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RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

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

The WREN Magazine, Wyoming Rural Electric News, volume 66, number 11, December 2020 (ISSN 1098-2876) is published monthly except for January for \$12 per year by Linden Press, Inc., 214 West Lincolnway, Suite 21C, Cheyenne, WY 2001. Periodicals postage paid at Cheyenne, WY (original entry office) and at additional mailing offices. **POSTMASTER** – Send address changes to: The WREN Magazine, Wyoming Rural Electric News, c/o Linden Press, Inc., 225 S. Howes St., Fort Collins, CO 80521, [970] 221-3232. Include 3-digit co-op code.

WREN Magazine is owned and controlled by rural electric cooperatives in the interest of the economic progress of rural areas specifically and the entire population of Wyoming and the nation generally. WREN Magazine has a total average monthly paid circulation of 40,457 for 11 months ending September 2020. WREN Magazine is delivered to rural electric member/ consumers and other subscribers throughout the entire state of Wyoming and the nation.

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> SUBSCRIPTION RATES \$12 per year, Single copies \$1.50 each

ADVERTISING To purchase, contact Dhara Rose: [307] 996-6552 • dhara@golinden.com

OFFICE OF WREN OWNER 2312 Carey Ave., Chevenne, WY 82001

OFFICE OF WREN PUBLISHER Linden Press, Inc., 214 West Lincolnway, Suite 21C, Cheyenne, WY 82001



ON THE COVER 22 | ^{co-op} spotlight Chancey Williams: A Career In Music

STORY BY RACHEL GIRT

Cover photo: Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band play during the Wyoming Capitol Square opening ceremonies in Cheyenne in 2019.

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WREA NOTES

Good Riddance 2020



SHAWN TAYLOR executive director

"Remember, a Jedi's strength flows from the Force. But beware: anger, fear, aggression the Dark Side they are."

Jedi Master Yoda could easily be talking about the last year as being the Dark Side. During the year of "the Rona" our country witnessed plenty of anger, fear and aggression. Fear of getting sick or worse, anger over schools and businesses closing, and aggression over politics and elections.

I'm not naïve enough to think just because we flip the calendar over to a new year that these feelings are automatically going to disappear, or that the country as a whole is going to hold hands and sing "Kumbaya." However for me, I am going to close this crazy year out with a sense of gratitude, optimism and hope—hope for a vaccine, hope that schools and businesses will stay open and hope that our economy will flourish once again. I will show gratitude towards others even if I disagree with their politics or beliefs. And I will embrace optimism that things will get better; they have to.

I know that might sound very Pollyannaish, but right before Thanksgiving I wasn't feeling well and showed some symptoms of COVID-19, so I got tested. As I awaited the results (thankfully negative), and in order keep my family safe, I sequestered myself in our basement. Now it was only for two days but I only talked to my family on our cell phones and only saw them either via FaceTime or by standing in my backyard with them up on the deck. During that time I experienced all of the Dark Side feelings, and that was only for two days! I can't imagine how all those folks around the country are coping with being "locked down," unable to be with their families during the holidays.

So let's finish the year out strong like the Jedi. Let's help one another get to the other side of this, whatever that means and whenever that happens, and go into 2021 full of hope, gratitude and optimism. Stay healthy, stay happy, stay sane and Merry Christmas to you and the entire cooperative family.



⁴⁴This is one of the best areas in the nation to raise bees.⁹⁹

— 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:

Wyrulec's Cora Frederick was awarded \$1,000 by Basin Electric Power Cooperative to attend the college of her choice.

──★──

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.



CORA Frederick

HOMETOWN: Fort Laramie

HIGH SCHOOL: Lingle-Fort Laramie High School

YEAR OF GRADUATION: 2020

COLLEGE: Baylor University

MAJOR STUDY INTEREST:

Communication sciences and disorders with pre-med designation

WREN: Tell us about your studies and interests.

CF: I am thoroughly enjoying my studies at Baylor this semester so far. Currently, I am undecided as to pursue a degree in communication sciences and disorders, or change majors and continue to pursue the premed track. I am taking one class in each in order to see which sparks my interests and passions more. I feel that I am truly being challenged as an individual and a scholar here at Baylor, both in and out of the classroom. Even though some "classrooms" look a bit different this semester, I feel so blessed to have the opportunity to be here on campus and pursue my studies in person. I am interested in both the speech pathology and medical fields due to my desire to work with children and passion for science. I know that through my continuing studies I will be able to find the right major and career path for me.

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

CF: My hometown, family, and friends have influenced me in numerous ways. I have strong roots in a hometown that is always supportive of my adventures, meaningful family relationships, and friendships that I value. My hometown provided me with a place to learn and grow for the first 13 years of my educational career, which I am grateful for every day. My family provided me with a strong moral compass and developed my love for Jesus that I am able to share in my everyday life. My friends of all ages were there for me and always pushed me to be the best that I could be. I am grateful for these relationships and many more that have benefitted my past and will continue to have an impact on my future.

WREN: What are your plans for the future?

CF: Upon graduation with my bachelor's degree (regardless of degree choice) I plan to complete graduate school to earn either a master's or doctoral degree. My biggest goal is to find a career path that not only interests me, but that I am truly passionate about. I am dedicated to becoming a lifelong learner and always keeping Christ first in my heart.



Generosity isn't just for the holidays

At Tri-State, supporting our members and their communities is what we do. We tackle the challenges of today and tomorrow together – that's the cooperative difference. From our family to yours, stay safe and happy holidays. Find these stories and more at www.tristate.coop.



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GRASSROOTS NETWORK

WREA SEEKS Nominations for NRECA Director

The Wyoming Rural Electric Association (WREA) Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for candidates to represent Wyoming on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)'s Region VII standing committees. Region VII includes the Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska rural electric associations.



HOW IT WORKS

Region VII members (as a whole) have two representatives on each of the three committees:

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

Per the WREA's agreement with the other three states in Region VII to rotate the six seats, Wyoming will be accepting nominations for one seat on the Cooperative Management and Employee Issues Committee to start serving January of 2022. The WREA Nomination Committee will also be accepting nominations for candidates to represent Wyoming on the NRECA board of directors starting at the NRECA Annual Meeting in 2021.



Committee members will be chosen by the WREA board at the annual NRECA Wyoming Membership Meeting on February 4, 2021.



Committees generally meet once a year. A per diem is paid and travel expenses are reimbursed. Members and employees from any Wyoming co-op except Lower Valley are eligible (Lower Valley belongs to Region IX).

Those interested in serving or nominating someone should submit names in writing to: Nominating Committee, WREA, 2312 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, WY, 82001. Mail by January 15, 2021.

×

Include the name of the nominee, mailing address, phone number, and if it is for a committee or the NRECA director position.

THE CURRENT

The Breaker Box

Co-op Trivia

You probably only visit the gray breaker box, or electric service panel, in your home to flip a switch to open or close a circuit. Let's keep it that way. Work inside the breaker box can be very dangerous and should be performed by a qualified electrician.



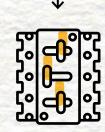
WHAT DOES A BREAKER BOX DO?

Electricity first enters your home through the electric meter, which is owned by your rural electric cooperative and keeps track of your energy use. From the meter, a main electric cable connects to your breaker box. These items belong to the homeowner. The breaker box has a very important function. The circuits, or breakers inside trip, or fail, when there is an overload, fault or electrical hazard in the circuit. You can reset a breaker by switching it back to the "on" position.



1

3



WHAT IS INSIDE A BREAKER BOX?

First, a main circuit breaker switch controls all of the electricity coming into the box. If you turn off the main circuit breaker, electricity is still coming into your house until your rural electric cooperative turns it off.

Other switches in your breaker box control all of the electrical circuits in your home. Single-pole breakers usually carry 120 volts for lights and small appliances, while double-pole breakers can carry 240 volts for equipment such as air conditioners and washing machines.

breaker box tips

FROM SAFEELECTRICITY.ORG

If you must flip a switch at the breaker box, always remember to step away and look away. You want to protect your eyes and body just in case an arc should occur.

Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you touch the breaker box while standing in water, it could cause electric shock or death.

Be sure to call a qualified electrician or your landlord if blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers are a recurring problem. This means there is something wrong with your electrical system. 2





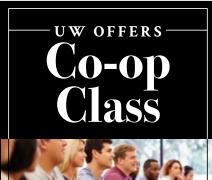
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The Wyoming Rural Electric Association is proud once again to be a part of the Cooperative Business Model course at the University of Wyoming, offered in Spring 2021!

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.

51 Years at a Co-op

GARY KIPP LOOKS BACK AT LONG CAREER
BY TIM VELDER, PRECORP

"I started in 1969 and never looked back," Gary Kipp says. Senior manager of line operations in Gillette, Kipp retired in November 2020 after almost 51 years of serving the membership at Powder River Energy Corporation (PRECorp).

Kipp was studying electricity as a youth, and the local instructor for the youth organization was Walt Wagner, the electrical engineer for Tri-County Electric Association (TCEA), PRECorp's predecessor.

Kipp's neighbor was TCEA Operations Manager Bill Durfee.

"Bill had me shoveling off the sidewalks at Tri-County before I went to school," Kipp recalls. "Then as I got older, I was working on the Smith ranch for \$125 per month. Bill called me and asked if I wanted to go to work for Tri-County and it paid \$2.25 per hour. I thought it was \$225 per month. I told Bill 'That's more per month than I am making. I will take the job.' Bill said, 'Gary, that's an hourly wage with benefits."

In 1979, Kipp was one of the first "settlers" in the emerging town of Wright. "Wright was just a trailer court and the Tri-County shop was just a shell," he said. At the time, Atlantic Richfield Black Thunder Mine requested two linemen near Reno Junction in case of a power outage. In the following year, TCEA engineers and Black Thunder began the planning for the town of Wright.

Kipp's work timeline might give some general ideas why he chose to stay at the

cooperative all these years. "I liked new challenges. New substations being built. I like meeting the members and building new services for them," he said.

He shared a memory from the work he did on the August Kretschman Ranch. Kipp said the Kretschmans, a Germanspeaking family, never had power there.

"When we energized his service and hooked up the two wires going to his house and turned the secondary breakers on, all August could do was just stare at the light bulb. I could not

understand what he was saying [in German], but it was amazing to witness," Kipp said.

> He said the new members of today just want good service and reliable power.

Kipp puts into perspective that over the half-century of work

at PRECorp, the cooperative offered numerous opportunities to learn more about the trade at special schools, and the compensation package has always been competitive with bigger investor-owned utilities.

"New employees should be thankful for all the benefits and good wages that PRECorp pays. If you're not happy at PRECorp, there are people standing in line to get employment at PRECorp," he said.

Kipp is looking forward to spending more time in the great outdoors—most likely hunting and exploring the rich history of the Wyoming wilderness.

Powder River Energy would like to thank Gary Kipp for his long tenured service to the membership and this organization.

Bank Branches Not Accessible?

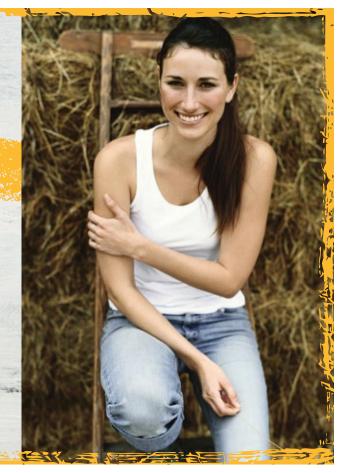
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COWBOY STATE BUZZ



Top 150 Western Novies

STORY BY KELLY ETZEL DOUGLAS

Retired Wyoming Supreme Court Justice Bill Hill has always loved Westerns.

Growing up in Riverton at a time when the local television station, KTWO, featured mostly news and old Westerns, he watched cowboy heroes such as Ken Maynard and Bob Steele. When KTWO obtained network affiliations he was rewarded with a treasure trove of television Westerns of the era such as Cheyenne, Maverick and Gunsmoke.

"I got hooked early," Hill said.

It was in the family. In 1919 Hill's rancher grandparents William Moore Hill and Ida Parker Hill, and their small children, shared Thanksgiving with Bill Carlisle at their homestead on the flank of Laramie Peak. Carlisle, notorious Wyoming train robber, had just escaped from the Wyoming State Penitentiary, robbed a train, and was on the run from pursuing lawmen.

Hill had horses growing up and off and on during his career, which took him to Washington, D.C. as chief of staff for Sen. Malcolm Wallop in the 1980s. One of the perks of his work with Wallop was time spent on his historic ranch near Big Horn.

Hill later moved to Cheyenne to work for the law firm of Holland and Hart, then became an assistant US attorney in 1991, Wyoming attorney general in 1995, and was appointed to the Wyoming Supreme Court in 1998. Hill was chief justice from 2002 to 2006, and retired from the court after 20 years in 2018.

Hill began to compile his list after a conversation with longtime friend and former colleague on the court, Justice Marilyn Kite, who wasn't quite certain that there were all that many great Westerns. He started writing down his top 100 picks, and stopped when he reached 150.

Why does he love Westerns over other film genres?

"Westerns tell the truth. If it is in a Western it must be true," he said, eyes twinkling.

Hill wrote this about his list:

"There is very little gratuitous sex or graphic violence in the movies on my list. You don't need those things to have a fine Western. As a result, some of the more contemporary films in the genre don't make my list."



RATE IT!

in alphabetical order

<u>ት</u>	3:10 to Yuma (original)	Van Heflin Glenn Ford	1957
<u>ት</u>	Bite the Bullet	Gene Hackman James Coburn	1975
<u>ት</u>	Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid	Paul Newman Robert Redford	1969
ፚፚፚፚ	Flaming Star	Elvis Presley John McIntyre	1960
ፚፚፚ ፚ	The Gunfighter	Gregory Peck Millard Mitchell	1950
ፚፚፚፚ	High Noon	Gary Cooper Grace Kelly	1952
ፚፚፚፚ	Hombre	Paul Newman Richard Boone	1967
<u>ት</u> ት የ	Jubal	Glenn Ford Ernest Borgnine	1956
<u>ት</u>	Lonely are the Brave	Kirk Douglas Gena Rowlands	1962
<u>ት</u>	The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance	John Wayne James Stewart	1962
<u>ት</u> ት የ	Monte Walsh (original)	Lee Marvin Jack Palance	1970
ፚፚፚፚ	Monte Walsh (remake)	Tom Selleck Keith Carradine	2003
ፚፚፚፚ	The Ox-Bow Incident	Henry Fonda Harry Morgan	1943
ፚፚፚፚ	Red River (original)	John Wayne Montgomery Clift	1948
ፚፚፚፚ ፚ	Ride the High Country	Joel McCrea Randolph Scott	1962
ፚፚፚፚ ፚ	Sergeant Rutledge	Woody Strode Jeffrey Hunter	1960
<u>ት</u> ት የ	The Searchers	John Wayne Jeffrey Hunter	1956
ፚፚፚፚ	Shane	Alan Ladd Van Heflin	1953
ፚፚፚፚ ፚ	The Stalking Moon	Gregory Peck Eva Marie Saint	1968
<u>ት</u> ት	The Tall T	Randolph Scott Richard Boone	1957
<u>ት</u> ት	Tombstone	Kurt Russell Val Kilmer	1993
<u>ት</u> ት	True Grit (original)	John Wayne Kim Darby	1969
<u>ት</u>	Ulzana's Raid	Burt Lancaster Jorge Luke	1972
<u>ት</u>	Valdez is Coming	Burt Lancaster Susan Clark	1971
<u>ት</u> ት	Will Penny	Charlton Heston Donald Pleasance	1968

