darnell as a young Marine.

\*For more information about Jack Darnell and Iwo Jima, read the article "Pfc. Jack Darnell, Jeffery City," published by the Casper Star Tribune on Apr 24, 2011. PHOTO COURTESY OF BECKIE DARNEL

OCT+2020

#### BOOK REVIEW

## Jerry's Story

BY ROBERT W. SCHRADER

#### **DESCRIPTION BY THE AUTHOR**

Jerry Burkley is a Deputy Sheriff in a fictional town and county in Wyoming. Jerry and others tell about his military experiences in Vietnam as a warrant officer helicopter pilot. Jerry meets, among other interesting people, an Army officer who becomes president of the United States. "Jerry's Story" intertwines with a modern day western, chasing bank robbers through the mountains by airplane and on horses, Jerry's progress as a deputy to becoming the sheriff of Banner County, Wyoming, with a little bit of romance thrown in.

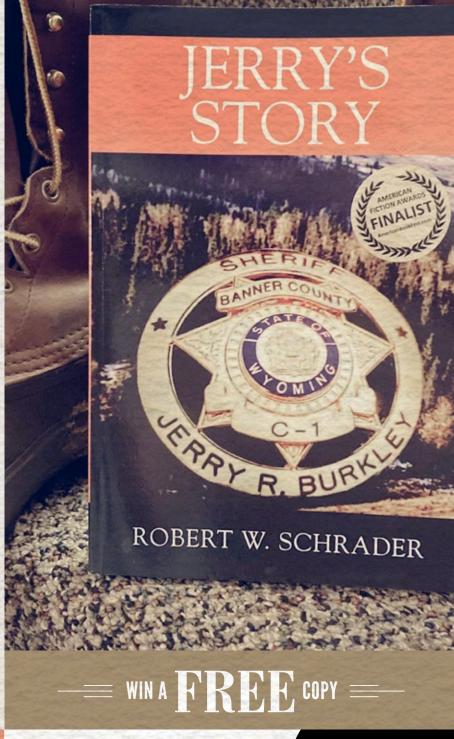
#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

Bob Schrader has engaged in many occupations (his wife says he can't keep a job). Those occupations included licensed embalmer, horse wrangler, Army officer, commercial pilot, attorney, justice of the peace, judge and school teacher, and that's not a complete list! Bob was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. He served a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam as a combat medic (physician's assistant). He also served in the Wyoming Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve.

#### **ORDERING INFORMATION:**

2019 | 297p. | \$20 paperback | \$30 hardcover ISBN: 978-1977207340 Publisher: Outskirts Press

Available online at robertwschraderauthor.com, by email at burkleybooks@gmail.com, or by sending a check to 3615 Campstool Road, Cheyenne, WY 82007. The author is offering WREN readers a \$5 discount on paperback copies.



Name:
Phone:
Address:

ENTRIES DUE BY NOVEMBER 10 One entry per household, please. ➤ JERRY c/o WREN Magazine 214 W. Lincolnway, Ste. 21C Cheyenne, WY 82001

