







RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

PG. 10

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THE WREN MAGAZINE WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS The official publication of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association

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ON THE COVER CENTERPIECE Raised Right Here

STORY BY ELIZABETH SAMPSON

Cover photo: Karen Mott, pictured, and Nan Slingerland raise food with flavor and history.

PHOTO BY SCOTT COPELAND

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CO-OP YOUTH 06 WHEATLAND'S HADLEY PAISLEY

> **CO-OP SPOTLIGHT KEEPING CO-OP** AND COMMUNITY SAFE ONLINE **BY ELIZABETH SAMPSON**

NOV 🏷 2020



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WREA NOTES

RV to NPs 2020 – COVID Style

It should come as no shock during this uncertain year that I was worried whether my family and I were going to be able to take our annual RV trip to a national park. Given the uncertainty that has plagued our state, nation and country, we waited until the last possible minute to schedule our trip. But when I picked up the RV it was like when C-3PO reunited with R2-D2 in "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and 3PO says to R2, "Oh, my dear friend, how I've missed you." (Nailed it.)

We decided to keep it local this year and headed up north to the first in the nation, Yellowstone National Park. Despite having lived in Wyoming most of my life, and my kids growing up here, we've never really spent much time in this crown jewel of the park system. So this year my wife and I packed up our kids, now ages 11, 14 and 16, and headed to our RV park in West Yellowstone. Once we entered the park it was fun to hear the kids remark that they couldn't believe we were still in Wyoming. We've spent time in the Snowy Range, the Bighorns and to a lesser extent the Wind River area, and they all have their own beauty, but it's no wonder why this place was designated as the first national park in the country.

We hiked miles and miles each day, sometimes to the chagrin of my youngest son who, while he loves the outdoors, sometimes acted as if he was on the Bataan Death March, and saw all of the bucket list areas, like the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Old Faithful and Mammoth Hot Springs. We also took some of the lesser-known trails where unfortunately we didn't see any wildlife but fortunately we saw very few people.



SHAWN TAYLOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Given it being the year of "the 'Rona" there were no tourist buses allowed in the park, but that is not to say there were no tourists. There were plenty of people, and while hiking with a mask on was a new experience for all of us, there still seemed to be a sense of solitude, albeit with my family, that we were able to enjoy. This is why I think so many people flocked to our state and national parks this summer.

After Yellowstone we had planned on heading south to Grand Teton National Park, but because of the uncertainty of our plans we weren't able to find a spot for the RV. So we called an audible and took a hard left turn to the opposite side of the state to Devils Tower National Monument.

Like Yellowstone, we had been to the tower before but never spent much time there. Seeing it jut up on the horizon as we traveled north is not unlike seeing the Grand Teton mountain range for the first time, or our nation's capital; they all are awe inspiring and reminded us how thankful we are to live in this amazing country and state, despite all the negative things happening in the world today.

Funny enough, one of the more interesting things we enjoyed was watching "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" from the KOA campground at the base of Devils Tower, with the tower in the background. I think my wife and I enjoyed the irony of this. Our kids, not so much.

God bless Wyoming!

⁴⁴This is one of the best areas in the nation to raise bees.⁷⁷

— 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.



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CO-OP YOUTH

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:

Wheatland Rural Electric Association's Hadley Paisley is an outstanding student at Wheatland High School. She is also active in volleyball, 4-H and FFA.

____**★**____

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.



HADLEY PAISLEY

HOMETOWN: Wheatland

HIGH SCHOOL: Wheatland High School

YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2023

COLLEGE: I intend on staying true to family tradition and attending the University of Wyoming.

MAJOR STUDY INTEREST: Undecided

WREN: Tell us about your studies and interests.

HP: As a sophomore I enjoy all of my classes and have not been able to pinpoint a specific area of study that I wish to pursue. I am very involved in FFA and agriculture and I would enjoy continuing my agricultural education. That is the beauty of FFA; it has allowed me to dabble in many different industries and occupations within the agricultural field. I enjoy interacting with people and have learned a lot about communications; a possible study interest.

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

HP: My hometown, friends, and family have influenced me in many ways. Growing up in a small community has been a privilege. You can't put a price on a friendly town that is always willing to support their youth, whether it be sports, clubs or academics. This community has granted me countless opportunities and encouraged me to be a part of any and all experiences. Along with a wonderful community comes a supportive network of friends and family. My friends are the people that I look forward to seeing every day. Even though we see each other all of the time between school and other activities, it seems as if we never run out of things to talk about. They have taught me to have fun in whatever I do, and that right now is about having fun and making memories. My family, especially my parents, have always encouraged me to be involved. It has taken me a long time to realize and appreciate that when I am involved, so are they. They are constantly driving me to practices, waiting in town, and marking their calendar around what I am doing. Their sacrifices have allowed me to try a little bit of everything and be a part of so many memorable moments.

WREN: What are your plans for the future?

HP: Seeing as I hardly know an area of study, it is safe to say that I have no idea what I want to be when I grow up. Up to this point, I have considered becoming a zookeeper, Supreme Court justice, or even a Christmas tree farmer. While these elementary dreams sure sound exciting, I do not believe this is the path I will take. With my interests being so broad at this point, I hope that my next two years of high school give me clarity on my plans for college and the future.

THE CURRENT

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.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

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



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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

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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!

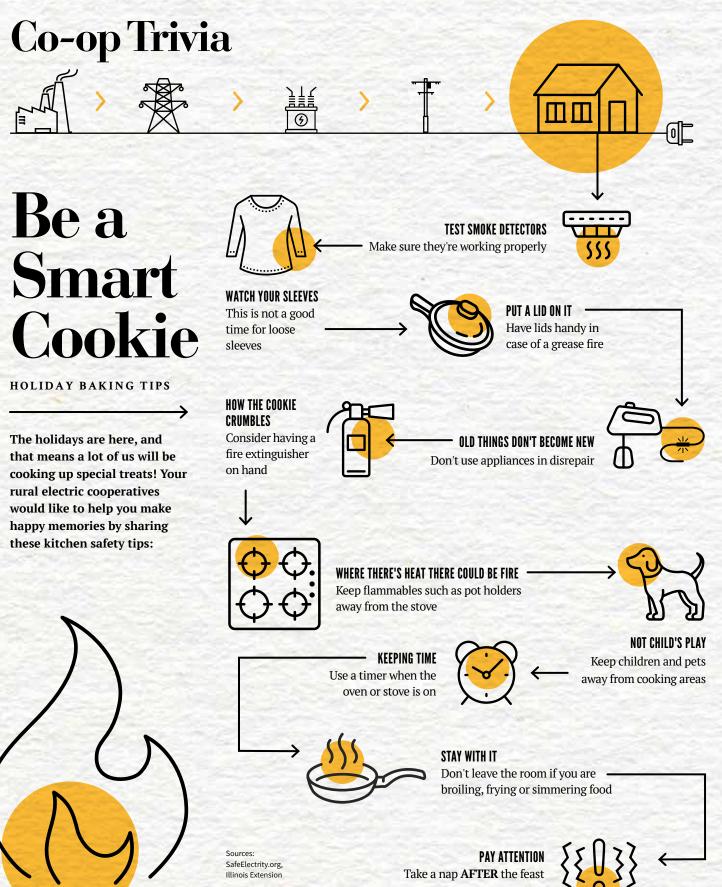
During the last few months, WREA members and friends have contributed to the scholarship fund. A heartfelt "thank you" to everyone who has reached out!