Top * 25 ____2nd Best * 25

Appaloosa	Ed Harris Viggo Mortenson	2008
The Appaloosa	Marlon Brando John Saxon	1966
Broken Trail (TV miniseries)	Robert Duvall Thomas Haden Church	2006
Comanche Moon (TV miniseries)	Val Kilmer Wes Studi	2008
The Comancheros	John Wayne Stuart Whitman	1961
Conagher	Sam Elliot Katharine Ross	1991
Dead Man's Walk (TV miniseries)	Keith Carradine Harry Dean Stanton	1996
The Grey Fox	Richard Farnsworth Wayne Robson	1982
Gunfight at the O.K. Corral	Burt Lancaster Kirk Douglas	1957
The Hi Lo Country	Billy Crudup Woody Harrelson	1998
Hud	Paul Newman Patricia Neal	1963
Lonesome Dove (TV miniseries)	Robert Duvall Tommy Lee Jones	1989
The Magnificent Seven (original)	Yul Brynner Steve McQueen Eli Wallach	1960
The Missing	Tommy Lee Jones Cate Blanchett	2003
My Darling Clementine	Henry Fonda Victor Mature	1946
One-Eyed Jacks	Marlon Brando Karl Malden	1961
The Outlaw Josey Wales	Clint Eastwood Chief Dan George	1976
The Professionals	Lee Marvin Burt Lancaster	1966
Riders of the Purple Sage	Ed Harris Amy Madigan	1996
The Shootist	John Wayne Lauren Bacall	1976
Streets of Laredo (TV miniseries)	James Garner Sissy Spacek	1995
The Treasure of the Sierra Madre	Humphrey Bogart Walter Huston	1948
The Wonderful Country	Robert Mitchum Julie London	1959
Unforgiven	Clint Eastwood Gene Hackman	1992
Winchester '73 (original)	James Stewart Steven McNally	1950 🛏
	The AppaloosaThe AppaloosaBroken Trail (TV miniseries)Comanche Moon (TV miniseries)The ComancherosConagherDead Man's Walk (TV miniseries)The Grey FoxGunfight at the O.K. CorralThe Hi Lo CountryHudLonesome Dove (TV miniseries)The Magnificent Seven (original)The MissingMy Darling ClementineOne-Eyed JacksThe Outlaw Josey WalesThe ShootistStreets of Laredo (TV miniseries)The ShootistStreets of Laredo (TV miniseries)The Treasure of the Sierra MadreThe Wonderful CountryUnforgivenWinchester '73	AppaloosaViggo MortensonThe AppaloosaMarlon Brando John SaxonBroken Trail (TV miniseries)Robert Duvall Thomas Haden ChurchComanche Moon (TV miniseries)Robert Duvall The ComancherosJohn Wayne Stuart WhitmanConagherJohn Wayne Stuart WhitmanConagherSam Elliot Katharine RossDead Man's Walk (TV miniseries)Keith Carradine Harry Dean StantonThe Grey FoxRichard Farnsworth Wayne RobsonGunfight at the O.K. CorralBurt Lancaster Kirk DouglasThe Hi Lo CountryBilly Crudup Woody HarrelsonHudPaul Newman Patricia NealLonesome Dove (TV miniseries)Tommy Lee Jones Cate BlanchettMy Darling ClementineHenry Fonda Victor MatureOne-Eyed JacksMarlon Brando Karl MaldenThe Outlaw Josey WalesLee Marvin Burt LancasterRiders of the Purple SageJohn Wayne Lauren BacallStreets of Laredo (TV miniseries)James Garner Sissy SpacekThe Treasure of the Sierra MadreHumphrey Bogart Walter HustonThe Wonderful CountryJames Stewart



Top 150 Western Movies | 100 * Well Worth Watching

3 Godfathers	John Wayne Ward Bond	1948
5 Card Stud	Dean Martin Robert Mitchum	1968
7 Men from Now	Randolph Scott Lee Marvin	1956
All the Pretty Horses	Matt Damon Penelope Cruz	2000
Angel and the Badman	John Wayne Gail Russell	1947
Arrowhead	Charlton Heston Jack Palance	1953
The Avenging Angel	Tom Berenger Charlton Heston	1995
Barbarosa	Willie Nelson Gary Busey	1982
The Big Country	Gregory Peck Jean Simmons	1958
Big Jake	John Wayne Maureen O'Hara	1971
Billy Two Hats	Gregory Peck Desi Arnaz, Jr.	1973
The Bravados	Gregory Peck Henry Silva	1958
Broken Lance	Spencer Tracy Katie Jurado	1954
Cat Ballou	Jane Fonda Lee Marvin	1965
Cheyenne Autumn	Richard Widmark Carol Baker	1964
The Cheyenne Social Club	James Stewart Henry Fonda	1970
Comes a Horseman	James Caan Jane Fonda	1978
The Cowboys	John Wayne Bruce Dern	1972
Crossfire Trail	Tom Selleck Mark Harmon	2001
The Culpepper Cattle Co.	Gary Grimes Billy Green Bush	1972
Dances with Wolves	Kevin Costner Graham Greene	1990
Duel at Diablo	James Garner Sidney Poitier	1966
Day of the Outlaw	Robert Ryan Burl Ives	1959
Fort Apache	John Wayne Henry Fonda	1948
The Garden of Evil	Gary Cooper Richard Widmark	1954
Geronimo: An American Legend	Wes Studi Jason Patrick	1993
Gunman's Walk	Van Heflin Tab Hunter	1958
Harry Tracey, Desparado	Bruce Dern Gordon Lightfoot	1982
Hang 'Em High	Clint Eastwood Pat Hingle	1968
Hidalgo	Viggo Mortenson Omar Sharif	2004
High Plains Drifter	Clint Eastwood Verna Bloom	1973
Hondo	John Wayne James Arness	1953
The Honkers	James Coburn Slim Pickens	1972
Hostiles	Christian Bale Wes Studi	2017

Hour of the Gun	James Garner Jason Robards	1967
How the West Was Won	Debbie Reynolds	1962
J.W. Coop	Cliff Robertson R.G. Armstrong	1972
Jeremiah Johnson	Robert Redford Will Geer	1972
Joe Kidd	Clint Eastwood Robert Duvall	1972
Junior Bonner	Steve McQueen Robert Preston	1972
Last Stand at Saber River	Tom Selleck Keith Carradine	1997
Last Train from Gun Hill	Kirk Douglas Anthony Quinn	1959
Lawman	Burt Lancaster Robert Ryan	1971
The Left-Handed Gun	Paul Newman John Dehner	1958
Legends of the Fall	Brad Pitt Anthony Hopkins	1994
The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean	Paul Newman Victoria Principal	1972
The Long Riders	Carradine brothers Quaid brothers	1980
Major Dundee	Charlton Heston Richard Harris	1965
The Man from Laramie	James Stewart Arthur Kennedy	1955
Man in the Shadow	Jeff Chandler Orson Welles	1957
Man of the West	Gary Cooper Lee J. Cobb	1958
The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing	Burt Reynolds Sarah Miles	1973
Man with the Gun	Robert Mitchum Leo Gordon	1955
McLintock!	John Wayne Maureen O'Hara	1963
Miracle at Sage Creek	David Carradine Wes Studi	2005
The Misfits	Clark Gable Marilyn Monroe	1961
The Missouri Breaks	Marlon Brando Jack Nicholson	1976
Mountain Men	Charlton Heston Brian Keith	1980
My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys	Scott Glenn Ben Johnson	1991
The Naked Spur	James Stewart Robert Ryan	1953
Nevada Smith	Steve McQueen Brian Keith	1966
Open Range	Robert Duvall Kevin Costner	2003
Paint Your Wagon	Clint Eastwood Lee Marvin	1969
Pale Rider	Clint Eastwood John Russell	1985
Patt Garrett & Billy the Kid	Kris Kristofferson James Coburn	1973
The Plainsman	Gary Cooper Jean Arthur	1936
Posse From Hell	Audie Murphy Rodolfo Acosta	1961
Purgatory	Sam Shephard Eric Roberts	1999