wyomingrea.org/wren-submissions

**OUR AUGUST** 

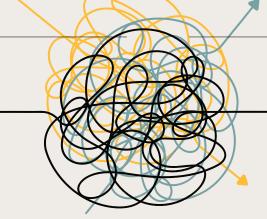
**BOOK WINNER:** 

**ALAN** 

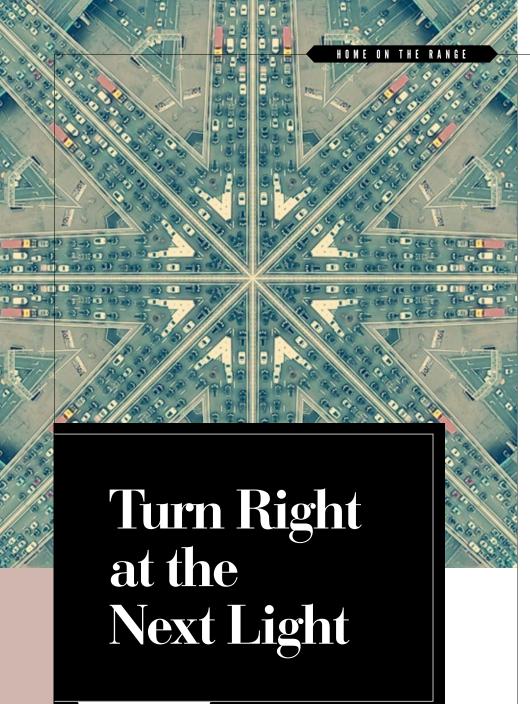
BENNETT

OF WHEATLAND

# Turn Right ... or was it Left?



Help WREN's rural vet navigate the confusing downtown district from: the convention center to the parking lot to the hotel Be sure to avoid road closures, pedestrian malls, and driving the wrong way down one-way streets. Despite how it seems, there may be several routes. In need of a navigator? Pick your way to page 38 for directions. Dr. Bruce Connally's story, "Turn Right at the Next Light," inspired October's puzzle. Enjoy it on the next page.



BY DR. BRUCE CONNALLY

Every year I go somewhere to attend continuing veterinary education classes. It is fun to see old friends and learn new, exciting treatments and techniques. It is also required to maintain my license to practice veterinary medicine.

I flew to San Antonio last year and stayed in a hotel next door to the Alamo. This year it was in Denver, so I reserved a room in a hotel two blocks from the convention center. I planned to park the pickup at the hotel and walk back and forth to the conference.

For more than 40 years I have been finding homes with rural addresses, or sometimes pastures without addresses, to treat my patients—but big city driving makes me nervous. The map that came with the conference registration showed streets around the convention center running at a diagonal to the rest of Denver streets. That concerned me a little, but the convention center was not very far east of I-25. I decided that if I got an early start on Sunday I would have plenty of time to find my hotel, check in, find some lunch, and make it to the convention center comfortably before any of the seminars began.

Sunday morning found me driving into Denver. I was in the wrong lane to turn when I got there so just drove on by the hotel and down to the convention center. I parked the truck in a lot on a one-way street, paid the fee, and headed inside to find lunch. It would be just as easy to check into the hotel after the first day of seminars.

Daylight is short on December afternoons. By the time I came out of the front door of the convention center it was completely dark. My phone mapped out the route back to the hotel. This time I was in the correct lane and stopped right in front of the hotel lobby.

The hotel valet walked close to my one ton, four-door, long bed, fourwheel drive RAM truck, reached as high as he could with one arm and announced, "Your truck is too tall for our garage."

"What are my options?"

"Park in the lot across the street. Go up to the next intersection, turn right, then turn right again, then turn right again, and you are there." He turned his body with each right turn, pointing a finger into the darkness as if to show me the way.

"Do you want me to take your luggage so you won't have to carry it back?" He took my suitcase and, with misgivings, I merged onto the one-way street in front of the hotel.

The first intersection was the 16th Street Mall. No right turn there.

I drove past a young man with a skateboard by his side sitting on a concrete planter. He was enthusiastically smoking something. At the next stoplight I turned right, drove a block and turned right at that stoplight. One more right turn put me on a street that dead-ended in front of the hotel. The parking lot was one block ahead of me on a one-way street that came toward me. I had no choice but to pass in front of the hotel again. The skateboarder on the Mall seemed a lot more mellow than I felt.

This round took me beside the parking lot but the only entrance was the wrong way down a one-way street. When I crossed the 16th Street Mall for the third time the skateboard dude waved. Now I was on the right street but I could not get across traffic, so back to the hotel. I was going around like the spin cycle on a washing machine.

The fourth try was a success. I pulled into the parking lot at 7 p.m., tired, hungry and cranky. The automated kiosk took my credit card and spit out a parking ticket that expired at midnight! I put the ticket on the dash hoping the truck would still be there in the morning and walked back to the hotel.

"Do you know where the valet put my luggage?" I asked the clerk.

