

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

— Dusty Backer, Backer Bees

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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.



2021



J U N E

16 | CENTERPIECE

Mountain Meadow Wool puts local wool on the map

BY ELIZABETH SAMPSON

PHOTOS BY LANNA WING

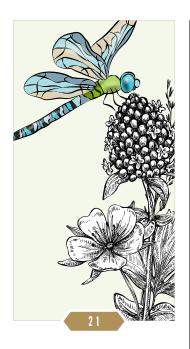
Cover Photo: Mountain Meadow Wool buys local products, including fleece from these Rambouillet sheep on the Camino and Son Ranch in Buffalo.

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ESSAYS & ANECDOTES

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STATE NEWS & EVENTS

THE CURRENT

COWBOY STATE BUZZ

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Life and Death in the West

So I got a hard time (all in good fun) about my poem last month from one of my son's teachers who gets the WREN, so I thought I would stick with the WREN theme this year of Life out West and write about a few road trips I've taken lately where I've witnessed life and death in the West.

Because of COVID last year, there were no co-op annual meetings to attend or in person legislative meetings held around the state, so my travel was severely restricted. This wasn't all that bad because it gave me more time at home with my family, but on the other hand I really missed the road and traveling around our beautiful state and visiting the extended cooperative family.

The past few weeks, between co-op meetings, traveling to my kids' sporting events and, sadly, a funeral, I have put on a lot of miles. I have seen some beautiful country from the back roads, witnessed the grass turn green seemingly overnight and seen more "baby cows and baby sheep"—as my daughter likes to call them—than in years past.

On one trip I was happy to be able to spend some time with the good folks from Garland Light & Power at their annual meeting and then had to make my way down to Jackson, so I decided to go through Yellowstone. However, I didn't know that the Cooke City-Beartooth Pass was still closed, so I had the pleasure of driving the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway twice, and it truly was a pleasure. While I wasn't one of the first cars into the park from the east entrance (because of my detour), life in Yellowstone on the opening day of the east entrance was amazing. Very few people, wildlife everywhere and the park still covered in a blanket of snow.

The following week I was back up in the Bighorn Basin for a meeting in Meeteetse with folks from the Big Horn Rural Electric Company. Again it was a great drive and wonderful to visit with the folks from the area and see the beauty of our state. Unfortunately on that trip I got word that long-time WREA and High Plains Power director Hearley Dockham had passed away.



SHAWN TAYLOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

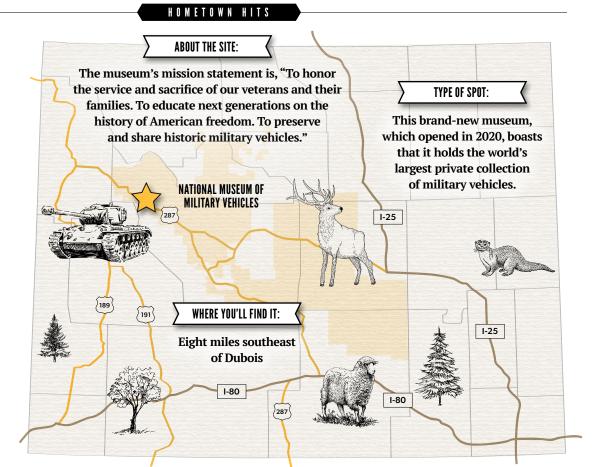
Hearley was a sheep farmer from the small town of Pavillion about 25 miles northwest of Riverton, in the heart of the Wind River Indian Reservation. While it was a somber reason to make the trek up there I laughed to myself thinking about Hearley sitting up in heaven with my dad, complaining about me taking the back roads, and my dad telling him to chill out.

It might seem odd to call a funeral cool but Hearley's service, or celebration of life, was one of the neatest services I've been to. It was held in the Pavilion rodeo arena (which I learned Hearley was instrumental in helping build), the weather was beautiful and his casket was brought in on a horse-drawn wagon and parked in the center of the arena. A couple of friends told some funny stories about Hearley and then the pastor gave one of the most moving tributes I've heard. The service was wrapped up by the pastor singing an original song that brought the place to tears, both out of sadness for the loss of Hearley and because it was just a fitting tribute to a great man.

I was sitting there wishing that every politician back in D.C. should be there to see how we celebrate people's lives out here in the West, despite maybe having differing opinions.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF MILITARY VEHICLES



PHOTOS BY JIM LEE





Local rancher Dan Starks built the museum to display his collection of military vehicles, which had previously been in storage or rumbling down the street in recent July Fourth parades in Dubois. The museum also has a firearms collection, meeting rooms and a theater.









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- Increased savings compared to gasoline
- Fun to drive because of torque

REBATES FOR YOUR HOME

Contact your local electric co-op or public power district to find out more on available rebates and incentives



THE WREN MAGAZINE WYOMING RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

The official publication of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association

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Publisher: Linden Press, Inc.

- Editorial Team -

Maggie York Kelly Etzel Douglas

Alison Quinn

— Design Team —

Dixie Lira David Merkley Shawna Phillips

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HOMETOWN:

Dubois

HIGH SCHOOL:

Dubois High School

YEAR OF GRADUATION:

2020

COLLEGE:

Colorado Mesa University

MAJOR STUDY INTEREST:

Music

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

THIS MONTH:

High Plains Power nominated Tess Hust, who attended Youth Camp in 2019.