		\mathcal{O}
Quigley Down Under	Tom Selleck Alan Rickman	1990
The Rare Breed	James Stewart Maureen O'Hara	1966
Rawhide	Tyrone Power Susan Hayward	1956
Ride Lonesome	Randolph Scott Karen Steele	1959
Rio Bravo	John Wayne Angie Dickinson	1959
Rio Grande	John Wayne Maureen O'Hara	1950
River of No Return	Robert Mitchum Marilyn Monroe	1954
Rooster Cogburn	John Wayne Katharine Hepburn	1975
Saddle the Wind	Robert Taylor Julie London	1958
Seven Ways from Sundown	Audie Murphy Barry Sullivan	1960
She Wore a Yellow Ribbon	John Wayne Victor McLaglen	1949
Shoot Out	Gregory Peck	1971
Silverado	James Gregory Scott Glenn Kevin Kline	1985
The Sons of Katie Elder	John Wayne Dean Martin	1965
Son of the Morning	Gary Cole	1991
Star (TV miniseries) The Spikes Gang	Rodney A. Grant Lee Marvin	1974
Stagecoach (original)	Ron Howard John Wayne Claire Trevor	1939
Stagecoach (remake)	Ann-Margret Alex Cord	1966
The Tall Men	Clark Gable Jane Russell	1955
Tom Horn	Steve McQueen Linda Evans	1980
Tribute to a Bad Man	James Cagney Irene Pappas	1956
The Tracker	Kris Kristofferson Scott Wilson	1988
True Grit (remake)	Jeff Bridges Barry Pepper	2010
Two Rode Together	James Stewart Richard Widmark	1961
The Unforgiven	Burt Lancaster Audrey Hepburn	1959
The Virginian	Gary Cooper Walter Huston	1929
The Virginian	Joel McCrea Brian Donlevy	1946
Warlock	Henry Fonda Richard Widmark	1959
Waterhole # 3	James Coburn Carroll O'Connor	1967
Wyatt Earp	Kevin Costner Dennis Quaid	1994
The Wild Bunch	William Holden Ernest Borgnine	1969
Yellow Sky	Gregory Peck Ann Baxter	1948

14 WREN DEC+2020



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The world comes out west expecting to see cowboys driving horses through the streets of downtown; pronghorn butting heads on windswept bluffs; clouds encircling the towering pinnacles of the Cloud Peak Wilderness; and endless expanses of wild, open country. These are some of the fibers that have been stitched together over time to create the patchwork quilt of Sheridan County's identity, each part and parcel to the Wyoming experience. Toss in a historic downtown district, with western allure, hospitality and good graces to spare; a vibrant art scene; bombastic craft culture; a robust festival and events calendar; and living history on every corner, and you have a Wyoming experience unlike anything you could have ever imagined. This is Sheridan County, the beating heart of Bighorn Mountain Country, where the old west and the new offer endless adventures.

So that we can adventure together safely, our team has put together a series of COVID-19 resources to keep you informed of any travel restrictions, local and state health mandates, and other pandemic-related travel information, available on our website. While you're there, catch our new streaming series, The Backyard, with new episodes each week, and explore a side of Wyoming that you have never seen before.

COUNTY, WYOMING, USA



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A me to Come Home

MUSICIANS SETTLE IN CHUGWATER TO OPERATE MUSIC VENUE

> Lance Nilson plays guitar at the Stampede Saloon & Eatery in Chugwater.

BY RACHEL GIRT

Respect ful silence

reigned as Lilly Nilson settled next to her husband Lance in the circle of local musicians playing at the weekly Thursday night jam session at the Stampede Saloon & Eatery.

Lilly's sweet voice filled the restaurant with an aching country melody as Lance strummed on his guitar. The couple performed with the band Dakota County for 37 years before buying the Stampede Saloon with his parents, Mer and Margie, in Lilly's hometown of Chugwater.

"We try to jump into the jam session when we can, but we mostly don't have time to perform as much anymore, too busy running the Stampede," Lilly said.

After the short song, she returned to waiting tables and bartending. A little later, Lance headed back to the kitchen to cook, joking that he couldn't become too lost in the music and risk burning a burger.

Since 2016, the Nilson family has transformed this Chugwater eatery into a haven for local musicians to showcase their talents. Thursday nights are dedicated to an informal jam session where anywhere from three to over 20 people play. Friday and Saturday nights are booked with larger live acts, filling the wooden dance floor with customers.

"Our dream was to give our community a family place to go and enjoy music and also do what we could to keep live music going," Lilly said.



ABOVE: Local musicians play together in a jam session on the dance floor at the Stampede Saloon & Eatery in Chugwater.

LEFT: Lance Nilson performs onstage.

"I miss the music and the people, but it is pretty nice to sleep in our own bed every night."

OS BY RACHEL G

Life on Tour

The couple met while performing on the road with the Rogers Brothers Road Show, which originated in Chugwater. After graduating high school in 1980, Lilly went on the road with the band, running the sound equipment and singing. A year later, Lance, who is originally from Rapid City, South Dakota, joined, playing the fiddle, guitar, mandolin, keyboards and harmonica.

After Rogers Brothers disbanded in 1985, the couple continued with Dakota Country on the road for the next 37 years, touring Canada, Alaska, and the lower 48. The band opened for and backed many major acts like Sawyer Brown, Bellamy Brothers and several Grand Ole Opry stars. "It was a different town every week, usually five or six nights a week, maybe 48 weeks a year on the road," Lilly said. "After 37 years, we decided it was time to come home. I left all my sound equipment with Dakota Country so the band could continue without us, and it has."

For many years, the couple owned a home in Chugwater, their sanctuary to rest when not on the road. When they decided to retire, the couple pooled their finances with Lance's parents to buy the Stampede, which had sat vacant for six years.

"I miss the music and the people, but it is pretty nice to sleep in our own bed every night," Lilly added.



Lance Nilson and his mother, Margie, work in the kitchen at the Stampede Saloon & Eatery in Chugwater. The Nilsons, along with their spouses, co-own the business.

PHOTO BY RACHEL GIRI

STAMPEDE

&

EATERY

SALOON

Lance and Lilly

Nilson pose in front of the Stampede

Saloon & Eatery in a

The Stampede is the "perfect venue for acoustic music," Lance said, noting the large open dining area dominated by a stage and dance floor.

Lance explained that he wanted a place to hold jam sessions at the Stampede that harkened back to living room parties that he enjoyed as a youth visiting his mother's relatives in Missouri. During those parties, musicians informally played together in a fun, freewheeling environment while kids played underfoot.

Over the last decade, with the popularity of DJs, opportunities to play live music have dwindled, making it harder to scrape a living from performing, Lance explained. "We wanted to change that with the Stampede and give musicians a place to play. There's a lot of local talent around here in Wyoming."

Family Business

The family has divvied up tasks to run the place. Lance cooks in the back with his mother Margie, who handles food preparation, plates the food and does the bookkeeping. Mer takes care of promotions and marketing, as well as greeting and seating customers on the weekends. Lilly bartends, waits tables and schedules musicians.

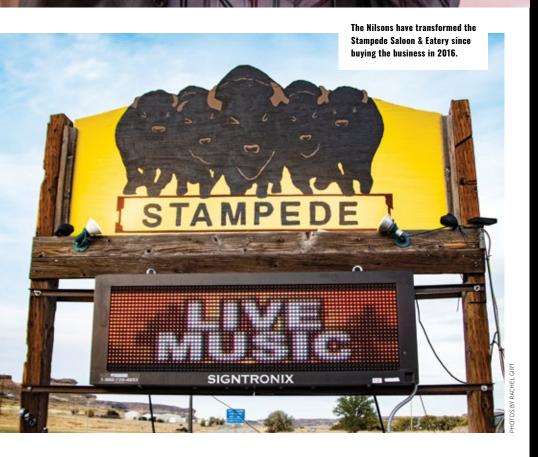
The former steakhouse's appearance has changed little, needing only a little renovation for the Nilson's needs. The menu now is dominated by familyfriendly comfort fare and accompanied by live music. Lance built a recording studio in the basement, working on others' albums in his spare time.

"We wanted to create an old-time dance hall environment like when we grew up where the whole family could eat dinner and kids would learn how to dance."



Mer Nilson plays harmonica at the Stampede Saloon & Eatery.