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

THE CURRENT

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READER SURVEY

Tell us what with 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!

TELL US ABOUT YOU

1. How old are you?

- 12-18
- 19-25
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- □ 65 or over
- 2. What is your gender?
 - Male
 - Female

WHICH SECTIONS OF WREN ARE YOUR FAVORITES?

- 3. Rate the sections from 1 to 10, with 1 being "least favorite" and 10 being "most favorite."
 - ____ Shawn Taylor's column (pg. 4)
 - __ News briefs about energy and co-ops (pgs. 7-8)
 - News briefs about Wyoming (pgs. 9-13)
 - ___ Feature news stories (pgs. 14–19)
 - Personality profiles and interviews (pgs. 22-23)
 - Creative essays like Home on the Range and Enlighten Us (pgs. 26-27, 36-37)
 - Puzzles and activities (pgs. 20, 25)
 - Book reviews (pg. 24)
 Reader-submitted recipes, poems and pictures (pgs. 28, 29, 32-34)
 - Other ____

4. Why is the section you rated "10" above your favorite?

5. Why is the section you rated "1" above your least favorite?

- 6. What types of stories are you most interested in reading? Pick your top two choices.
 - Farming and ranching
 - Energy and cooperatives
 - Business
 - Environment and wildlife
 - Education
 - Tourism
 - Personality profiles
- 7. The stories in WREN are...
 - Too short
 - Just right
 - Too long

PLEASE ANSWER Yes or no

- 8. I know more about my cooperative because of WREN.
 - 🗌 Yes 🗌 No

9. I want WREN to cover more news about co-ops and energy.

🗌 Yes 🗌 No

- 10. I know more about Wyoming because of WREN.
 - 🗌 Yes 🗌 No
- 11. Do you subscribe to any other printed magazines?
 - 🗌 Yes 🗌 No

If you answered yes, which printed magazines do you receive?

12. Do you have access to the Wyoming Rural Electric Association website at wyomingrea.org?

🗌 Yes 🗌 No

- 13. Have you read the WREN online in the past?
 - Yes No

If so, how often?

14. Would reading WREN be the same experience if it was digital instead of printed?

🗌 Yes 🗌 No

If you'd like to explain your answer, please do!

WHAT IDEAS DO You have?

- 15. What story ideas do you have to share with us?
- 16. Any other suggestions for how we can improve WREN?



Ste. 21C Cheyenne, WY 82001

-OR-

Take a picture of it and email to: wren@wyomingrea.org

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	~	

Take this survey online! wyomingrea.org/ wren-magazine/ wren-reader-survey WREN magazine would like to thank everyone who has already sent us their WREN reader survey!

We've received almost 100 surveys so far and we read them all.

If you haven't filled out a survey please consider doing so! Surveys are available in this issue of WREN or online. See facing page for more information. Enjoy reading about WY projects and people. Important to keep up with what's affecting the industry.

"Like getting info from our 'family' of co-ops."

"I mail the magazine to my son who works overseas."

WHAT WREN READERS ARE SAYING:

I have learned about many areas of Wyoming and all the people doing great things for their community. Thank You.

News briefs about WY because you don't find this info except in WREN; I love the vet stories!

"I still enjoy sitting with a cup of coffee and actually reading a magazine that I can hold in my hands."



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ITC Finishing XPrize, Gearing Up for New Arrivals



Three of the original five Carbon XPrize finalist teams will not travel to Wyoming for the demonstration component of the \$7.5 million competition.

The three teams: Breathe, of India; C4X, of China; and Carbon Capture Machine of Scotland were supposed to arrive at the Integrated Test Center (ITC) in Gillette last spring. They had to cancel those plans because of COVID-19 restrictions, Executive Director of the Carbon XPrize Marcius Extavour explained in an email. The three teams have been allowed to complete their demonstrations in their home countries.

Two other teams were able to make the journey to demonstrate their research. CO2Concrete arrived in June and finished their 90-day demonstration in September. The UCLA-based team uses carbon dioxide to manufacture a concrete-equivalent material. CO2Concrete was recently awarded a \$2 million grant by the U.S. Department of Energy to continue their project. This grant is not part of the Carbon XPrize competition.

Dimensional Energy photographed their solar-to-fuels reactor after assembling it at the Integrated Test Center in Gillette in September.

Dimensional Energy of Cornell University in New York arrived in September and has begun demonstrating their project, which makes fuel from carbon dioxide and sunlight. Dimensional Energy is expected to operate at the ITC through at least November.

"The project is the first of its kind ... the people have to want to be there and do it," said Aaron Breetwor, marketing director for Dimensional Energy. He explained that Dimensional Energy's team members come from varied backgrounds but have a common goal of creating successful products from carbon dioxide.

The Carbon XPrize is a competition for researchers to invent new ways to use industrial carbon dioxide emissions. Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, the XPrize Foundation and other partners helped build the ITC at the coal-fired Dry Fork Station in Gillette. Researchers at the ITC use steel ducts to connect their equipment directly to flue gas emitted from the power plant. The XPrize winner will be announced later this winter.



As the XPrize is completed, the ITC will not lie dormant. Researchers with Japan's Coal Energy Center and Kawasaki Heavy Industries signed a memorandum of understanding in June to use a sixth, larger testing bay at the ITC. Construction is set to begin in 2021. Three of the five smaller testing bays originally designed for XPrize competitors will be tied together to provide larger flue gas volume for carbon capture research by Gas Technology Research (GTI). A recent recipient of \$16 million in Department of Energy and nonfederal funding, GTI will use an Ohio State University transformational membrane process to create a carbon capture system.

Dimensional Energy's on-the-ground team sits for a portrait after setting up their demonstration at the Integrated Test Center in Gillette in September. Nine people helped with the project, with eight traveling to Gillette to set up. Five of the researchers returned home right away while the others stayed until the project was complete in mid-November.

COWBOY STATE BUZZ

Flu Shots More Important Than Ever This Year

With influenza season approaching, a Wyoming Department of Health (WDH) official says flu shots are more important than ever this year to help protect Wyoming residents from influenza as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

"We consider flu shots to be the first and most important step in flu protection," said Dr. Alexia Harrist, state health officer and state epidemiologist with WDH.

"Everyone six months of age and older should receive a flu shot. Flu viruses change frequently, so the vaccine is updated every season," she said. "Flu vaccines are safe and reduce illness, hospitalizations and deaths."

Although most healthy people recover from the flu and COVID-19, they can spread both viruses to those who are at high risk for serious complications.

While WDH epidemiologists label the 2019-20 flu season as severe, the 12 influenza-related deaths reported among Wyoming residents was lower than during the past few seasons.

Harrist said influenza B viruses were dominant at first during the previous season. "Influenza A, which is typically associated with more deaths, had started to take over in the period leading up to the recognition of COVID-19 as a concern," she said. "Reported flu activity dropped sharply in March as COVID-19 concerns and restrictions went into effect. Because they are both contagious respiratory illnesses, the restrictions intended to slow the spread of COVID-19 also likely lessened the impact of influenza."

"As we approach a new flu season, we know flu viruses will circulate while COVID-19 remains a threat," Harrist said. "Because there are fewer restrictions in Wyoming now than in the spring, we are concerned about the potential harm to



our residents and strain on our health care system from the combined threat of both influenza and COVID-19."

Flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat and sometimes lungs. Symptoms, which come on suddenly, include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, headache, extreme tiredness and muscle or body aches.

Flu vaccines are especially important for those vulnerable populations which include: young children; pregnant women; people with chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or heart and lung disease; and people 65 years and older. Health care workers and people who may live with, care for, or are in contact with high risk individuals or infants 6 months of age and under should also get the flu vaccine.

Harrist explained that it takes about two weeks after receiving the vaccine for it to offer protection. "If someone waits to get their flu shot until after a family member, friend or co-worker has caught the illness, they may not be protected," she said.

Influenza vaccines are available in many locations, including local public health nursing offices, workplaces, doctors' offices, pharmacies and retail stores and are covered by most insurance plans. In addition, Wyoming's public vaccine programs, which are available at participating providers, help protect some adults and children from vaccinepreventable diseases, such as influenza, at little to no cost for eligible patients.

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT OFFERS

Reservations and Refunds Due to Fire

ADAPTED FROM THE WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

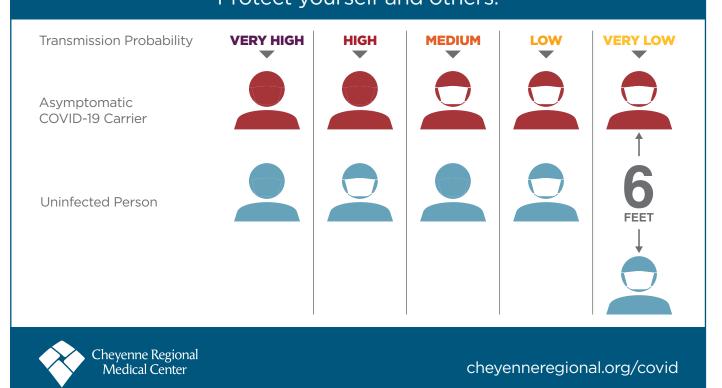
Hunters with specific license types may be eligible for either a reservation or refund due to the Mullen Fire in the Medicine Bow National Forest.

The Mullen Fire began Sept. 17 in the Savage Run Wilderness Area. At the time of printing on Oct. 30, the interagency site InciWeb reported that the fire was 95% contained. It had burned 176,878 acres and destroyed 66 properties. Almost 1,500 people were evacuated.

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Chapter 44 regulation allows a license holder to request a license reservation or a license refund when the department determines licenses cannot be used for a good cause due to a natural disaster, including wildfire. Hunters who have certain deer, elk or moose licenses for the affected area received a letter and an email, provided the department has a license holder email address on file, with additional information about refunds.

License holders for Moose Hunt Areas 38/41, and Deer Area 78, Type 1 had the option to request a license reservation (carryover) for 2021, a refund, or utilize their license this fall. Cow/calf elk hunters in Elk Hunt Areas 9 and 110 can only request a refund on their Type 6 license. Chapter 44 does not allow reduced price Type 6 licenses to be carried over to the next season, and hunters with general deer or elk licenses are not eligible for a refund. Preference points will be reinstated if a refund is granted to nonresident hunters, and anyone who receives a refund will be eligible to purchase a preference point for 2020. The deadline for refund applications is December 31.

WEARING A MASK REDUCES RISK OF TRANSMISSION. Protect yourself and others.



raised politiker

Karen Mott, pictured, and Nan Slingerland grow heirloom vegetables in three gardens and two greenhouses.

Red Canyon Ranchers Feed Lander Community

BY ELIZABETH SAMPSON

Nan Slingerland isn't just raising food for market on her ranch in the Red Canyon south of Lander—she is raising the bar on products that are both good for people and good for the earth.

rom heirloom tomatoes to an ancient breed of sheep, everything on Slingerland's property has been carefully selected for its impact on the environment.

"I just know that I like to eat and stay healthy, and I figure everything else does too," Slingerland said. "Eating locally is better for the environment. It lowers your carbon footprint. We just have to be more mindful of this land we live in. That's what we do here."

Now nearing 80, Slingerland relies on the help of Karen Mott as they provide local food sources for the Lander market.

"She does more and more and I egg her on," Slingerland said. "She's in charge of the produce now, and she's in charge of the sheep. If I had a daughter she'd be perfect. I just love her. We're a good team."

The produce side of the business started because Slingerland wanted to provide local and healthy food sources for the Lander market.

"I thought it was ridiculous that Lander was so dependent on truckers and food from Colorado and Arizona and California," Slingerland said. "I thought surely we could grow some of our produce here."

Slingerland and Mott raise very old tomato varieties and heirloom squash, carrots and greens in three big gardens and two greenhouses. "Some of those old varieties that aren't so highly hybridized are healthier, and I like the flavor," Slingerland said. "There's an explosion in how many people are interested in the old-time vegetables that taste like something and weren't designed to travel in a truck and sit in cold storage for six months before they get on a shelf."

They sell their produce both at the Lander farmers' market and one of the local grocery stores.

According to Janet Smithson, the founder of the Lander Valley Farmers Market, Slingerland and Mott are anchor vendors who have developed an effective marketing style for their products.

"They are some of the most awesome vendors we have, and I love them dearly," Smithson said. "I can't imagine the market without them. They have lines at every single market of people waiting to buy produce from them."

Animals ranging from chickens and horses to dogs and a donkey also live on the ranch.

The chickens are heirloom breeds Slingerland chose after not being impressed by more modern breeds that are raised to be quickly butchered.

"You get this 2-ounce chick, and in less than seven weeks it can weigh 7 pounds," Slingerland said. "Its bones can't grow fast enough to keep up with the weight, and a lot of times you have broken legs. It's just pitiful. They lay there in front of the feeder with their faces in the feeder, and it's sad. And they don't taste like anything."

When Slingerland, who is a member of High Plains Power, decided to raise sheep on her ranch, she chose the rare Navajo-Churro breed which is known for providing the wool used to make Navajo rugs. Nearly on the edge of extinction when she started her flock in 1998, Slingerland bought eight sheep and at one time had as many as 170. "They are a smaller sheep so they don't impact the land quite as severely as the heavier sheep," Slingerland said.

Her husband Henry purchased the land in 1966, and the pair married in 1979. In 1993 Henry semi-retired from ranching, and the couple made a decision to entrust the future of the ranch to the Nature Conservancy.

"There is a conservation easement to protect these acres from ever being subdivided and homes being built on them," she said. "These acres will be home to all the wildlife and carefully managed livestock grazing in perpetuity. It will be available for people to drive through and enjoy this special piece of real estate."

After her husband retired from ranching, Slingerland kept several Red Angus cows, increasing her herd to 50 head and focused on organic practices.

> "I had worked on the genetics, keeping the herd so it was all grass fed and totally organic," she said.

While Slingerland was raising those cattle, a young Lander native named Katie Erickson saw them, and her interest in the breed grew.

Now Erickson and her fiancé, Rio Stafford, have purchased the herd Slingerland worked to build. Erickson noted that not only did Slingerland sell them the herd, she also gave them some great advice in the bargain.

"Before buying the cows neither of us had ever met Nan," Erickson wrote in a Facebook Messenger conversation. "But you will never meet someone so loving, charismatic, knowledgeable and willing to help a couple of kids out. She is a once in a lifetime person who not only gives advice on livestock and ranching but the best life advice."