Youth Tour and youth camps were canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Your rural electric cooperative may be taking applications for next year. See the insert in the center of the magazine for contact information.

TESS HUST

WREN: Tell us about your studies and interests.

TH: Currently, I am studying music with a focus on vocal performance and music composition. I love to sing and play the ukulele. I am in three different choirs and I enjoy each one of them as they have helped me grow substantially! Additionally, I love animals and insects and I hope to do something with those interests soon!

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

TH: My hometown has influenced me significantly because we are all so tight-knit. There is a strong sense of community and I've had so many wonderful people help me get to where I am. My family will always be my main motivation. I want to make them proud and I hope that one day I can provide for them the same way they provided for me. Lastly, my friends have also been the main influence on my decisions. They have supported me while also helping me in difficult decisions. I miss all of them so dearly being away at college, but knowing I'll get to see them soon, and see them proud of me, keeps me going!

WREN: What are your plans for the future?

TH: I hope that, soon, in the future, I'll be producing my own music and letting the world hear what I have to say. I'd love to be able to get to a better place financially where I can help my parents!

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 \$146,564.00 since 2015.

27.5K



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

The scholarship's main source of funding has been a golf tournament, which will return 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. Thank you for your help!

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

Annual Meetings Resume for Two Cooperatives

The atmosphere was joyful and celebratory as two rural electric cooperatives gathered for their 2021 annual meetings recently. Bridger Valley Electric Association and Garland Light & Power each held their yearly meeting of the membership, gathering to visit and to vote on important co-op business.

ADAPTING AND LEARNING

Bridger Valley Electric Association met at Lyman High School on April 24. The meeting did not include its usual health fair and vendors, however a handful of agencies, including a local radio station and conservation district set up booths. Board President Kim Charles was unable to preside over the meeting so board Vice President Gary Nix took his place. Nix is also a member of the Wyoming Rural Electric Association board of directors, representing Deseret Power.

"It looks like we are going to survive COVID-19 and I'm grateful for that," Nix told members as he opened the meeting.

Bridger Valley was able to help the community, providing almost \$74,000 in aid to members over the year from unclaimed capital credits, CoBank's Sharing Success program and from other funds, Nix said. CoBank is a cooperative lending institution that works with rural electric co-ops.

Thank you ... for your willingness to serve."



Manager Jud Redden also talked about the pandemic.

"2020 was a challenging year. We learned and adapted," Redden said, noting that they plan to keep some changes but not others.

He explained that, for example, the co-op assigned line crews to work on specific teams to prevent the spread of COVID-19. "It's hard to work with the same three guys for six months," Redden said.

Redden also recognized Bridger Valley GIS Tech/ROW Specialist Randy Mair, who has worked at the co-op for 40 years.

"The benefit of having employees such a long time, and well-trained, is that when a problem crops up they've seen it before," Redden said.

Two seats were expiring on the board of directors and opened for elections. District 3 incumbent Ruth Rees, who also represents Bridger Valley on the WREA board of directors, ran unopposed and was re-elected. District 2 incumbent Jason Haycock defeated challenger Kitty Vercimak.

"Congratulations Jason, and thank you Kitty, for your willingness to serve," Nix said as he announced the results.

MEMBER PARTICIPATION

Garland Light & Power's annual meeting of the membership was a few months later than usual. In most years the co-op meets in March, instead the meeting in Powell took place on May 6.

"I know this is odd putting this off two months, but we wanted to wait a little bit so we could see your faces," said General Manager Molly Lynn, who noted the easing of state health restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Lynn talked about the co-op's financial health.

"Last spring we saw a decrease in residential. We thought everybody would be staying at home and burning lightbulbs and cranking the electricity. It was something we didn't expect," Lynn said.

In Garland's service area, irrigators kicked up and electricity use went back up, Lynn said.

Lynn took member questions during the meeting.

One member asked how Operation Round Up works. Garland just started an Operation Round Up program, which allows members to round up their bill payment to the nearest dollar. The cooperative collects the extra pennies to aid the community.

Lynn, along with visiting speaker WREA Executive Director Shawn Taylor, explained that Operation Round Up isn't for help with utility bills. Another program, Energy Share, helps with that. Garland's Operation Round Up money will be given to local individuals who suffer catastrophic events and to nonprofit organizations.

Members also asked if the co-op could change the bylaws to lower the number of member votes and proxy votes required for a quorum, which was 170. Garland attorney Scott Kolpitcke explained that the number required for a quorum is dictated by state laws. Co-ops must have a quorum so that members can conduct co-op business during the annual meeting.

Tri-State Generation and Transmission Executive Director Duane Highley also spoke at the annual meeting. Highley's speech was short; he explained that Tri-State would not raise its rates this year.

Garland Light & Power had two board of director seats up for election in 2021. The co-op takes nominations from the floor during the meeting, and member Ryan Gorsuch was nominated.

"I would like to serve on the board and help the members of the co-op as much as I can," Gorsuch said. He introduced himself as a local business owner and firefighter.

Gorsuch did not prevail against incumbents Spencer George and Scott Smith, who were re-elected during the meeting. Smith is also president of the WREA board of directors.





• We wanted to wait a little bit so we could see your faces."