> "Music has given us so much. I want anybody who wants music to be able to have some and give them a place to do that."



Growing Musicians

A typical jam session runs about three hours, starting at 6 p.m. All calibers of musicians play, a mixture of beginners and pros. Sometimes only a handful of musicians play; other times over 20 have crowded the floor. Surrounding the circle of players, diners clap and cheer encouragement at the end of each song.

During a typical jam session, 83-year-old Mer plays a tune or two on his harmonica, but he explained that most of his enjoyment comes from analyzing the musicians as they play off of each other, finger guitars and grow.

"We have watched musicians who are a little rusty improve after playing sessions with us and beginners become better and even get hired to play here on the weekends," Mer said.

Despite being busy, Lance and Lilly find brief moments of musical respite from their cooking and serving duties. Neither mind ceding the stage to others. Often Lance pops his head out of the kitchen when a tune catches his fancy.

"Music has given us so much," Lilly said. "I want anybody who wants music to be able to have some and give them a place to do that."

"We had our time; now it is theirs," Lance added, gesturing to the Thursday night jam musicians, the majority regulars with some driving over 45 miles to play.

"Music is about giving," Lance added. "If we don't give others a chance to find their passion, we will have forgotten the reason behind playing music in the first place."

Rachel Girt is a freelance writer and owner of Girt Communications based in Cheyenne.

KIDS' CORNER



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Photographers take pictures of people, places, animals and/or commercial products. While some photographers still take photos on film, most photographers digitally process their photographs before printing or sharing online.

Photographers in Wyoming

02

Wyoming Workforce Services counted 80 photographers working in Wyoming in March 2019 and reported their average wage at \$17.30 per hour.

WHEN I GROW UP

want to be a

Photographer

How to Become a Photographer

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You can attend community college or a university to learn fine art photography, or you can learn on your own by studying the trade, being mentored by another photographer and practicing often!

> Tools of the Trade

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

03

Photographer Quiz

These photographers are well-known for their photos of certain people or things. Match the photographer with the subject that made them famous.

Famous Photographers
Ansel Adams
Robert Capa
Anne Geddes
Dorothea Lange

Dorothea Lange Annie Leibovitz Cindy Sherman Mary Steinbacher William Wegman –

Subjects Babies

Cindy Sherman Dogs John Lennon and Yoko Ono The Great Depression Yosemite National Park World War II Wyoming

> Americs, Ansel Asiams - Yosemite National Park, Robert Capa - World War II; Amre Geddes - Babies; Dorothes Lange - The Great Depression; Amre Leibovitz - John Lennon and Yoko Ono; Cindy Sherman -Cindy Sherman; Mary Steinbacher - Wyoming.



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Moorcroft's Chancey Williams Creates Music Career

BY RACHEL GIRT

Wyoming native, former saddle bronc rider and rising country star Chancey Williams writes songs that he can relate to, what he calls "correct cowboy music." "I try to write songs that my rodeo buddies who are traveling from rodeo to rodeo can relate to with cowboy correct lingo," Williams said, calling from Rapid City, South Dakota, where he and the Younger Brothers Band were shooting a new music video.

When the COVID-19 pandemic canceled a packed summer lineup, including joining Toby Keith's "Country Comes to Town" tour, the band decided to play smaller outdoor concerts in Wyoming and throughout the West. The band named it the "250" Tour because most venues could only allow gatherings of 250 people.

"We went to all these towns that we hadn't played for years," he said. "We wanted to play in a responsible way. We ended up playing every weekend and had quite a bit of fun doing it."

Over the years, the fan base for Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band has grown well beyond the borders of the Cowboy State. Last fall, Williams signed with major booking agent WME Nashville, known for big-ticket artists such as Garth Brooks, Eric Church and Brad Paisley.

The band's latest album "3rd Street," debuted at no. 5 on iTunes Country Albums Chart upon its release in May. Produced by country music hitmaker Trent Willmon, the album features Rocky



The cover for the band's latest album, "3rd Street," features a familiar scene in Laramie.

Mountain Country Music Award (CMA) Song of the Year, "Wyoming Wind" and hit songs "The World Needs More Cowboys" and "Tonight We're Drinkin'."

The current album name and cover showcase the band's close ties to Wyoming where most of the members live when not on the road or in Nashville. Band members frequent the 3rd Street Bar in downtown Laramie and thought the locale reflected a cool place that could be anywhere, Williams said.

"That van took us a lot of places, so it was fitting for the cover artwork," Williams added. He bought the old van initially for the rodeo circuit and then turned it into the band's first official tour vehicle when he stopped competing.

"I never thought music was going to be my career," he said, reminiscing. "I just assumed I'd ride saddle broncs forever."

Growing up on a ranch, running sheep and cattle, near Moorcroft, Williams and his three brothers' love of rodeoing started early. "We rodeoed in the summer and wrestled in the winter. That is all we ever did."

By the time he hit high school, Williams rode saddle broncs, team roped and calf roped. He qualified for the National High "I never thought music was going to be my career.

I just assumed I'd ride saddle broncs forever." School Finals Rodeo in bronc riding his senior year.

Williams attributed his early musical leanings to his grandfather, who had a band for about 30 years. Still, the formation of a high school band with his friend Travis DeWitt, a drummer, cemented his path to music.

"We just started getting hired at all these different places and thought, man, we could make money doing this," Williams said, laughing.

Upon graduation, Williams went to Casper College on a rodeo scholarship, making College National Finals Rodeo his junior year. With two associate degrees under his belt, Williams headed to the University of Wyoming to finish his political science degree. He joined the UW rodeo team and returned to the college finals his senior year.

Through college, the band, initially just Williams and DeWitt, picked up members, like Wyatt Springsteen for lead guitar and Brooke Latka on fiddle, but music remained on the backburner. ==

> The opening ceremony for the Wyoming Capitol Square in Cheyenne in 2019.



PHOTO BY RACHEL GIRT



"We've had to scratch out everything we've accomplished on our own because we didn't grow up in Nashville, Texas or Austin where there are big music scenes."

While the rest of the band finished college, Williams finished his masters' degree in public administration. He continued to compete in rodeo, even winning two rounds at Cheyenne Frontier Days, following in the footsteps of his father Dennis Williams, who won Rookie Saddle Bronc in 1971.

Eventually, riding broncs, playing music and being a pickup man became too much, Williams said. His father recommended that Williams select one and do it the best.

"The decision to give up bronc riding was difficult, but I figured there was more of a future in music, health-wise," he said. "You can sing 'til you're old. I suspect my career rodeoing would be ending right now while music is taking off."

Music became even more serious for Williams while working for Toby Keith's Show Dog Records in Nashville, first as an intern for his master's program and then full-time for a year. While there, he made his first album, Honky Tonk Road. Above and below: Chancey Williams and the Younger Brothers Band opened for Dwight Yoakam at Cheyenne Frontier Days in 2013. Williams sings and plays guitar, Brooke Latka plays fiddle in the band.



When he moved back to Laramie, he called the band members, advising them to, "quit your jobs, and we should do this as a career."

Their reaction to climbing in that van full-time was simple. "Oh, they loved it. They got right in," Williams said.

Successes haven't come overnight, though, and Williams admitted that, "the band had to learn everything the hard way."

Among its accomplishments, the band has supported dates with Cody Johnson, Casey Donahew and Aaron Watson and shared the stage with their heroes, like Toby Keith, Alabama and Dwight Yoakam. The band has performed at Cheyenne Frontier Days and at several opening ceremonies for the National Finals Rodeo.

The Rocky Mountain Country Music Awards recognized the band as entertainer of the year in 2018 and spotlighted its albums and songs several times over the years. Most recently, the band's fiddle player, Latka, earned musician of the year.

"We've had to scratch out everything we've accomplished on our own because we didn't grow up in Nashville, Texas or Austin where there are big music scenes," he added. "We've earned it ourselves with no handouts, just hard work."

Every year, the shows and money get better, he said, crediting the support of hardworking rodeo cowboys and ranchers for the band's growth.