WYOMING APPLE TRIVIA



Lander is home to several pioneer apple orchards. Fresh fruit was not easily available, so many settlers planted their own apple trees. Many of these trees still exist and produce apples. Thanks to its extensive apple history Lander has been called the Apple City of Wyoming.

Researchers from the University of Wyoming have mapped many of the pioneer apple orchards throughout the state and are working to preserve the diversity of apple cultivars in the state. The Wyoming Apple Project is grafting small cuttings of the old trees into new rootstock to preserve the old varieties.

3

Lander's Ed Young is perhaps the most famous of Wyoming's pioneer apple growers. His apples received a silver medal at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904.

Nan Slingerland holds an apple from the historic Ed Young orchard.

1

4

While Lander's annual Apple City Festival had to be canceled this year due to the ongoing pandemic, apple lovers should plan to join them next fall for apple pie contests, apple and apple cider tastings and kids crafts.



Ed Young was looking for apples that thrive in Wyoming.

HISTORIC ED YOUNG APPLE ORCHARD ON SLINGERLAND'S RANCH

lingerland isn't the first person to raise sheep, cattle and produce on her ranch. In fact, the beautiful location in the Red Canyon has a significant agricultural history. Lander pioneer Ed Young

history. Lander pioneer Ed Young homesteaded the area and took advantage of the area's good soil and water to start raising apples.

According to Randall Wise, curator of the Fremont County Pioneer Museum, Young brought in apple trees that did well in Wyoming, particularly varieties that originated in similar cold climates such as Russia, cross-breeding trees to develop hearty varieties.

"I've read descriptions of him as the Johnny Appleseed of Wyoming, which I think is very accurate," Wise said. "He really felt it was a good thing to be able to grow your own food and your own produce, and really did spend a majority of his life honing his apple craft and becoming a very well known expert on raising apples in the west."

HOTOS BY SCOTT COPELAND

More than 100 years after Young planted his trees, people can still buy the apples from the orchard, which Slingerland said are small but delicious.

"We don't spray our apples," she said. "They are just as nature makes them."

Wise said Slingerland is a great caretaker of the historic orchard because she is interested in preserving it for the future.

"She's been there for a long time and really does care about both the past and the present and the future for the orchard," Wise said.

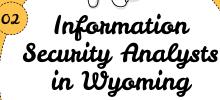


For the present, Slingerland said she feels lucky to live where she does and to be able to do something useful. She loves taking care of the sheep and using their wool to hook rugs in the evening while she watches some television. Watching the wildlife that make their home on the ranch—from cougars and coyotes to hawks, deer and rattlesnakes—tops her list too.

"I love going out and finding a ripe apple and munching down or pulling some beans and eating some fresh beans right off the vine," she said. "It's just an amazing place and I feel privileged to live here."

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

KIDS' CORNER



Wyoming Workforce Services counted 50 information security analysts working in Wyoming in March 2019 and reported their average wage at \$34.93 per hour.

WHEN I GROW UP

want to be a

Security Analyst

What do Information Security Analysts do?

01

These workers keep computer networks and information secure, making sure to monitor and upgrade systems.

How to Become an Information Security Analyst You'll need to understand computer networks

03

and electronic infrastructure to work in this field: a degree in computer science from an accredited college will certainly help you get hired.



04

What does an information security analyst need to work every day?



Information Security Analysts Quiz

 Wyoming Workforce Services analyzed the top employing industries for information security analysts. Which industry employed the most people in this field?

000

- a. Information c. Manufacturing
- b. Electric utility d. Finance and and transmission insurance
- 2) Bill Gates became one of the richest men in the world by co-founding the Microsoft Corporation. How old was he when he wrote his first computer program?
 - a. 9 c. 13 b. 11 d. 17

Read about Bridger Valley Electric Association Network Manager Gregg Moretti on page 21. Sources: Wyoming Department of Workforce Services, Britannica.com Answers: d, c

CO-OP SPOTLIGHT

GREGG MORETTI

Keeping **Co-op and** Community Safe Online

BY ELIZABETH SAMPSON



After a co-worker opened an email with malware and a friend lost money through an online classifieds site scam, **Gregg Moretti of Lyman** started to dig deeper into how to protect people from online theft.

Now he stands as a guard between the good guys and cybercriminals.

Moretti works for Bridger Valley Electric Association (BVEA) in Lyman, and in his words, he is in charge of anything with a battery or a power switch. He has a master's degree in cybersecurity and information assurance from Western Governors University and has presented information to the Public Service Commission on protecting the electric grid.

He works with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and the Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities (RC3) Program-a cybersecurity initiativeand serves on a national member advisory group that provides cybersecurity help to electrical co-ops around the nation.

"Gregg is a vital part of our management team," said BVEA general manager Jud Redden. "There are so many threats coming in on an hourly basis trying to get access to our systems and databases. He's key to protecting all of our assets from all of the outside influences."

Greg Moretti hiking at **Arches National** Park in 2016.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GREGG MORETTI

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As part of his work, Moretti makes sure BVEA's portion of the electrical grid is as safe as possible from cyberattacks and hackers, but he also tries to make sure family, friends and co-workers don't fall victim to the many scams that are out to dupe people out of their hard-earned money.

He has a business that offers private consulting for individual consumers and small businesses and helps people become aware of the dangers online.

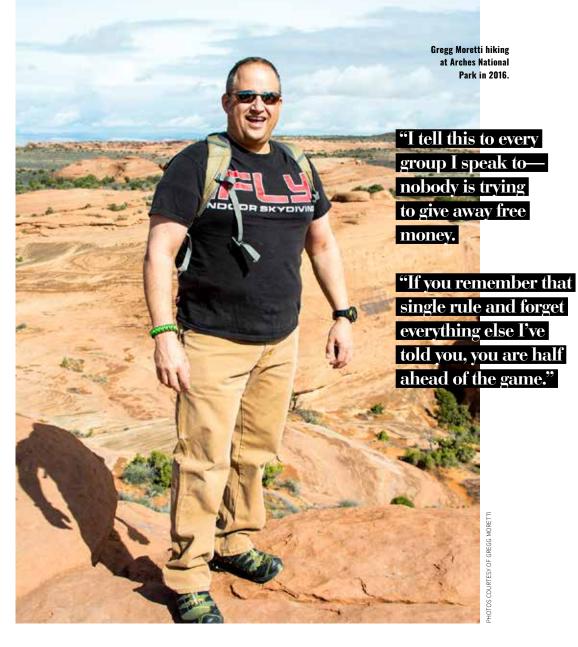
"The big thing I tell people is once the money is gone, it is nearly impossible to get it back once you've been scammed," he said.

Moretti also volunteers his time both locally and nationally to teach others what he has learned about being careful and what to watch out for in the online world. He especially likes to help the people he calls digital immigrants—those who didn't grow up with technology in

their back pocket. However, he also lends a hand to digital natives—the people who started using technology soon after birth and are very comfortable and familiar with it.

"I tell this to every group I speak to—nobody is trying to give away free money," he said. "If you remember that single rule and forget everything else I've told you, you are half ahead of the game."

Redden said Moretti's willingness to help keep people protected is admirable.



"Gregg's been a good teacher," Redden said. "He's glad to help others which I think is a big help in a co-op world."

Moretti warned that right now scammers are using the coronavirus pandemic to trick people out of their money.

"COVID-19 relief check scams are huge," Moretti said. He explained that scammers are contacting people through texts, emails and phone calls claiming the government still has relief money to give them. The scammers ask the victim for their bank account or credit card information pretending they will send the money to them. Of course, once the victim shares that information, the scammers have full access to those private accounts.