- Molly Lynn

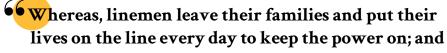


Lineworker Appreciation Day





The governor's proclamation read:

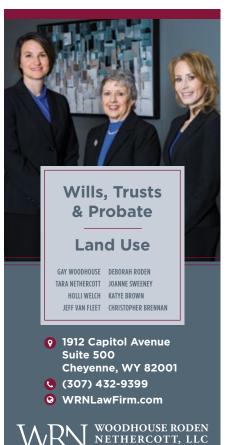


Whereas, linemen work 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep the power on—often under dangerous conditions or in severe weather; and

Whereas, linemen are the first responders of the electric utility family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and

Whereas, Lineman Appreciation Day is an opportunity to thank linemen for their work to keep the power on and the public safe.

Now, therefore, I, Mark Gordon, Governor of the Sate of Wyoming, do hereby proclaim April 12, 2021 as Lineman Appreciation Day in Wyoming.



STATE PARKS TO UPGRADE, **BUILD NEW FACILITIES**

FROM WYOMING STATE PARKS AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

In the midst of the state's ongoing fiscal and economic challenges, Wyoming State Parks has received some exciting news in the form of private grants for major facility upgrades. The Leona M. and Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust recently awarded Wyoming State Parks and Historic Sites more than \$1.7 million for construction projects at Fort Phil Kearny State Historic Site and Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site.

The Helmsley Charitable Trust granted \$1.1 million to Fort Phil Kearny in Story for the Shining Mountains Interpretive Center, providing a spacious addition to the small existing visitor center that will include new museum exhibits and reconstruction of the 120-foot-high flagpole that once stood inside the walls of the historic fort. Wyoming State Parks will also be adding an adjacent outdoor amphitheater for programs and special events.

The Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site near Hyattville, which sits across the Bighorn Mountains from Fort Phil Kearny, will benefit from a \$600,000 Helmsley grant establishing a new cultural and outdoor education center. The facility will feature all new exhibits and complement the existing historic barn on the property. The project is in the design phase and scheduled for completion in the fall of 2021.

The grant funding could not have come at a better time, with Wyoming State Parks seeing a 1.3 million visitor increase in 2020 compared to 2019, boosting total visitation to more than 5 million.

"Even with budget reductions, our agency is looking to expand and improve capacity to manage the dramatic increase in visitation that we saw this year," said Darin Westby, director of Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources. "Partnering with the Helmsley Charitable Trust allows us to be more impactful with our project dollars. We are thankful for Helmsley's generous support, which will provide a boost for local economies by attracting more visitors to the state and keeping them here a little longer, so that they can spend their tourist dollars and head on to their next adventure satisfied with what they experienced in Wyoming."

In recent years, the Helmsley Charitable Trust has made significant investments in improving visitor experiences and educational opportunities at state and national parks in the upper Midwest.

"The Fort Phil Kearny State Historic Site and Medicine Lodge" State Archaeological Site both hold significant cultural and historical value," said Walter Panzirer, a trustee for the Helmsley Charitable Trust.

Medicine Lodge State Archae

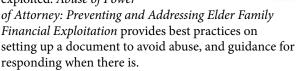
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PHOTOS BY LEAH YETTER

ITC TO HOST LARGE-SCALE **CARBON CAPTURE TEST PROJECT**

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WYOMING

Wyoming's Integrated Test Center will host one of two projects selected by the U.S. Department of Energy for Phase III funding of a large-scale pilot carbon capture project.

DOE announced in April that it has awarded \$99 million to two projects for Phase III of their demonstration of large-scale pilot carbon capture technologies funding opportunity. Membrane Technology and Research was awarded \$51,699,939 from DOE, and with additional non-federal funding, this project will bring over \$64 million in research dollars into Wyoming.

"I am delighted that Membrane Technology and Research has been selected to move forward in this process, and that Wyoming has been chosen to host this important



demonstration of cutting-edge carbon capture technology," Gov. Mark Gordon said. "This is exactly the type of research that was envisioned when the ITC was developed and Wyoming will continue to support these efforts."

"Membrane technology is a most promising version of carbon capture, and now it can move forward to the pilot project phase," the governor added. "This is also an example of technology that, if commercially successful, can be exported for carbon capture projects at home or abroad. The more carbon capture technologies that are available, the more likely it is that Wyoming coal will be an important part of our future electricity supply."

The Integrated Test Center and MTR have been working together since 2018, when MTR selected the ITC as its testing location as part of the Phase II tasks related to this funding opportunity.

"We could not be more thrilled for MTR and we are excited to welcome them on-site as they start working on this next phase of testing," said Jason Begger, managing director of the ITC. "At this scale, we will be able to demonstrate carbon capture technology at a sufficient level to demonstrate to utilities the next step can be a commercial version."

MTR will be operating in the large test bay at the ITC and utilizing approximately 10MWe of flue gas from Dry Fork Station.





CARBON XPRIZE ANNOUNCES WINNER

CarbonBuilt has won the Wyomingbased competition for the NRG Cosia Carbon XPrize. The team, which is affiliated with UCLA, created concrete blocks with a new cement formulation. Winners were announced in April.