Williams is working on the next album to be released hopefully next year. In November, he headed to Nashville to work on six songs and hopes to finish the rest in the spring.

"When the dust settles on all this pandemic, and we get back to normal life, it will be fun to see everybody in concerts again," he said. ₩

Rachel Girt is a freelance writer and owner of Girt Communications based in Cheyenne.

READER SURVEY

Tell us what Will 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 ____

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

4

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?



When you're finished with the survey, cut it out and send it to: WREN Magazine 214 W. Lincolnway Ste. 21C Cheyenne, WY 82001

-OR-

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

-OR-

Take this survey online! wyomingrea.org/ wren-magazine/ wren-reader-survey

BOOK REVIEW

The Divided Twin

BY M. BILLITER WITH Kyle Thomas

DESCRIPTION BY THE AUTHOR

Identical twins Aaron and Branson Kovak are in their final year of college—Aaron's in Ohio, while Branson remains in their home state of Wyoming. There's also the third twin, David, who only exists in one of their minds.

Despite the distance between them, Aaron and Branson are united by a turbulent childhood they survived together. As they enter adulthood, David comes out of the shadows to wreak havoc on the real world —his idea of fun.

When their mom is diagnosed with cancer, the ties that bind the twins incite David to tear them apart at the seams.

Will they stand or fall together, or separately?

ORDERING INFORMATION:

2020 | 314p. | \$19.99 paperback ISBN: 978-1-922359-03-2 Publisher: Tangled Tree Publishing

Available online and at these Wyoming bookstores: Wind City Books in Casper 307-315-6003 Barnes & Noble in Cheyenne 307-632-3000



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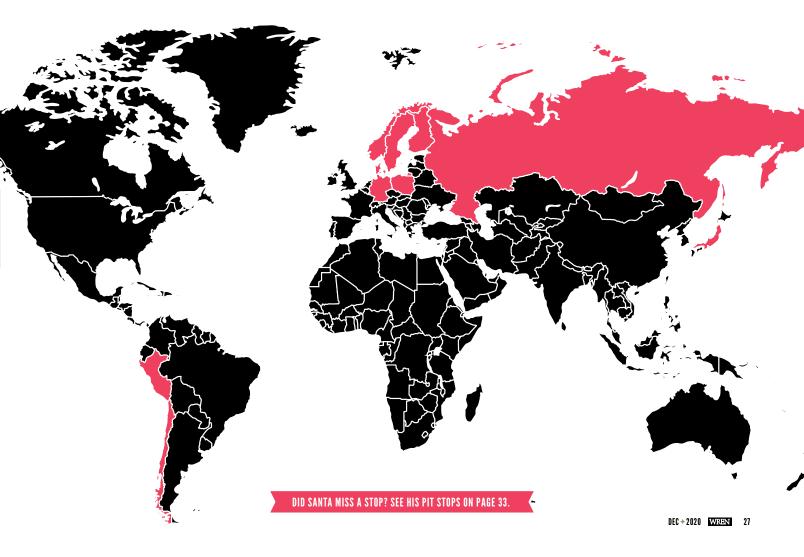
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David



Traditions bring us comfort and help us feel connected to our loved ones and culture, especially around the holidays. Can you identify which country includes the following traditions in their Christmas celebrations?

- In this country, the last ornament to be placed on the Christmas tree is a *pickle*. On Christmas Eve, the first child to find the pickle is said to receive good luck for the upcoming year.
- **2.** In this country, Christmas Eve begins with *rice pudding*. Hidden in the pudding is a single, whole almond. Whoever gets the almond receives the almond present, traditionally a marzipan pig.
- Julebukking is a Christmas tradition in these countries. Between Christmas and New Year's Day, people go *door to door disguised*, and their neighbors attempt to identify them.
- A favorite Christmas drink in this country is 'Cola de Mono' (or monkey's tail). It's made from coffee, milk, liquor, cinnamon and sugar.
- **5.** On Christmas Eve in this country, there are *12 dishes* on the dinner table—they are meant to give you good luck for the next 12 months.
- **6.** In some parts of this country, gifts are exchanged on *Epiphany*, January 6th, instead of on Christmas. Epiphany is 12 days after Christmas and is the time when Christians remember the wise men who visited Jesus.
- 7. 'Grandfather Frost' brings presents to children in this country.
- 8. Here, *fried chicken* is often eaten on Christmas day. It is the busiest time of year for restaurants such as KFC. Fun fact: There was an advertising campaign by KFC in 1974 called 'Kentucky for Christmas!'



HOME ON THE RANGE

Singing Cowboys

BY GINA SIGEL

Stories are told through song ... and cowboys love to tell stories. Riding alone on the prairie or gathered around the campfire relaxing after a hard day, the cowboys of the old west would adapt a particular vernacular with distinctive rhythms, moods and themes to set a tune to their experiences. Early cowboy ballads were sung on the range as the cattlemen drove cattle to Wyoming from Texas—verses that were passed along by oral tradition. Even though traditional cowboy ballads are fairly young compared to the traditional, Old World folk ballads from where they originated, the original songwriter is as hard to pin down as the wild, Wyoming wind traveling along the prairie. Which makes the tunes as legendary as the romantic, epic figures that sang them.

I could go down a rabbit hole of the traditional origins of the cowboy ballad and the vast numbers of cowboys and cow towns that were responsible for the development of the West, in both song and culture. But to those of us living in the modern west, the overlap in the Venn diagram where actual, real-life cowboys are also singer-songwriters is the sweet spot; where authentic, Western living is reflected in the music of someone who has actually lived that life. Love, life, loss and working the livestock and the land are reflected in prose that is independent and durable, like the people themselves. And I'm not just talking about the songwriters.

Wyoming's own Chris LeDoux was an excellent example of the rise from professional cowboy to country music star status. I don't know what the Wyoming equivalent of "street cred" is, but Chris LeDoux had it in spades. Having sold his self-made cassette tapes on the rodeo circuit, he settled on a ranch in Kaycee when he retired. Although he skyrocketed to fame, he was the real deal and was loved for that authenticity. In a review for the L.A. Times in April of 1994, Noel Davis wrote, "Roll over

Roy Rogers and tell Gene Autry the news. In his energetic 50-minute early show at the Crazy Horse Monday night, real-life cowboy Chris LeDoux took the crowd on a wild eight-second ride of a set... 'Git Along Little Dogies' was never like this." If they can catch the Wyoming vibe in Los Angeles, these songs are powerful.

Outside of Wyoming country music and Old World ballads, folk music has been telling stories for generations. Ian Tyson woos audiences with his Western songs and tales about living life on the ranch. Even contemporary folk rock artists like Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan have been

Music is a universal language and good songs span decades and generations.

sharing stories that bring us together or talk about the things that are tearing us apart. This type of music explores a national culture or identity that is personal to the group

that created it or for whom it was created. They reflect customs and traditions that span lifetimes and help us have greater understanding and unity.

My dad used to have me listen to ballads and cowboy poetry that resonated with his experience, even though he's a farm kid and would never consider himself a "cowboy." Even now, when he finds lyrics that move him, he will play the song for me and my family. "Gina, you gotta hear this..." I love that these tunes are something that speaks to both of us and that he shares it with me. Music is a universal language and good songs span decades and generations, despite changing personal experiences and narratives.

I was at a music festival in Whitefish, Montana the year before last and was introduced to the music of an authentic, singer-songwriter cowboy named Corb Lund. It was one of the highlights of the festival. There were folk-music lovers and Americana fans sporting their fun, bohemian-chic attire dancing shoulderto-shoulder with rowdy cowboys who had come to see one of their own playing at the festival. Local ranchers mixed with music festival goers who, as Ian Tyson is reported as saying, "do not know which end of a cow gets up first." Trendy meets classic. Western meets folk. And somehow we all got it. And we had a ball.