"No sir. The valet went off duty."

Fatigue was replaced by frustration. I searched the lobby unsuccessfully. There were no valets outside to ask but I found my suitcase wedged in a corner behind one of the entrance pillars.

The next morning I was up at 5:30 a.m. A quick one-block jog found the truck right where I had left it. I purchased a new parking ticket and placed it on the dash beside the expired ticket. Things were working the way they were supposed to this morning but I was hungry.

I learned a new treatment for sarcoid tumors. I learned some physical therapy techniques to rehabilitate injured horses. And I learned that a four-door, one-ton, four-wheel drive, long box Ram pickup does not fit in a hotel parking

garage.

Back at the hotel, signs announcing breakfast led me down the hall to an escalator that deposited me on the first basement level. Around a corner I found another escalator that led to the second basement level and breakfast. But I was missing my ticket.

"You should have received tickets for breakfast when you checked in," said the young lady at the entrance to the dining hall. I turned around and went back up the first and second escalators, then down the hall to the front desk.

"I need tickets for breakfast." I stated to the clerk on duty.

"You should have gotten those when you checked in last night sir."

"I should have, but I didn't." He searched under the counter and found an envelope with my name on it.

"Here you go sir. Have a nice day!"

Driving home on Wednesday after the convention I was able to reflect on things I had learned. I learned a new treatment for sarcoid tumors. I learned some physical therapy techniques to rehabilitate injured

horses. And I learned that a four-door, one-ton, four-wheel drive, long box Ram pickup does not fit in a hotel parking garage.

Next year the convention is in Las Vegas. I can fly there in about the same time it took me to drive to Denver this year. Maybe I can find another veterinarian to split the taxi fare to the hotel with me. But if not, it's okay. I will happily pay the whole fee if I do not have to drive. W

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





## GREEN CHILI BEAN **CASSEROLE**

1 LB HAMBURGER 1 CAN STOKES GREEN CHILI SAUCE 1 CAN BLACK BEANS 1 SMALL CHOPPED ONION 1 CAN CREAM OF CHICKEN SOUP 3 POTATOES (PEELED, CHOPPED AND BOILED) 1 (8 OZ.) PACKAGE COLBY JACK SHREDDED CHEESE

Steam hamburger and onion in pot on stovetop. Once that is cooked, add all other ingredients in the pot except for the shredded cheese. Mix well. Pour into greased 9x13 casserole dish. Top with shredded cheese and bake at 350 for 30 minutes.

JENNIFER ROBERTS \* FARSON

## **WYOMING CAVIAR**

1 CAN SHOEPEG CORN 1 CAN BLACK-EYED PEAS 1 CAN BLACK BEANS 1 CAN NAVY BEANS 1/2 CUP CHOPPED CELERY 1 GREEN PEPPER 1 RED PEPPER 1/2 CUP RED ONION 1 CAN GREEN CHILIES OR JALAPENOS

Drain beans, corn and chilies; then stir together.

Bring to boil: 1 CUP SUGAR 1/2 CUP OIL 1/2 TSP PEPPER 3/4 CUP VINEGAR

When cool pour over vegetables and refrigerate. Best if made the night before serving.

## **CALICO BEANS CASSEROLE**

ONE CAN (1 LB) PORK AND BEANS, UNDRAINED ONE CAN (1 LB) KIDNEY, CHILI OR PINTO BEANS, UNDRAINED ONE CAN (1 LB) BUTTER BEANS, UNDRAINED **1 LB GROUND BEEF** 1/4-1/2 LB BACON, CUT INTO PIECES ONE SMALL ONION, CHOPPED (ABOUT 1/2 CUP) 1/2 CUP KETCHUP 2 TBS WHITE VINEGAR 1/2 CUP BROWN SUGAR **1 TBS DRY MUSTARD SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE** 

Over medium heat brown bacon, ground beef and onion; drain fat. Combine beans with ketchup, vinegar, dry mustard, brown sugar, salt and pepper. Mix beef mixture with bean mixture and pour into a 9x11 greased casserole or large pot and bake at 350 degrees for about 1 hour. Can use a slow cooker on low for 6-8 hours.