The Carbon XPrize is a competition for researchers to invent new ways to use industrial carbon dioxide emissions. Five teams were originally slated to compete in Wyoming for the \$7.5 million prize to continue their research. Due to COVID-19 only two teams were able to come, CarbonBuilt and Dimensional Energy. The other three teams: Breathe, of India; C4X, of China; and Carbon Capture Machine of Scotland were allowed to complete from their home countries. The Carbon XPrize also sponsored a group of five teams to

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compete at a natural gas-fuel plant in Canada; Carbon Cure Technologies won a \$7.5 million prize there.

Both winners were focused on concrete.

"Concrete is one of the world's most abundant materials, and a crucial frontier in the fight against climate change. The production of Portland cement, the key ingredient that binds concrete and gives it its strength, accounts for approximately 7% of global CO2 emissions," Marcius Extavour, vice president of climate and energy at XPRIZE, said in a statement released by the XPrize.

CarbonBuilt, which was originally called CO2Concrete, created a formulation that replaces Portland cement. They use fly ash in the formulation and also use waste CO2 emissions in the curing process. CarbonBuilt arrived at the Integrated Test Center in Gillette in June 2020 and completed their 90-day demonstration there

in September. The team has now produced 10,000 concrete blocks.

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.

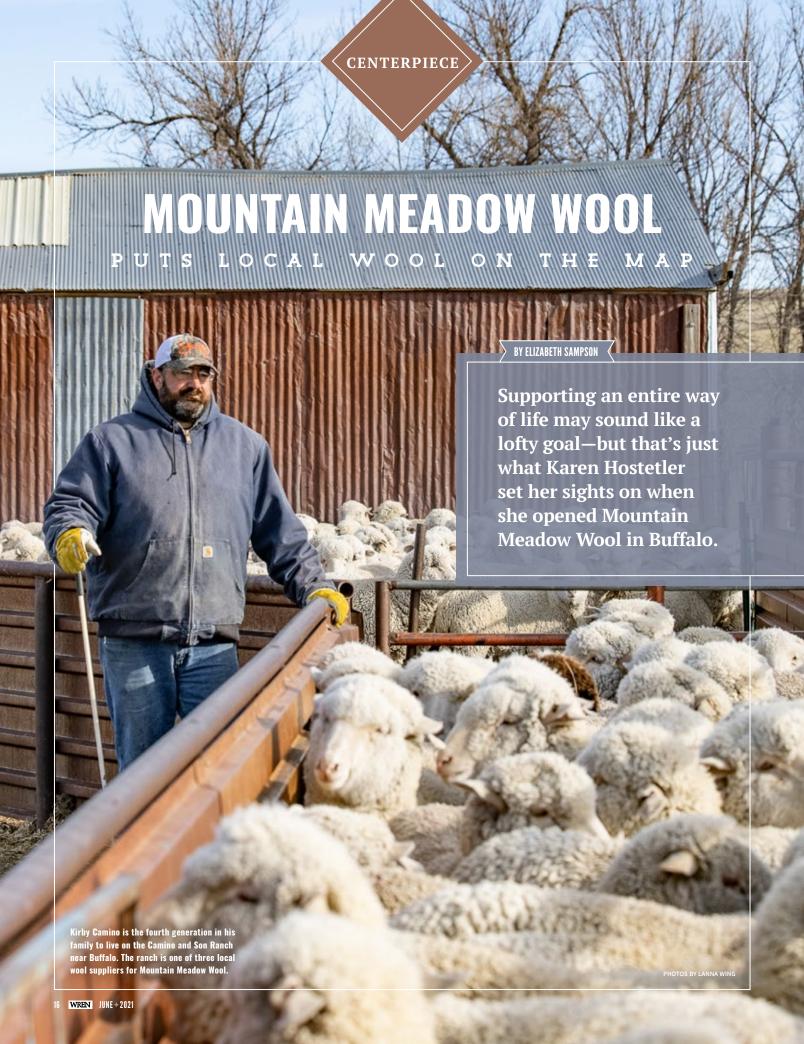
The ITC and Dry Fork Station will continue as a hub for research, as more tenants have leased the space for experiments.



PHOTO BY KELLY ETZEL DOUGLAS



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Originally, Hostetler and a business partner planned to simply open a hobby store that included Wyoming wool products. That quickly evolved into operating a start-to-finish wool mill right in Buffalo where they began making a name for Wyoming-grown wool.

The mill originally only offered a custom processing service, spinning wool into yarn for small farms who wanted to be able to market their own yarn. Very soon they evolved into marketing the yarn themselves by attending large fiber trade shows. There they connected with yarn shop owners around the country who placed orders for Wyoming grown yarn.

"It's never been hard to get wool,"
Hostetler said. "We have wonderful
ranchers who have worked with us
through the years and were very
supportive in the beginning when
we really didn't know much. And
they continue to be supportive."

Hostetler said her original partner is no longer with the company, but her adult children are now part of the enterprise and help the business continue to grow and evolve.

Mountain Meadow Wool continues to do custom processing, but they also sell seven different yarn weights, with names like Laramie, Cody and LaBarge. They have an in-house knitting operation that makes wool apparel and home goods. Recently they began partnering with the University of Wyoming to create custom blankets from the wool produced by the university's sheep.

About 85-95 percent of their wool comes from Wyoming, but they also work with ranches through the Mountain West. Hostetler said they use a significant amount of black wool to create their grey yarn, and that wool can't be solely sourced from Wyoming.