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

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COUNTRY COOKS



CHEESE BREAD

1 LOAF BREAD (SOURDOUGH OR FRENCH) 1 STICK BUTTER 1/4 CUP ONION, CHOPPED 1/3 CUP MUSTARD, OR TO TASTE 1 TBS POPPY SEEDS 1/2 LB SWISS CHEESE SLICES (ENOUGH FOR EACH SLICE OF BREAD) 1-2 SLICES BACON. OPTIONAL

Preheat oven to 375. Melt butter in saucepan, add mustard, onions, poppy seeds. Put butter mixture between slices of bread, then put the cheese between the slices. Put the bacon on top. Wrap it up in tin foil. Bake until cheese is melted, about 45 minutes.

TOBY SHEETS ★ POWELL

CHEESE BALL

16 OZ CREAM CHEESE, SOFTENED 1 CUP GRATED SHARP CHEDDAR CHEESE 1/2 CUP CHOPPED GREEN ONIONS (OR 1/2 TSP ONION POWDER)

1/2 CUP BACON BITS

1 CLOVE GARLIC, MINCED (OR 1/2 TSP GARLIC POWDER) 3 TBS MINCED PARSLEY

Combine all ingredients, mixing well. Form into a ball, cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate overnight to allow flavors to blend.

MARILYN NORMAN ★ CHEYENNE

CHICKEN CHEESE CORN CHOWDER

1-1/2 LBS BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREASTS, **CUT INTO 1-INCH PIECES** 1/2 CUP CHOPPED ONION **3 TBS BUTTER 2 GARLIC CLOVES, MINCED 1 CUP HOT WATER 2 TSP CHICKEN BOUILLON GRANULES** 1/2 TO 1 TSP GROUND CUMIN 2 CUPS HALF-AND-HALF CREAM **2 CUPS SHREDDED MONTEREY JACK CHEESE** 1 CAN (14-3/4 OZ) CREAM-STYLE CORN 1 CAN (4 OZ) CHOPPED GREEN CHILIES, UNDRAINED 1/4 TO 1 TSP HOT PEPPER SAUCE **1 MEDIUM TOMATO, CHOPPED** MINCED FRESH CILANTRO AND FRIED TORTILLA STRIPS, OPTIONAL

In a Dutch oven, brown chicken and onion in butter until chicken is no longer pink. Add garlic, cook 1 minute longer. Add the water, bouillon and cumin; bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 5 minutes.

Stir in the cream, cheese, corn, chilies and hot pepper sauce. Cook and stir over low heat until cheese is melted; add tomato. If desired, top with cilantro and tortilla strips.

NANCY DENK ★ RIVERTON

EASY CHEESE RECIPE -ONLY TAKES AN HOUR!

1 GALLON WHOLE MILK (RAW MILK MAKES THE BEST) 1/3 CUP DISTILLED WHITE VINEGAR 1 TBS TIGER SEASONING OR SALT

Pour 1 gallon of milk (sheep milk is the best but you can use cow or goat) into stainless steel pot. Do not boil milk. Heat to about 160 degrees. Leave at 160 degrees for 10 minutes, stirring constantly. Remove pot from heat and add vinegar. Barely stir to get the vinegar mixed and then let it sit for 10 minutes so curds can separate from the whey.

Place a cheesecloth into a strainer and place the strainer over a deep pot if you want to keep the whey, otherwise set the strainer into the sink and let the whey go down the sink. Pour the contents of the pot into the strainer. The cheesecloth will catch the curds. Let all the whey drain out. Gather the cheesecloth and squeeze out the whey. Once the whey is all gone, put the curds into a clean large bowl. Chop the cheese with a wooden spoon as you work in the Tiger Seasoning or Salt. Mix very well. Once the cheese is mixed, mash it into the shape of the bowl with your hand. Refrigerate immediately. This is a soft cheese to be served with crackers. It also freezes well.

JENNIFER ROBERTS ★ FARSON



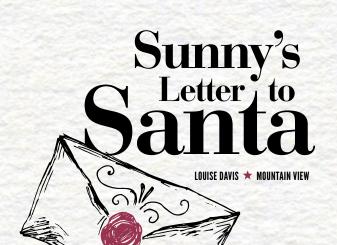




Send complete recipe by January 15! Please include your name, address and phone number.

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

PEN TO PAPER



I have a little great-granddaughter She's cute as she can be When I came to visit with her She was busy showing me the tree

I ask her if she had written Santa And had she asked for a doll She ran and found her stocking It was hanging on the fireplace wall

She pulled a letter from her stocking And brought it to read She proceeded to read it to me A 3-year-old who has a need

She said mom wrote this letter for me And some things Santa can't pack There are some things he will bring Because I've been good and that's a fact

I marveled at this little girl's mind As she pretended to read to me I hope Santa is good to her We'll all be anxious to see

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.

LESLIE BEADLES ★ CHEYENNE

Her scents have not been the same since The exquisite quince— The vanilla, citrus, and apple redolence bumped into her by accident A meeting that wasn't meant A second Destiny sent And now this fall-ly potpourri Weaves in and of her reverie A freakish fruit gnome Grown in the gardens of Rome Hidden among the ancient apple trees Knotty knobs waiting for a sun-hot breeze The spongy meat not fit to eat Houses an olfactory treat

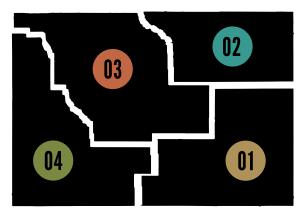
Quince

Put Your Pen to Paper!

SUBMIT A PIECE Please include your name, address, and phone number.

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RECLUSE COMMUNITY TRUST CHILI COOK-OFF

JANUARY 23 * 5-7P

Annual fundraiser for Recluse Community Trust Hall includes a pie auction and dance. \$10, \$30 per family, \$150 to enter cookoff

COMMUNITY TRUST HALL • INFO 307-202-2029

NORTHEAST

01 SOUTHEAST

CHUGWATER ONGOING

Live Music: Music venue open for Thursday night jam session and weekend performances. Stampede Saloon & Eatery, info 307-422-3200, stampedefun@aol.com.

MEDICINE BOW Fourth tuesdays

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

SARATOGA FEBRUARY 13

Toast to History: Wine paired to hors d'oeuvres prepared by our local restaurants. Silent auction for fun and we also host a table with virgin drinks and water. Saratoga Museum, Advance tickets \$25, \$45 for couples or \$30 at the door.

ONGOING

Saratoga Museum: Tue-Sat 10a-2p info 307-326-5511, saratoga-museum.com.

02 | NORTHEAST

GILLETTE January 8-17

Furniture Rehab Workshop: Demonstrations, handouts, experienced refinishers available to help participants in heated workshop space. Mini workshops offered: Barn Quilts, \$35, Jan 11-13; 3D Relief Box, \$40,



Jan 14-15. Silent auction and consignment sale. CAM-PLEX, \$90, info 307-660-6577.

ONGOING

Ava Community Art Center: Info avacenter.org or 307-682-9133.

HULETT

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

M O O R C R O F T Ongoing

Senior Center Events: Coffee and rolls 9a Wed. Toenail clinic 9a fourth Thu, dinner 6p fourth Thu, info 307-756-9550.

NEWCASTLE

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

UPTON

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.

ONGOING

Outdoor Archery: 12-5p, Goose Landing, \$5, info 307-468-2506.

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.

03|NORTHWEST

DUBOIS

FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS

Farmers' Market: 3:30-4:40p, under the awning at Nostalgia Bistro. Info 307-455-2313.

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

ONGOING

Native Americans of Wyoming's Wind River Country: Paintings by Joseph Scheuerle include members of the Shoshone and Arapaho from the Wind River Reservation. Lander Pioneer Museum, info 307-332-3339.

RIVERTON

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 Market:

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

ONGOING

Library Events:

1) Curbside book pickup Mon-Fri 10a-4p, Tue-Thu 10a-6p. 2) Concierge service: call for book suggestions. 3) Winter Reading Program for preschool through age 18 Feb 1-28. Storytime spring session registration begins Dec 1. Fremont County Library, free, info 307-856-3556 ext 2140.