BONNIE CARMIN ★ MOORCROFT





**DECEMBER: CHEESE** 



Send complete recipe by November 10!

Please include your name, address and phone number.

wren@wyomingrea.org | 📞 [307] 286-8140 214 W. Lincolnway Ste. 21C Cheyenne, WY 82001

wyomingrea.org/wren-submissions

#### LOUISE DAVIS \* MOUNTAIN VIEW

A group of men loved to go Chase wild horses a long time ago Catching and breaking them to ride There would be more next time to follow

One weekend when they were intent On going out and catching some more One cowboy's horse pulled up lame And he knew the score

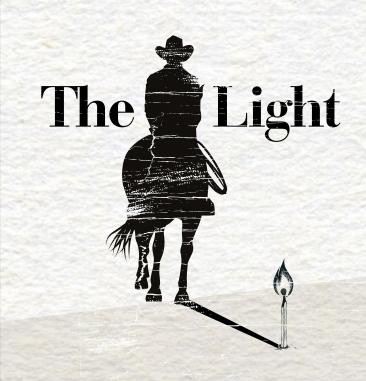
The rest moved on to catch More horses while it was light But darkness rolled in and the cowboys Were soon; out of sight

The cowboy was lost and he didn't know Where he was, so he said a little prayer He knew God was with him and He knew he would always care

But all of a sudden he saw What he thought was a light He had located his crew Out there in the dark night

One of the cowboys had struck A match to light his smoke And it led the lost cowboy To the rest of the folks

The moral to this story Never give up faith and hope Someone is looking out for you He will always help you to cope



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.

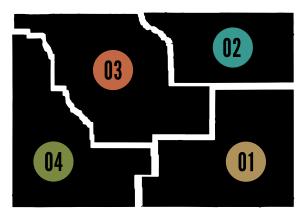


#### Put Your Pen to Paper!

Please include your name, address, and phone number.

- wren@wyomingrea.org | 📞 [307] 286-8140 214 W. Lincolnway Ste. 21C Cheyenne, WY 82001
- wyomingrea.org/wren-submissions

#### >>> WHAT'S HAPPENING REGIONAL MAP →



Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, events may be postponed or canceled. Please call ahead before attending events.

#### FEATURED EVENT



## YODER WOMAN'S CLUB PHEASANT HUNT DINNER

NOVEMBER 7-8 ★ YODER

Annual Woman's Club dinner raises funds for charities and scholarships. Dine in or take out available.

**Saturday** from 11a-1p serving hamburger, chili, salad and pie. **Sunday** from 11a-1p serving chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, roll, salad and pie. Coffee and pie from 8:30a each day.

YODER COMMUNITY CENTER INFO 307-689-2746

SOUTHEAST

#### **VIRTUAL**

#### NOVEMBER 5-6

Innovations in Learning
Conference: Opportunity for
educators to share and explore
innovative teaching and learning
practices. \$25, info Wyoming
Department of Education,
307-777-7675.

## 01 SOUTHEAST

#### CHUGWATER

#### ONGOING

Live Music: Buffet closed, music venue open. Stampede Saloon & Eatery, info 307-422-3200, stampedefun@aol.com.

#### ENCAMPMENT

#### ONGOING

#### **Grand Encampment Museum:**

Main Gallery and GEM store open Tue-Sat 10a-4p, info 307-327-5308.

#### MEDICINE BOW

#### **FOURTH TUESDAYS**

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



#### TORRINGTON

#### THURSDAYS TO OCTOBER 22

**Torrington Farmers' Market:** 4-6p, Main Street, info 307-532-3879.

## 02 NORTHEAST

#### GILLETTE

#### **OCTOBER 24-25**

Powder River Antique and Craft Bonanza: Antiques will be on display and various vendors will be selling their homemade items, Energy Hall at CAM-PLEX, free to enter, info lcfresearch42@gmail.com.