Each rancher the mill works with commits to bringing in a set amount of quality wool, and they receive a monthly payment from the mill as the wool is used. The mill commits to paying the ranchers a set price for their product, even if the price of wool drops.

"When the prices drop we are still going to pay them a minimum amount because our yarn prices don't drop," she said. "It gives them an income throughout the year, and it gives us a steady way to make those payments."

Since their beginnings, sustainability has been important to Hostetler. That starts with partnering with ranches that practice sustainable agriculture.

"We want to be able to tell our consumers we've been out there, we've seen where they pasture, we know what they do, we know how they treat their animals and how they are a sustainable ranch," she said. —

Marjorie Mantle prepares wool for dyeing at Mountain Meadow Wool in Buffalo.



Once the wool arrives in the mill, sustainable practices continue. She said washing the wool that is still dirty and greasy when it comes in can take large amounts of water. When they first started, it took eight gallons of water to wash a pound of wool. Knowing that

They also look for ways to use every bit of the wool they receive. Any fibers that

water is a precious commodity in the

now use just two gallons per pound.

West, they redesigned their system and

are too short to spin get turned into felted wool dryer balls. Anything that comes out of the knitting machine that isn't quite perfect gets repurposed into other items like purses or coffee cup covers.

With the tactile tagline, "Touch the West," Mountain Meadow Wool continues its work to help the region's sheep ranchers make a profit by creating a brand identity for wool from Wyoming and the Mountain West. "It's coming from here; it's coming from western states; it's coming from this ranch," Hostetler said. "You can touch it—you're touching the prairie. You're touching the Mountain West by actually getting your hands on this yarn."

CAMINO AND SON RANCH CARRIES ON TRADITION

Each skein of yarn that leaves Mountain Meadow Wool has a label that tells which ranch the wool came from. Hostetler said originally they labeled the yarn that way to keep track of how much each ranch had earned, but they quickly realized consumers enjoy knowing exactly where the wool was grown.

"It became consumer-driven," she said. "That helps us give a story to everything we sell."







One ranch name that might pop up on the yarn label is Camino and Son Ranch, a sheep ranch near Buffalo. Kirby Camino is the fourth generation of the Camino family to live on the ranch, where they focus on trying to run sheep in as old-fashioned a way as possible.

"We try to handle our livestock the same way they did back then—easy and quiet," Camino said.
"We use a lot of the same techniques for handling them."

Camino said his great-grandfather immigrated around 1906 to Wyoming from the Basque Country—an area that straddles the borders of France and Spain and is home to the Basque people. This great-grandfather worked as a sheep herder before starting his own sheep ranching operation, which his son eventually took over. Camino and Son is now owned by Camino's father and uncle, and he hopes his own children will follow in his footsteps and one day consider making their living there as well.

"The most expensive words in ranching are, 'That's the way Grandpa did it,'" Camino joked. "But after four generations we obviously got something right."

Mountain Meadow Wool's products are labeled with the name of the ranch where the wool originated.

Their sheep graze on mountain pasture during the summer, and then they bring them back down to sort the lambs. They send the wether lambs to a feedlot in Colorado and circle the ewe lambs back into the flock for the next generation. They send about half of their wool clip to Mountain Meadow Wool and sell the other half on the national markets.

The Camino's sheep are Rambouillet, a breed he described as having a fine wool quality and the ability to handle Wyoming's rugged range and difficult winters. He said the breed is also known for their flockability—which means they will stick together for safety while out on the range.

Camino said every decision they make is made with their ewes in mind.

"We are open and keep striving to figure out a better and easier way to do it, but what we keep in mind is the sustainability of those ewes," he said. "If we don't have them we don't have a business."

He noted that like most businesses, the sheep industry was affected by the pandemic. He said a lot of wool from the United States makes its way to China, and last year the wool market took a hit. He explained many producers ended up storing their wool last year rather than trying to sell it, but fortunately those who work with Mountain Meadow Wool were able to move their product.

Camino also said more people became aware of lamb meat last year. When grocery store shelves were suddenly stripped of meat by panicked consumers, the beef, chicken and pork disappeared first. That left lamb, and people who had never tried it before bought it and realized they liked it.

"That's one good thing that came out of COVID-19," he said. ■

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

ROOM FOR MORE SHEEP-BASED INDUSTRY

Mountain Meadow Wool strives to keep growing to continue to help the sheep ranching industry as much as possible. However, Hostetler said there is still room for others to join in to have a bigger impact. The Buffalo mill processes 20,000 to 25,000 pounds of wool per year, but Wyoming ranchers produce about 2.5 million pounds, she said.

"It's a small step, but it's a step in the right direction," she said.

Hostelter would love to see
Wyoming become known as a
textile hub. She said she would
like to see people take on
businesses ranging from weaving
to sock making to wool insulation
manufacturing. She would also love
to see a dye house in the region.

"There's just a lot of spinoff industries that could increase visibility of Wyoming and this area as a textile hub rather than all of it always being shipped to the East Coast," she said.



LITTLE WYOMING Meet the

DRAGONFLIES



Order of Odonata

Dragonflies are members of the insect order Odonata (which means 'toothed-ones'), suborder Anisoptera (dragonflies). Most dragonflies are 2-3 inches long, many are brightly colored, and they all rest with their wings extended outward. Also in the Odonata are damselflies (suborder Zygoptera); they are more slender than dragonflies and fold their wings when at rest.