04|SOUTHWEST

FORT BRIDGER

JANUARY 1

First Day Hike: Take in history, scenery, and make new friends as you walk one mile around the site with refreshments to follow. 1p, Fort Bridger State Historic Site, free, info 307-782-3842.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

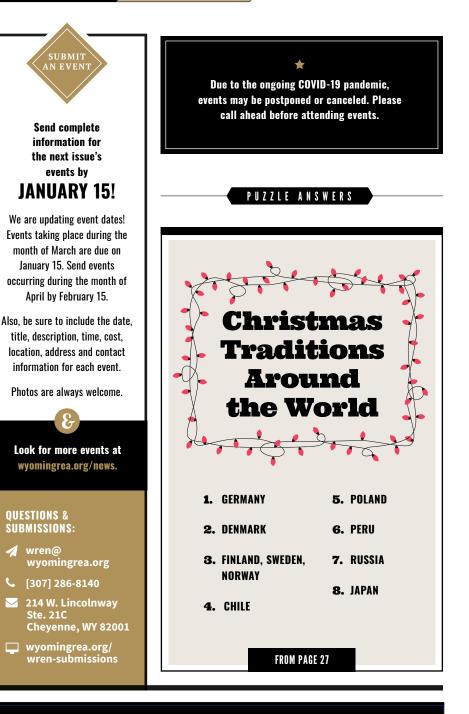
SECOND WEDNESDAYS

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.



WYDOT's Travel Information System is the one and ONLY source for up-to-the-minute road and travel information.





THIS MONTH:



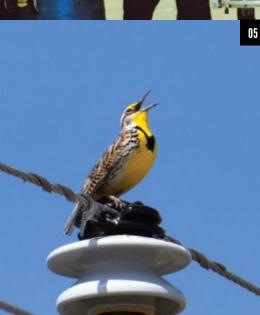
BLACK AND WHITE

MAR (DUE JAN 15):

APR (DUE FEB 15):

SKY

UST PICTURE



04	Cabin Fun, Lauree Scott, Gillette
05	Music to my ears Barbara Rasco, Riverton
06	Rising Rockstar, Elizabeth Childress, Newcastle

- Cabin Fun
- Upside-down drummer from Cody plays with the Meeteetse pep band, Angie Erickson, Meeteetse 02 | Marching music, Linda Torczon, Cody 03 |





06







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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.

If you would like your work returned, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

ENLIGHTEN US

While they were in all other respects very decent people, my mother and father loved classical music. It's ok— I've forgiven them. Every family has a skeleton or two in their closet.

It was my music – music that came from the heart of the West.

Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson-this was closer. It was a long way from the whole

Nashville thing. It was more real, less polished. I still remember the first time I heard Chris LeDoux. It was my musicmusic that came from the heart of the West. It wasn't popular country-western music, it was

more like western folk music-music from and for the people of the sagebrush sea.

Now, there's a host of awesome artists out there for western music fans. And they're still singing the old songs like "Strawberry Roan," "Little Joe the Wrangler" and "Night Rider's Lament." But they're also bringing a ton of new music to us, original compositions from people who love the smell of saddle leather and the sound of the wind in the pines just like we do. If you're not following some of these folks, you probably should. Here are a few that stand out on my playlists:

IAN TYSON:

Possibly my all-time favorite, now age 86. This Alberta rancher started out back in the 1950s and did a period of country folk as part of Ian and Sylvia. He does the old tunes better than anyone.

DAVE STAMEY:

A Californian, and a reminder of the great traditions of the Californio and buckaroo culture of the Great Basin country. A fixture at the annual Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Elko, his "Vaquero Song" is perhaps the most beautiful poetry I've ever heard.

WYLIE GUSTAFSON:

A Conrad, Montana rancher and master yodeler, he was inducted last year into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame. He's a champion team roper who raises fine cow horses. I love his faith-based tunes.

DARON LITTLE:

I can claim this guy as a friend. He cowboys on the TA Ranch, north of Saratoga. As genuine as they come, his music is the very heart of rural Wyoming.

CORB LUND:

Another Alberta rancher, with his band the Hurtin' Albertans, this guy's 2020 "Agricultural Tragic" album is a classic for me. "Truth Comes Out" is my song for the 21st century.

THE MUNSICK BOYS:

Dave Munsick and his sons Tris. Sam and Ian are the real deal. These are real Sheridan County cowboys, and they each have a different musical style. Together or singly, they're terrific. "1922" is a favorite.

The music of the west is the soundtrack of my life, and I love it. Cowboy music is near the heart of it, but so are the Basque tunes (always sung in Euskara) that came over with shepherds from the Pyrenees. So is the traditional vaguero music that came up from Mexico. I've left out dozens of great artists here: women like Trinity Seely, Jessie Veeder and Miko Marks. I've left out the songs and drumming of the native folks who were here before any of us, I've left out the great Dom Flemons, and I've left out a host of southwest Louisiana Cajun cowboys. So many voices, so little time...

It's coming on winter now, and winter lasts a long time on the Laramie Plains. I plan to spend a little time sitting by the fire listening to the music of the land I love. Hope you can, too.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

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

Ours just happened to be the bones of Mozart and Debussy. They tried their best to pass their affliction along to me, but with no success. They bought records. They took me to concerts. None of it stuck. They were casting the seeds of Beethoven on the sunbaked soil of my Sweetwater County soul.

From the beginning, I loved the old cowboy songs my uncle sang. "Goodbye Old Paint" was one of his favorites, along with "Home on the Range" and "Yellow Rose of Texas." I can only assume that he learned them from the hay hands when he ran the scatter rake on the old Gilligan place at Boulder. That would have been in the late 1920s and it's possible some of those old fellows brought their music with them decades before, when the trail herds came up from Texas. In any case, the music caught my heart like Charlie Russell's paintings or the smell of sagebrush after a rain. I was in love.

Naturally, I had my flirtation with rock and roll, but truth be told it didn't stick. It wasn't my music. I had a longer relationship with the outlaw country tunes of the 70s. Johnny Cash,

C L A S S I F I E D S

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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-ofstate owner. Store is exceptionally successful right now. Contact christina.li1967@gmail.com.

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.

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Finally... a better mobility solution than Scooters or Power Chairs.

The *Zoomer's* versatile design and 1-touch joystick operation brings mobility and independence to those who need it most.

If you have mobility issues, or know someone who does, then you've experienced the difficulties faced by millions of Americans. Once simple tasks like getting from the bedroom to the kitchen can become a time-consuming and potentially dangerous ordeal. You may have tried to solve the problem with a power chair or a scooter but neither is ideal. Power chairs are bulky and look like a medical device. Scooters are either unstable or hard to maneuver. Now, there's a better alternative... the Zoomer.

My Zoomer is a delight to ride! It has increased my mobility in my apartment, my opportunities to enjoy the-out-of-doors, and enabled me to visit the homes of my children for longer periods of time. The various speeds of it match my need for safety, it is easy to turn, and I am most pleased with the freedom of movement it gives me.

Sincerely, A. Macon, Williamsburg, VA

After just one trip around your home in the Zoomer, you'll marvel at how easy it is to navigate. It is designed to maneuver in tight spaces like doorways, between furniture, and around corners. It can go over thresholds and works great on any kind of floor or carpet. It's not bulky or cumbersome, so it can roll right up to a table or desk- there's noneed to transfer to a chair. Its sturdy yet lightweight



up to 3.7 miles per hour and its automatic electromagnetic brakes stop on a dime. The rechargeable battery powers it for up to 8 miles on a single charge. Plus, it's exclusive foldable design enables you to transport it easily and even store it in a closet or under a bed when it's not in use.

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your lifestyle? Call now and find out how you can have your very own Zoomer.





Ready to get your own Zoomer? We'd love to talk to you. Call now toll free and order one today! 1-888-404-2191



Please mention code 113681 when ordering.

The Zoomer Chair is a personal electric vehicle and is not a medical device nor a wheelchair. Zoomer is not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. It is not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2020 firstSTREET for Boomers and Beyond, Inc.

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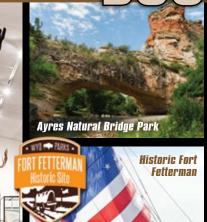
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