#### **TUESDAYS**

Levis and Lace: Square dance club will give modern square dance lessons, 7:30p, Rockpile Community Center, free trial lessons, info 307-660-7207.



#### THROUGH DECEMBER

#### Campbell County Women in World

War II: Nearly 350,000 American women served in uniform during the war and the women of northeast Wyoming were no exception. Learn about the unique work of these women, the sacrifices they made, and the impact their service had on the war effort. 9a-5p Mon-Sat, Campbell County Rockpile Museum, free, info 307-682-5723, abeenken@ccgov.net.

#### HULETT

#### ONGOING

**Hulett Museum and Art Gallery:** 

8a-4p Mon-Fri, free, info 307-467-5292.

#### NEWCASTLE

#### FRIDAYS

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

#### **SECOND & FOURTH WEDNESDAYS**

GiGi's Closet: Providing free gentlyused clothing for the family. 9a-1p, First United Methodist Church, info 307-746-4119.

#### UPTON

#### ONGOING

**Upton Gun Club Events: 5-Stand** Shotgun Course, 5p \$5; Trap Shooting, \$5, 5p. 2579 State Hwy 116N, info 307-281-9980, rrrothleutner@yahoo.com.

#### **WEDNESDAYS**

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

#### **MONDAYS & THURSDAYS**

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

#### **TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS**

Indoor Archery: 12-8:30p, 2741 N. Hwy 116, \$5, info 307-468-2506.

## 03 NORTHWEST



#### DUBOIS

#### OCTOBER 24

#### Halloween at the Museum:

Treats, crafts and fun. Halloween costumes encouraged. 6p, Dubois Museum, \$3, info 307-455-2284, fremontcountymuseums.com.

#### THIRD WEDNESDAYS

**Wyoming Health Fairs Monthly** Wellness Screen/Blood Draw:

7-10a, Dubois Medical Clinic, appointments encouraged, info 307-455-2516, whf.as.me/dubois.



#### LANDER

#### OCTOBER 23-24

Halloween Night at the Museum: Decorations, spooky stories, crafts, hayrides, hot cocoa, treats and a campfire. Costumes encouraged for kids of all ages. 6-9p, Pioneer Museum, \$4, info 307-332-3339, fremontcountymuseums.com.



#### OCTOBER 24

**Guns, Boots and Brands: Kiwanis** gala at 6p with dinner, silent and live auctions of guns and artwork. Live music starts at 9p and is open to the public under separate admission. Lander Community & Convention Center, info 307-332-3892, info@landerchamber.org.

#### SATURDAYS

Farmers' Market: Fresh produce, meats, dairy, baked goods, homemade crafts and live music. 9-11:30a, Lander City Park, info facebook.com/ landervalleyfarmersmarket.

#### RIVERTON

#### **SATURDAYS**

**Fremont County Master Gardeners Saturday Market:** 

From 9-11a throughout the winter, Fremont County Fairgrounds Lunchroom, info 307-851-7562.



#### Send complete information for the December issue's events by

#### **NOVEMBER 10!**

Please remember that events from the 20th of December to the 28th of February are included in the December issue. WREN does not print 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:

- wyomingrea.org
- [307] 286-8140
- 214 W. Lincolnway Cheyenne, WY 82001
- wyomingrea.org/ wren-submissions

## 04 SOUTHWEST



#### FORT BRIDGER

#### OCTOBER 24

Halloween Trick-or-Treat: Walk a solar lighted path, get spooked by volunteers, receive candy at historic buildings, and end with hot beverages and a hayride back to your vehicle. 6:30-9p, Fort Bridger State Historic Site, \$5, 5 and under free, info 307-782-3842.

#### **TUESDAYS**

Bingo: 6p, American Legion Hall, info 307-780-5489.