Bursting out

Like mayflies, dragonflies spend much of their life in fresh water. Eggs hatch in

water, and the dragonfly will spend one to seven years (depending on species) as an aquatic nymph. Then, one day, it crawls up an emergent stick or leaf, bursts out of its exoskeleton, and pumps blood into its wings until they are fully extended. Most dragonflies live only a few weeks or months as adults, dying when winter approaches, if they make it that long. However, there are a few species that migrate long distances to avoid cold. Even then, adults don't live long, and it takes multiple generations to

make the round trip.

In Wyoming, you may see as many as 30 species of dragonflies, depending on where you live. All dragonflies live close to water, and fishless ponds are especially good places to view them. Bring a pair of binoculars for a close-up look.



Designed for hunting

Adult dragonflies are designed for hunting. Their bodies are long and narrow, and their wings long and wide. Unlike most insects, they can maneuver each wing separately, enabling them to rapidly change speed and direction. And they're fast: they can reach speeds of 75 miles per hour! Plus, they have huge eyes, each made up of close to 25,000 lenses, providing excellent vision in every direction. Dragonflies will eat anything they can catch—and they are very good at catching. A single adult dragonfly will eat hundreds of mosquitoes in a day, along with flies, butterflies, moths and other insects that it snatches from the air.



Fience predators

As predators, dragonfly nymphs are even more fierce! Though they lack wings, their eyesight is fantastic, and they move rapidly through water by jet-propulsion. But what really makes them fierce is their jaw-it can extend up to one third of the nymph's body length in 20 milliseconds to grab prey! Though their usual food is insects, often mosquito larvae, they will also

capture and eat small fish.





Aggie the German shepherd.

A Mighty Big Deg

'm forever amazed at the power our pets have to heal and comfort us, all in the face of their own sickness or disease. It seems like they love us so much that they can tolerate a level of pain we humans couldn't even imagine, and they do it without fail or question day after day. There are many patients that hold a piece of my heart and my affection. But sometimes a few stand out.

I met Aggie as a fuzzy and sassy baby German shepherd who came in for her first wellness visit and vaccines. She had made a long trek across the state to her new home. Her family was so excited about this new dog. They love the breed, and when their last one passed away, it was only natural to get another to fill the void. I noticed she was a petite puppy but found nothing alarming right away. The exam was all going well until I listened to her heart: she had a significant and loud heart murmur. With her breed, age and the intensity of the murmur, it was likely a malformation in the heart, one that would not go away with time and would most likely require surgery to save her life.

I discussed what to do for Aggie with her new owner. It was decided to let the little puppy enjoy her best life on Earth until her condition declined too much. The money involved in open-heart surgery was just out of the owner's abilities. Without surgery the prognosis was quite poor. We would finish out her vaccines, but would opt out of spaying her due to the risk of anesthesia and short life expectancy.



Aggie returned for her other visits and was happy and thriving but wasn't growing quite as fast as a normal puppy. The murmur remained and there was no change in intensity. A diseased heart burns a lot of calories so it was not surprising that she was not keeping up with her growth curve. After a few months, I received an update from her owner. Aggie was well over 6 months old now and should have been easily 60 pounds. But there was Aggie, barely 20 pounds with a new remarkable change. She had begun to lose her hair, with no indication of regrowth. After seeing Aggie again I concluded that she was also a dwarf-likely from a disease of the pituitary gland. But her family didn't care. Their tiny hairless German

Aggie really bonded with one particular family member. When her boy was in, so was she. When he was doing chores, so was she. If he was napping on the couch, so was she. He pampered her with a crate over a heater ventany hairless dog's envy. She easily passed what I had anticipated as her life expectancy and then powered past the next date too. At that point I decided that she didn't know she was sick and it would be useless to predict an expiration date. Eventually time did begin

> to affect her health. But it wasn't her heart that caused the problem. Because we opted out of spaying Aggie for fear

shepherd had stormed into their

hearts and wasn't letting go.

of what risks we would encounter with her heart, she was still intact. A very common disease in older intact females is an infection in the uterus known as a pyometra. It is a life-threatening illness; these animals can become septic quickly as the organ fills up with the infection.

The only real successful treatment is an emergency spay. We had no choice now except for surgery.

As I watched her boy hug her tightly before handing her over to me for the procedure, my gut twisted. This wasn't about the dog. This became about that boy, the boy who loved this ugly little dog bevond all measure. I needed

to save this dog for him. The gravity of what I was taking on hit me like a ton of bricks. My nurse and I worked efficiently and quickly and Aggie's procedure went perfectly! Her heart did great and she woke up amazingly. I couldn't wait to update her family who was anxiously waiting. When Aggie went home, seeing the happiness on her boy's face was priceless. That made the challenge and the risk worth it. It reminded me why this job is amazing.

Recovery for Aggie was nothing. She healed beautifully and rapidly and was back to her best life soon. She is continuing to surpass all expectations and has no intention of slowing down anytime soon, her boy is

As I watched her boy hug her tightly before handing her over to me for the procedure, my gut twisted. This wasn't about the dog. This became about that boy, the boy who loved this ugly little dog beyond all measure. I needed to save this dog for him.

too important for that. She is there for him without fail or question day after day. Even though she is undersized and hairless, she is a mighty big dog!

Dr. Megan Beavers is a veterinarian in Farson.