Moretti said another big scam to watch out for is someone claiming there is fraudulent activity on your social security number that can quickly be cleared up if you give a credit card number or mail a reloadable credit or gift card to the scammer. Cybersecurity expert Gregg Moretti of the Bridger Valley Electric Association in Lyman shared some tips about staying safe online, avoiding scams and managing online accounts.

Get text alerts about your credit cards.

1

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Minimize your credit card count, and delete online accounts you no longer use.

Don't use debit cards. Credit cards are safer and have better fraud protection.

Freeze your credit reports by contacting Equifax, Experian and Transunion.

Get your free credit report at annualcreditreport.com.

Scammers play on fear. Never give personal information out to someone who calls or emails you.

If you are called, ask specific pointed questions

like, "Who is this exactly?" "What is your phone number and address?" "What is your website?" Most of the time they will hang up.

Don't use the same password for everything. The more important the site, the more complex the password should be.

8

9

10

11

Sign up for scam alerts with consumer.ftc.gov/features/scam-alerts.

Be alert. Watch for unusual activity, odd charges of any amount or odd bills that you receive.



Never use "Save my Password" on your computer or devices. Require a password every time, or use facial or fingerprint recognition.

"Scammers always play on fear because it gets money the fastest,"

Above: Gregg Moretti at the trailhead leading to Kings Peak in Utah in 2005. He said the IRS is never going to contact someone through email and that social security numbers can never be suspended.

A different trick scammers play is pretending to be from an online retail account like Amazon. They tell unsuspecting people that their account has been compromised, and someone is using the victim's account to buy things. Then they ask the victim to confirm their credit card number to verify the account—and just like that—they have the credit card number to use as they wish.

Despite the abundance of scams that occur, Moretti has some helpful tips that help keep people safe from fraud.

> If an email or someone on the phone is trying to make someone afraid—whether that is the fear that an account has been compromised or that the IRS says money is owed—it is a big warning to be aware it is probably a scam.

"Scammers always play on fear because it gets money the fastest," Moretti said. "As soon as somebody contacts you, if it is fear-based, that is a huge red flag."

If someone gets an email that asks them to click on an internet

link, it is possible the email is fraudulent. Clicking on the link can lead to computer viruses, malware or worse. Moretti suggests if someone needs to check on something that is in the email, they are better off going directly to the website rather than clicking on a link.

Another warning Moretti shared is if someone demands that you wire money or send a reloadable gift card, it is almost certainly a scam.

"Wiring money is just like throwing cash out into the street," he said. "There is no tracking it and no getting it back."

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

BOOK REVIEW

Wyoming's Friendly Skies

Training America's First Stewardesses

BY STARLEY TALBOTT AND MICHAEL E. KASSEL

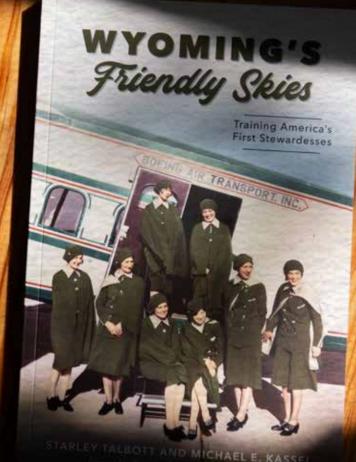
Boeing Air Transport, a precursor of United Air Lines, began carrying passengers in 1927 on small, uncomfortable airplanes with few amenities. Steve Stimpson, manager of Boeing's San Francisco office, considered hiring stewards to alleviate passengers' concerns. Ellen Church convinced him that employing women, especially nurses, as stewardesses would be a visionary solution. Eight brave young women entered Boeing's brief training program in Cheyenne in May 1930, making them the first airline stewardesses in the world. In 1947, United Air Lines established its Stewardess Training Center in Cheyenne, operating for nearly two decades. Authors Starley Talbott and Michael Kassel celebrate the world's first stewardesses, as well as the thousands who followed in their footsteps.

DESCRIPTION BY ARCADIA PUBLISHING -

ORDERING INFORMATION:

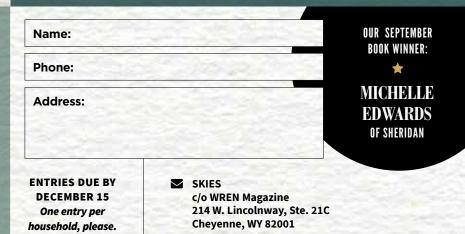
2020 | 144p. | \$21.99 paperback ISBN: 978-1-4671-4763-7 Publisher: Arcadia Publishing and The History Press

Available online and at local booksellers, and by calling the Wyoming State Museum Gift Shop at 307-777-7022.



A Distance of the second

= win a FREE copy =



wyomingrea.org/wren-submissions

contents definitely

This month's book harkens back to the golden age of air travel—when everyone smoked, no one would dare to wear pajamas in public and there was not a wheeled suitcase in sight.

What a far cry from the state of airlines today! Thanksgiving weekend is the most important time of year for U.S. airlines, which are bracing for an 80% decrease in bookings in 2020 compared to 2019.

How many of these bygone commercial flight operators do you remember? Here's hoping our favorite airlines pull out of the current travel tailspin!

Too much turbulence? Find the answers on page 35.

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BY KENDRA SPANJER

ONLY THE BOLD WORDS APPEAR IN THE PUZZLE.

Central Airlines (1949-1967) Mohawk Airlines (1945-1972) Braniff International Airways (1928-1982) Air California (1967-1987) People Express Airlines (1981-1987) Eastern Air Lines (1926-1991) PanAmerican World Airlines (1927-1991)

ValuJet (1992-1997) Carnival Air Lines (1988-1998) TransWorld Airlines (TWA) (1930-2001) Hooters Air (2003-2006) Midwest Airlines (1984-2010) Continental Airlines (1934-2012) US Airways (1979-2015)

shifted

HOME ON THE RANGE

A view from the Sheep Lake trail in the Snowy Range.

Get Some Distance

BY TY STOCKTON

We've learned some new terms this year many of us would rather never have heard. One of those is "social distancing."

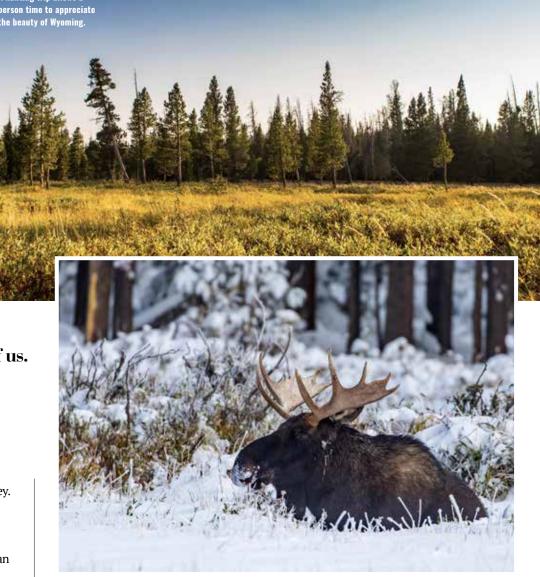
We're social creatures. Even the introverts among us need the occasional interaction with other human beings. But for the entire spring and summer, that was not an option. Parties, get-togethers with friends, and of course the big-crowd events like rodeos and concerts were all nixed. But the side effect of social distancing has been an unexpected increase in outdoor opportunities. The wilds of Wyoming are the textbook definition of the setting for social distancing, and with most of the other activities that would normally demand our time canceled, we had ample opportunities to explore those socially distant destinations.