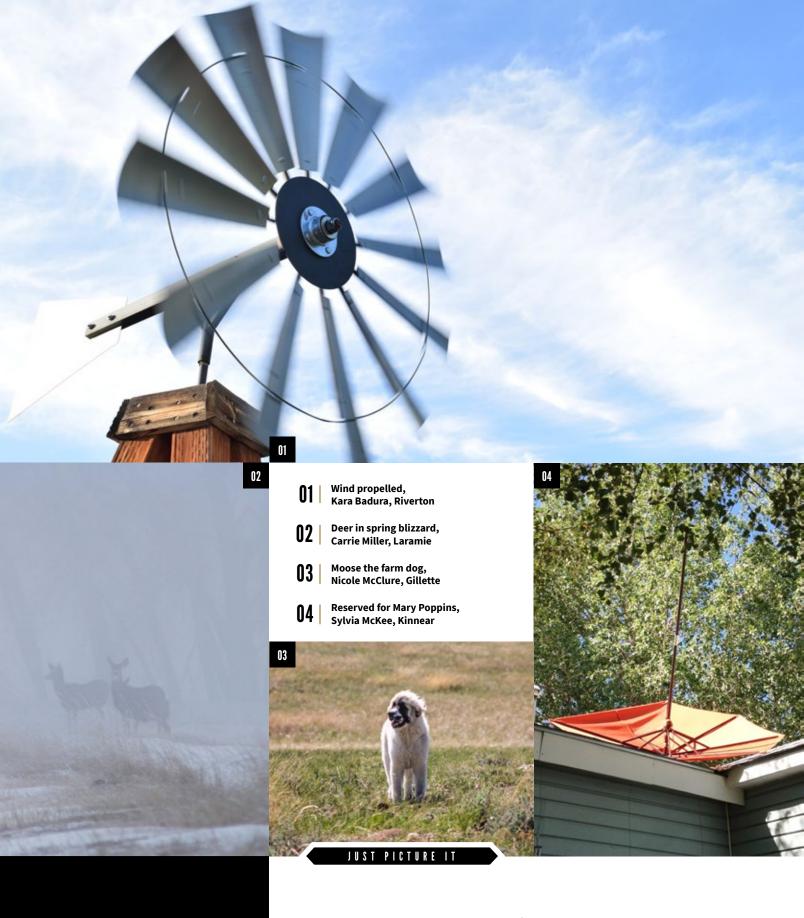
#### MOUNTAIN VIEW

#### **SECOND WEDNESDAYS**

**Chamber of Commerce Community Luncheon:** For business owners and individuals alike. \$15/plate, noon, Mountain View Town Hall, RSVP bvchamber@bvea.net, 307-787-6378.

#### ONGOING

Community Classes: Fitness, computer, workforce and kids' classes are available. Valley Learning Center, times and prices vary. Info valleylearningcenter. coursestorm.com or 307-782-6401.







FEB (DUE DEC 10):

LIFE OUT WEST





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.

Mark Twain once said, "Thunder is good, thunder is impressive; but it is lightning that does the work."



You get an appreciation for lightning when you live out here in the sagebrush sea, especially in the summer. Every afternoon, the big thunderheads start building up over the mountains to the west. They roll on over us-all too often without blessing us with a single drop

> of rain—and in the late afternoon or early evening they wreak all kinds of havoc east of us. Frog-drowning rain and hail as big as volleyballs is always just part of the summertime drill over there in Laramie County.

But like old Sam Clemens said, lightning is the real

mover and shaker out here on the range. My dad was straight up head-shy about it. I remember coming up to an allotment fence with him one day on horseback. Being only about 10 at the time, I wasn't cowboy enough to get through the gate without dismounting. So I got off and went to open the gate. He was looking off in the distance, thinking about something. Just as I touched the wire loop, there was a peal of thunder that startled both the old man and the horses. He looked at me and immediately went into emergency mode, delivering a stirring (and stern) sermon on the perils of connecting yourself to a wire fence when there was lightning bouncing around.