BOOK GIVEAWAY

BUTCH CASSIDY:

The Wyoming Years

BILL BETENSON

DESCRIPTION BY HIGH PLAINS PRESS

Author Bill Betenson grew up on Butch Cassidy stories and has been adding to his storehouse of knowledge since he was old enough to sell T-shirts at the family's tiny Butch Cassidy museum. He's tracked down obscure letters in dusty attics, gone to Argentina in search of records and artifacts about Butch, and listened to accounts of old-timers who knew the outlaw. He's appeared as the spokesman for Butch's family in TV documentaries, most recently "Beyond Oak Island."

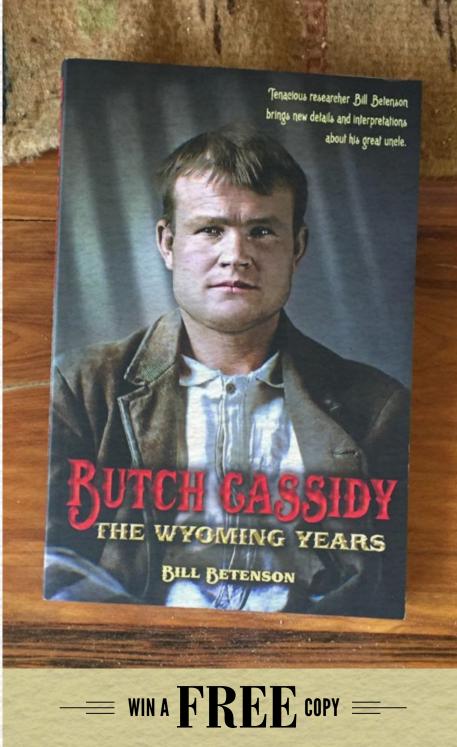
His first book, "Butch Cassidy: My Uncle," was met with enthusiasm, especially in Wyoming, but that was nearly 10 years ago and new material has been unearthed. The book reproduces a seldom seen possible photograph of Butch on a ranch outside of Dubois. It contains copies of the guest registers from the Occidental Hotel in Buffalo where Butch signed in on multiple occasions.

See information about Bill Betenson's upcoming author talk in Dubois on page 34.

ORDERING INFORMATION:

2020 | 192p. | \$19.95 paperback ISBN: 978-1-937147-22-8 Publisher: High Plains Press

Available at bookstores and from the publisher: www.highplainspress.com, by writing to PO Box 123, Glendo, WY, 82213 or calling 1-800-552-7819.



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Address:

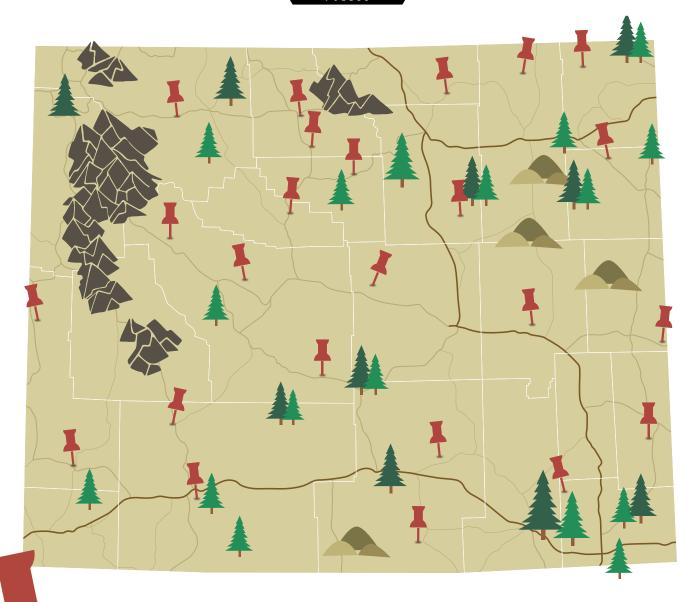
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Around the State

BY KELLY ETZEL DOUGLAS AND DAVID MERKLEY

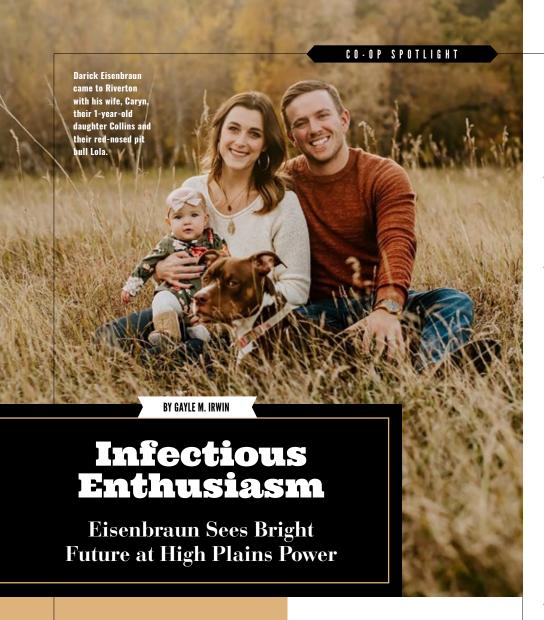
In this month's Pen to Paper on page 29, avid reader Scott Hammond writes about fictional Wyoming towns.

These real towns and places are marked on Wyoming's state map. See if you can find which pin marks the location of each of the 24 Wyoming stops.