That was certainly the case for my family. The kids' school sent them home early, and my wife and I began working from home in March. Like many Wyoming households, ours is socially distant already. Our nearest neighbor is a quarter of a mile away as the crow flies, and closer to a mile if that bird were required to walk. That meant that while we maintained our social distance from others, we spent each week hermetically sealed in our home. Together. Just the four of us. Every day. All. Day.

Early on in the pandemic, we knew we'd have to get out of the house regularly to avoid losing our sanity. If we hadn't done something, I'm pretty sure my normally loving and saintly wife would have smothered me in my sleep.

To shake things up and prevent household mutinies, we picked a new place to hike each weekend. We explored Guernsey State Park, Curt Gowdy State Park, the Pole Mountain Unit of the Medicine Bow National Forest and the Snowy Range. Every so often, we packed the fishing gear so we could dip a line in some body of water or other, but most of the time we just hiked.





Seeing a moose is a welcome diversion during an elk hunt.

around the dinner table. And we looked forward to the following weekend's excursion.

The benefits extended beyond the sequestration, too. By the time the archery season rolled around, I was in excellent shape for hiking in the mountains, because I'd spent the entire summer hiking in the mountains. The boys and I went hunting in early September, and though we didn't come home with any meat for the freezer, we saw even more new country, got more exercise, and soaked up more sunshine and fresh air. We're already making plans to continue this new tradition next year, even though we hope the world will be back to normal by then. We'll hopefully have to squeeze our hikes in around rodeos, concerts, get-togethers with friends and other social activities. One good thing to come out of this pandemic, though, was a reminder that the natural world heals us, refreshes us, and reinvigorates us.

Thanks for the reminder, COVID-19, but you are welcome to go away now. ■

Ty Stockton is an outdoor writer and photographer based in Hillsdale.

Together. Just the four of us. Every day. All. Day.

A hunting trip allows a

We hiked to the Overlook at Guernsey. We hiked to the waterfall at Curt Gowdy. We hiked over the top of the Snowy Range. I'll admit those hikes seemed more like death marches than recreational opportunities early on, but as I began getting in better shape, they became more enjoyable.

We saw a whole lot of new country. We explored parts of Wyoming we'd never seen before. We identified wildflowers, saw incredible wildlife, and found peace and serenity while the rest of the world was losing its collective mind.

Those weekend hikes accomplished much more than simply giving us a few hours of diversion, though. The positive effects lasted long into the ensuing weeks. We slept better those nights after the hikes, leaving us more recharged for the start of the week. We felt more refreshed after breathing that clean mountain air. We reflected on the animals, flowers and landscapes we'd seen, giving us more to talk about



COUNTRY COOKS

TURKEY BURGERS

3 LBS GROUND TURKEY 1/4 CUP SEASONED BREAD CRUMBS 1/4 CUP FINELY DICED ONION 2 LARGE EGGS, LIGHTLY BEATEN 1/4 CUP CHOPPED FRESH PARSLEY 2 CLOVES GARLIC, PEELED AND MINCED 1 TSP SEASON SALT 1/4 TSP GROUND BLACK PEPPER

In a large bowl, mix ground turkey, seasoned bread crumbs, onion, eggs, parsley and garlic. Season with salt and pepper. Form into 12 patties.

Cook the patties in a medium skillet over medium heat, turning once, to an internal temperature of 180 degrees.

Serve on buns with tomato and lettuce.

NANCY DENK ★ RIVERTON

WILD RICE & TURKEY SALAD

1/2 CUP WILD RICE 1 - 1/2 CUPS WATER 2 CUPS CHOPPED COOKED TURKEY 1 CUP CHOPPED CELERY 1/2 CUP CHOPPED SWEET RED PEPPER (OPTIONAL) 1/4 CUP CHOPPED GREEN ONIONS 1/2 CUP GOLDEN RAISINS 1 APPLE, CHOPPED 1/4 CUP OLIVE OIL 2 TSP RED OR WHITE WINE VINEGAR 1/4 TSP BLACK PEPPER 1/4 TSP GROUND NUTMEG 2 TBS FRESH PARSLEY CHOPPED PECANS FOR GARNISH

Cook the rice in the water until tender, about 50 minutes. Cut the turkey into bite-size pieces. Combine all the ingredients in a bowl and toss. Sprinkle with pecans. Cover and chill until ready to serve.

ANNE METZLER ★ RIVERTON



TURKEY-N-DUMPLINS

2 CUPS SHREDDED COOKED TURKEY 4 CANS (14.5 OZ EACH) CHICKEN BROTH

> 2 CUPS MILK 1/2 TSP SALT

1 TBS MARGARINE

2 CUPS ALL-PURPOSE FLOUR

Cook and shred turkey and set aside. Open four cans of chicken broth. Put 1 cup broth in a bowl and set aside.

In a large pot, bring to boil the remaining chicken broth, milk and salt.

Add margarine to the reserved bowl of broth and heat in microwave for 1 - 1/2 minutes, then add all-purpose flour. Mix well, roll out thin, then cut dough into strips. Carefully drop and stir dough into boiling pot of broth.

Add shredded turkey. Cover pot with lid and simmer about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove pot from heat and let sit about 10 minutes. Mixture will thicken as it cools.

This makes a double batch of Turkey-N-Dumplins, enough to feed a family of four to six. For a family of two or three, simply cut recipe in half. Serve with rolls or biscuits.

JENNIFER ROBERTS ★ FARSON







Send complete recipe by December 15! Please include your name, address and phone number.

- 🖌 wren@wyomingrea.org | 📞 [307] 286-8140
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- wyomingrea.org/wren-submissions

PEN TO PAPER

River Spirit Woman

"QUACKGRASS SALLY" ELANNA SKORUPA ★ BRIDGER, MONTANA

MIL.

11:44

When I was an old woman

I played my spirit flute beside the river. I had my grandchildren bring me good meats to eat and listened to their laughter, Remembering when my laughter was as sweet.

When I was an old woman

I played my spirit flute beside the river. I watched the prairie horses nuzzle the water with their tender soft noses before they drank their fill, And remembered when I flew across the wild grasses atop my own buckskin mare.

When I was an old woman

I played my spirit flute beside the river. I listened to the curlew call while she danced her wounded-wing dance, luring danger from her babies, And remembered the wonder of a child who once slept in my arms.

When I was an old woman

I played my spirit flute beside the river. I raised my face to the warmth of the morning sun as it escaped the shadow of the mountain crest And let my heart be filled with the honor of life Remembering the quiet and the loneliness of the night.



When I was an old woman

I played my spirit flute beside the river. I followed the clouds as they painted the skies, wisps of white against blue, So soon shifting into nothingness from the breath of the winds, Remembering all days too, pass so quickly from our view.

When I was an old woman

I played my spirit flute beside the river. I smiled at couples exploring newfound companionships, of one blanket pulled close around two, Remembering the joy of loving, where a long-shared quiet warmth melded old hearts into one.

When I was an old woman

I played my spirit flute beside the river. I resisted the chill of the evening shadow as it crept from the waters edge into old bones, Then remembered that the silver in my hair was a gift of many winters

and a life well worn.