It was a legitimate concern. A lightning bolt can deliver up to a billion volts of electricity, and about 100 of them strike the earth's surface every second somewhere. During the period from 2006-2019, 418 people were struck and killed by lightning in the U.S. Males accounted for 79 percent of those fatalities—no big surprise there, as anyone who's ever spent time in the company of men can tell you. Fishermen were the biggest targets-twice as high

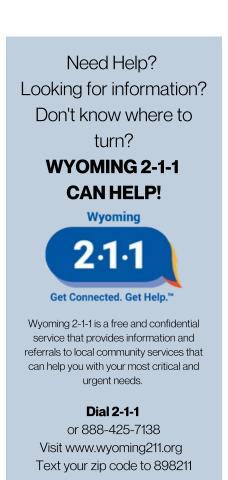
as ranchers and farmers. And as you might expect, the summer months of June, July and August are the peak months for both outdoor activities and lightning strikes. Weekends account for far more lightning-related fatalities than other days of the week. How do I know all these fascinating facts? Why, because the National Lightning Safety Council published a paper on this topic, concluding that "Continued efforts are needed to convince people to move inside to a safe place before the lightning threat becomes significant. For many outdoor activities, situational awareness and proper planning are essential to safety." \*

Little did I know that my father was a lightning safety expert. But a lifetime spent in the outdoors in Wyoming has convinced me that it is not sufficient to live my life based on the old man's accomplishments. It's up to me to do something with that knowledge. And I have a plan. From now on when people call me for fishing advice, I know just what to tell them. "Come on up any summer weekend," I say. "Bring your brother and your brother-in-law. Be sure to fish in the afternoon, because that's when they're really biting. And hold that fly rod up good and high ...!"

After all, Mark Twain also said, "The trouble ain't that there is too many fools, but that the lightning ain't distributed right." W

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

> \*A Detailed Analysis of Lightning Deaths in the United States from 2006 through 2019, John S. Jensenius, Jr., Lightning Safety Specialist, National Lightning Safety Council, February 2020.





# **PUZZLE ON PAGE 27 DOWNTOWN MAZE** Turn Right ... or was it Left? This is just one solution, how many can you find?



#### 

#### **CATEGORIES**

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

## 02 FOR SALE

**Gun Store** – Very fine retail gun operation currently located in Colorado for sale. Supports and promotes local gun enthusiasts with ammunition, targets, protective gear, classes, indoor small arms training simulator, plus new and used pistols, rifles, and shotguns. Store currently operated by employees who are experienced hunters, shooters and instructors. Public range nearby. All offers will be considered. Out-of-state owner. Store is exceptionally successful right now. Contact christina.li1967@gmail.com.

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

**Pullets, Hens and Roosters.** Many varieties. Buffalo, WY. 307-684-7067.

#### 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. In business for more than 74 years. 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 wandlerfrontier@gmail.com 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

**\$Cash for old cars\$** 1900-1970, 2 doors, convertibles, regardless of condition any 1930's cars, early power wagons, Jeeps, Broncos, Volkswagen buses. Randy Erwin, rerwin@wyoming.com, 307-212-1341, Sheridan.

#### 20 FREE

**Soon Church/Government uniting,** suppressing "Religious Liberty" enforcing "National Sunday Law." Be Informed! Needing Mailing address. TSBM, PO Box 374, Ellijay, GA 30540, thebiblesaystruth@yahoo.com, 1-888-211-1715.

Murphy





## EXPERIENCE\*WWII\*POW







During World War II, Douglas was home to the primary prisoner of war camp for Wyoming. There were 17 satellite camps throughout Wyoming.

Construction of the camp began early in 1942; the first prisoners to arrive at the camp were 412 Italians on Aug. 28, 1943. The camp was over a square mile in size and comprised of 180 buildings, which housed up to 2,000 Italian and 3,000 German POWs and 500 army personnel from the spring of 1943 to the winter of 1946. During the camp's use it was larger than the town of Douglas.

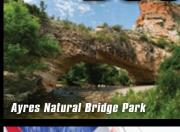
One prisoner at the camp was quoted saying, "We never had it so good." For many of the prisoners, it was the first time since being drafted that they had clean clothes, a warm bed, good food and health care. Prisoners at the camp ranged from 14 to 80 years old.

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