When I was an old woman

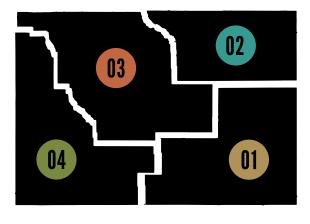
I played my spirit flute beside the river. A song that floated lightly in the air like a dragonfly, To mingle with the hawk's call above the rhythm of the water over the rocks And I whispered to the world, I remember.

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.

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



2-DAY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION DECEMBER 4-5 * TORRINGTON

Friday, December 4, 4-8p

Downtown events include: Parade of Lights, Christmas tree lighting, live music from bell ringers and fiddlers, pop-up shop at 21st and Main, Gracie's Promise trees, refreshments, carriage rides, Elf's paint studio at Table Mountain Vineyards, selfie station, pictures with an officer and a window decorating contest.

Saturday, December 5, 10a-5p

Downtown events include: Santa at 21st and Main, holiday movie, Olaf and Elsa at Torrington Office Supply, Polar Express reading at the Homesteaders Museum and Gracie's Promise trees.

FREE • INFO 307-532-3879

SOUTHEAST

01|SOUTHEAST

GUERNSEY

FOURTH SUNDAYS

American Legion Riders: 2p, Crazy Tony's Bar & Grill, info 307-575-0838.

ENCAMPMENT

ONGOING

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



LUSK

DECEMBER 3

Open House: Open all day, chili feed 5-7p, at Same As It Once Was, info 1-800-223-LUSK.

DECEMBER 4-5

Christmas Bazaar: Craft fair. 4-8p Dec 4, 10a-3p Dec 5, Niobrara County Fairgrounds, info 1-800-223-LUSK.



TORRINGTON

NOVEMBER 28

Lions Holiday Bazaar: Annual holiday craft & artisan fair, 9a–3p, 7078 Fairgrounds Rd, \$1, info 307-532-3879.

02|NORTHEAST

BUFFALO

THURSDAYS

Bluegrass Jam Session: 6:30p, Occidental Saloon, free, info 307-684-0451.

GILLETTE

SATURDAYS

Black & Yellow Theatre: Experience designed to allow guests the opportunity to interact with subject matter, events and people that have shaped the Powder River Basin from pre-history to modern day. 11a-2p, Campbell County Rockpile Museum, free, info 307-682-5723, szacharias@ ccgov.net, rockpilemuseum.com.

HULETT

ONGOING

Senior Center Events: Carry-in dinner 12:30p third Sun. Rolls and coffee 9a Thu. 145 Main Street, info 307-467-5743.

RANCHESTER

DECEMBER 5

High Mountain Holiday Craft Bazaar: 8a-2p, Ranchester Town Hall, info 307-655-2283.

SHERIDAN

NOVEMBER 21

Swim Team Christmas Bazaar: Benefits the high school swim team, 8a-3p, Sheridan County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, info 307-674-4188.

UPTON

ONGOING

Senior Center Activities: Lunch is served at noon Mon-Fri, \$4, call for reservation before 9a. 307-468-9267. Stop by Tuesday mornings for coffee and treats, with an exercise program at 9a. Seniors welcome Thu and Fri from 1-4p. Potluck at 5:30p third Mondays. Ask about medical equipment loans. 1113 2nd St., info 307-468-9251.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NOV 20 - DEC 20

03|NORTHWEST

CODY

ONGOING

Cody Country Art League Gallery: 9a-5p Mon-Sat, 836 Sheridan Ave, info 307-587-3597.

DUBOIS

DECEMBER 5

Holiday Open House: Treats, shopping specials and free admission. 10a-4p, National Bighorn Sheep Center, info 307-455-3429.

DECEMBER 5

Christmas Open House

and Birdseed Crafts: Newly acquired artifacts and new exhibits, refreshments, free admission. Gift shop items are 15% off, 11a-2p. Children of all ages are invited to create birdseed ornaments from 2-3p, \$3. Dubois Museum, info 307-455-2284, fremontcountymuseums.com.



LANDER

DECEMBER 12

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

THROUGH DECEMBER 12

Art of Home: Native American art show celebrating Wind River Nation. Tue-Sat, Lander Art Center, info 307-332-5772, landerartcenter.com.



ONGOING

First Friday: New artist and local musician each month. Art show reception 5p, music 6p. Middle Fork Restaurant. Info 307-335-5035, facebook.com/ MiddleForkCafe.



SATURDAYS Acoustic Music Jam: 11a-1p, Lander Bake Shop, info 307-332-3237.

M E E T E E T S E

THROUGH DECEMBER 5

Art of the Basin: Art show and sale features renderings of Northwest Wyoming. 10a, Meeteetse Museums, info programs@meeteetsemuseums. org, 307-868-2423.

RIVERTON

DECEMBER 12

Christmas Open House and Homebuilt Classic Toys:

Museum will host open house and free museum say with hot cocoa, snacks and discounts in the museum gift store 10a-4p. Hands-on classic toys children's activity focuses on creating homebuilt classic toys that kids can take home. 2-4p, Riverton Museum, kits for toys cost \$2-\$10. Info 307-856-2665.



Send complete information for the February issue's events by DECEMBER 15!

Please send events occurring in February and March by December 15.

WREN does not print a January issue.

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

Photos are always welcome.



wyomingrea.org/news.

QUESTIONS & SUBMISSIONS:

- wren@ wyomingrea.org
- **\$** [307] 286-8140
- ✓ 214 W. Lincolnway Ste. 21C Cheyenne, WY 82001
- wyomingrea.org/ wren-submissions

WEDNESDAYS

Acoustic Music Jam: Join in or listen as musicians and dancers perform. 6:30-8:30p, Holiday Inn Convention Center, free, info 307-856-8100.

SATURDAYS

Fremont County Master Gardeners Saturday Market:

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

SHOSHONI

DECEMBER 6

Acoustic Music Jam: Play, sing, dance or just listen. Lunch available. 11a-3p, Shoshoni Senior Citizens Community Center, info 307-876-2703.

THERMOPOLIS

SECOND FRIDAYS

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

04|SOUTHWEST



FORT BRIDGER

DECEMBER 13

Christmas at the Fort: Visit the officer's quarters, warm up with hot chocolate, enjoy a scavenger hunt, snowshoe an obstacle course and at 4p participate in a snowshoe race for all ages. 1-4p, Fort Bridger State Historic Site, \$5 or an item for the Bridger Valley Food Pantry per person, 12 and under free, info 307-782-3842.



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- Celebrating the 4th in Lander, 01 Nick Biltoft, Riverton
- Burns recognizes high school seniors 02 with a Lights on Bright parade on May 9, Nick Dennis, Burns
- Sail-a-brating 100 years of Stars 03 | and Stripes in 1995, Jay Neves, Otto

A parade of cattle moving N4 | down the highway, Sandy Pokorney, Gillette

Five Fiddling Farmhands in 05 | 1990, Susan Neves, Otto



THIS MONTH:

PARADES

 43.0760° N 107.2903° W



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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.

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
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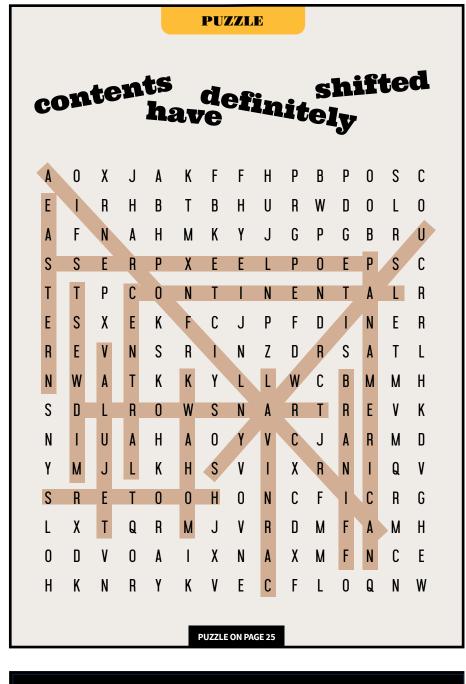
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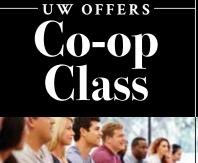
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The Wyoming Rural Electric Association is proud once again to be a part of the Cooperative Business Model course at the University of Wyoming, offered in Spring 2021!

Instructor Milton Geiger guides students as they learn best practices from co-op managers and CEOs, then create a working plan for their own cooperative. The course is appropriate for students at all levels and in any major.



BY CHUCK LARSEN

I can only imagine what the Plymouth colonists and their Wampanoag counterparts who originally shared the fruits of their autumn harvest in the year 1621 would think if they saw what their day of "Thanks Giving" has turned into. Today the holiday of Thanksgiving has gone far beyond the celebration of a bountiful harvest and a fine meal shared by good friends and family. Today we find this special day overshadowed by a cloud of commercialization. Basically and moreover sadly, Thanksgiving has become the first shopping day before Christmas.

For me the holiday of Thanksgiving carries much more weight than the televised football games and the start of Christmas shopping. It conjures up a host of fond memories.



I can remember as a boy coming in from doing the morning chores on Thanksgiving Day and being greeted to the sounds of my mother busy in the kitchen and the smells of the many traditional culinary dishes she was preparing for the holiday meal. It was difficult to sit down to a plain old bowl of cornflakes or my dad's doughy pancakes for that morning's breakfast, when one could smell the roast turkey cooking in the oven and see the pies cooling on the stovetop. Later in the morning as other close family members came to join us the list of culinary delights grew as they too brought their favorite holiday dishes to add to the upcoming meal.

It was common then for parents (at least mine anyway), in an attempt to rein in our overzealousness as we dished up our plates to say, "Don't let your eyes get bigger than your stomach." Which in the layman's terms of parenting guidelines means, "If you take it ... you're going to eat it." Now having said that, I believe that grandmothers unknowingly had an inner sinister motive when they would come



around and say, "Oh look, you forgot to get some sweet potatoes," or, "You missed the green bean casserole," after which they would add to your already overflowing plate a healthy dollop of whatever they thought you might have missed (even if you'd "missed" it on purpose).

Under the watchful eye of my parents, coupled with the memory of their constant reminders associated with poor starving children in other parts of the world, I would eventually and proudly produce a "clean plate."

At this juncture those of us deemed too young to be much assistance in cleaning up after the meal were regulated to go outside and play. They must have been kidding-how could anyone play when they are so miserably full of good food? If the fall weather was nice we might go hang out like barn cats on the sunny side of a hay pile, visiting and sharing stories amongst ourselves until we felt like we might not explode and could move again. Then there might be a game of touch football ("touch" always seemed to involve a considerable amount of tackle) or a rousing game of HORSE at the basketball hoop attached to the end of the granary.

INGED PLAN OF ATTACK

The Thanksgiving memories of my youth will always rank amongst the best, but I also have fond memories of this holiday that I gathered in my later years. One such memory involved my late motherin-law. In their later years my in-laws always came out to our place and joined us for Thanksgiving dinner. Now, when it comes to eating turkey my favorite part of the whole bird happens to be the wing and I learned early on that my motherin-law also relished this morsel. As the

man of the house my lovely wife always relegated the turkey carving duties to me and initially I would neatly separate the white and dark meat and place a wing at each end of the platter. I noted

quickly however that by the time the platter reached me it contained neither of my beloved wings. Somehow both had found their way onto the plate of my mother-in-law, who by now between gnawing bites on those wings was complimenting my wife on her fine meal. I silently vowed that next year would be different.

The next Thanksgiving rolled around and in the course of my carving talents I selfishly held one wing back, for my enjoyment later. The mother-in-law seemed satisfied that this particular turkey must have only had one wing (although she delicately forked for it in the platter). I was feeling totally vindicated and quite proud of myself right up to the point where my in-laws were heading back to town and I saw that my wife had prepared them some plates of leftovers to take home. As we said our goodbyes I couldn't help but sadly notice that on one of those plates, veiled beneath its cover of Saran Wrap, lay my coveted turkey wing. I'd lost

out again and I once more vowed that next year would be different.

At the following Thanksgiving my wife outdid herself and purchased a considerably large turkey. When I was called to carve, I noted that my wife had chosen a much larger platter for me to use. As I started to carve, my mind began to envision a winged plan of attack. The notably hefty bird produced large quantities of white and dark meat which I neatly carved and separated piling them high upon the platter in such a manner

"Don't let your eyes get bigger dd than your stomach." Which in the layman's terms of parenting guidelines means, "If you take it ... you're going to eat it."

of presentation that I was sure would have drawn oohs and aahs from both the likes of Martha Stewart and Julia Child! In finishing, I concluded that there simply wasn't sufficient room on the platter for two turkey wings. I made

sure the platter was placed directly in front of my mother-in-law's place at the table. As we started the meal I devilishly watched as my mother-in-law began to delicately search for "her" turkey wings which she was certain had to be on the platter somewhere. Her gentle probes with her dinner fork soon turned into a feverish mining operation! White meat was mixed with dark and vice versa as it was forked from one end of the platter and then back again. Others at the table stared in disbelief as the plate of turkey turned into what appeared to be a pile of pulled pork! At this point the angelic halo that I was sure that I was conveying tilted just a little, and when I caught my wife's stare from across the table, you know ... it was a lot like the stare my parents gave me when I didn't clean my plate. Ah yes ... Thanksgiving memories.

Chuck Larsen managed Saratoga-based Carbon Power and Light for 23 years. He now lives in Hulett with his wife, Linda. WREN CLASSIFIED ADS ARE \$0.75 PER SIX CHARACTERS | CONTACT: 🖌 SHAWNA@GOLINDEN.COM 🕓 970-221-3232 EXT 22

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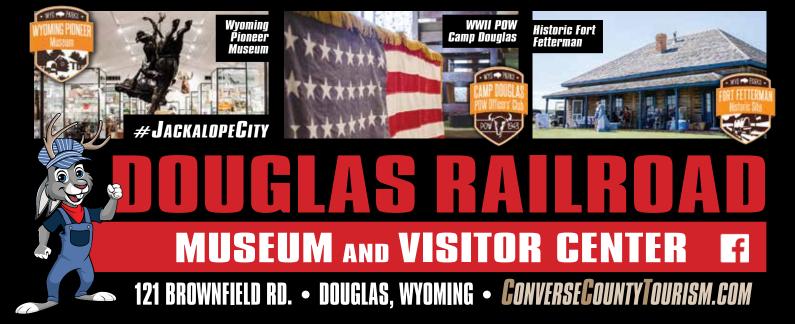
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