TAKE A ROAD TRIP TO PAGE 37 TO FIND THE ANSWERS.

- 1. Aminto
- 2. Bedford
- 3. Clearmont
- 4. Dubois
- 5. Encampment
- 6. Farson
- 7. Greybull
- 8. Hanna
- 9. Iron Mountain
- 10. Jeffrey City
- 11. Kemmerer
- 12. Lucerne

- 13. Manderson
- 14. New Haven
- 15. Orpha
- 16. Pavillion
- 17. Quealy
- 18. Recluse
- 19. Sussex
- 20. Ten Sleep
- 21. Upton
- 22. Van Tassell
- 23. Wapiti
- 24. Yoder



When South Dakota native Darick Eisenbraun learned about the opening for a CEO at High Plains Power last year, he decided to apply for the position. He began filling that role in January of this year.

A graduate of Black Hills
State University in Spearfish,
South Dakota, with a degree
in business management,
Eisenbraun began his career
with electric cooperatives
in his home state after
graduating college. He said
he "stumbled upon" working
for electric cooperatives,
coming to Riverton from
Butte Electric Cooperative
in South Dakota.

While there, he participated in member services and conducted

energy audits and later moved into the chief financial officer position, gaining experience with finances and strategic planning.

"I fell in love with the nonprofit business model,"

Eisenbraun said. "It's really easy to get up and go to work every day when you know what you're trying to do is look out for your neighbor and member at the end of the line."

He applied for the CEO position in Riverton and ultimately accepted the job for several important reasons.

"I was looking for a new challenge and opportunity, and I kind of knew the area from playing football in college with guys from central Wyoming," Eisenbraun said. "The leadership role drew me to the job. I did some research on the company, and when I came here for my interview, I just really liked the company. The Midwest values are important to me and my family, and it's been fantastic."

Searching for CEO candidates

When the High Plains Power board of directors opened the job upon the retirement of Marlene Morss, the co-op's previous CEO, they looked regionally for a new leader, according to board President Mark Park.

"We had time to prepare, because we knew Marlene would be leaving-she said she would

> give us five years, and she did," he said. "But we also procrastinated because we didn't want her to leave. She stuck to her guns."

Park and other members of the search committee sought candidates during the

unprecedented year of 2020 within the Rocky Mountain and Great Plains regions. That endeavor included Iowa and Nevada.

"It's really easy
to get up and go
to work every day
when you know
what you're trying
to do is look out

for your neighbor."

"Utah bleeds into Nevada, and South Dakota bleeds into Iowa," he said. "I was graced with a great selection committee, and I used every expertise I could put my hands on."

He and the committee members considered hiring a firm to search for a candidate but decided not to go that route.

"I thought we could do our own search much more economically," Park said. "I wouldn't do it differently; I think we did well."

They narrowed their search to four finalists, all of whom impressed him and the other "We liked his committee

charisma, his

grasp of current

situations, and the

fact he had done a

lot of research on

High Plains Power."

"When it came down to those final four, that was the toughest [part] of all of it," Park said. "I think any one of them could have stepped to the

members.

helm ... and done a fantastic job. However, we made our selection, and we're very pleased so far with our selection."

Eisenbraun stood out for several reasons, but especially for one primary reason, Park said.

"We liked his charisma, his grasp of current situations, and the fact he had done a lot of research on High Plains Power," he said. "The No. 1 above everything was his enthusiasm. It's not waned one iota—if anything, it's grown. He's a go-getter, and he infects those around him with that same enthusiasm. He has infected the staff with his enthusiasm, and even the board."

Leading High Plains Power

With almost 50 employees and a coverage area of 12,500 square miles in eight different counties, Eisenbraun administers a large electric co-op operation.

"I represent the board of directors, and I manage and oversee the operation of the company. Our goal is to serve our members at the lowest, most reliable cost we can," Eisenbraun stated.

"We make impactful decisions every day, and I get to work with a lot of great people. It's very rewarding,"

he added.

Park believes Eisenbraun's relocation to Wyoming and his youthfulness are positive qualities.

"I think there's going to be a bright future with Darick as CEO. He's looking at it

with a fresh, outside look," Park said. "Plus he has plenty of people to help him with knowledge and history. His enthusiasm and youthfulness and his great desire to always be learning ... are going to serve him well going forward."

Moving forward

Earlier this year, Eisenbraun and the board held a strategic planning meeting, and he has taken time to meet with different employees and some co-op member-owners. More opportunities will come this summer.

High Plains Power's annual meeting is scheduled for July 17, providing an occasion for more members to meet the new CEO. Due to COVID, the event may be held outdoors for safety purposes ... and summer enjoyment.

As he settles more comfortably in his new role, Eisenbraun said he and his family look forward to exploring and learning more about their new home area. His family consists of wife, Caryn, 1-year-old daughter Collins and a red-nosed pit bull named Lola. They enjoy the outdoors, including boating, hiking and golf, which are found in the area.

"We're incredibly excited to be here!" he said. "We love the outdoors, and there's so much so close."

Eisenbraun also has a personal goal for his first year as High Plains Power CEO.

"I want to empower the employees to love coming to work every day and build them up," he said. "I want to create that culture of wanting to be here. We want to be the employer of choice and the power of choice."

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





INTERNATIONAL IRISH CHOWDER

5 LBS POTATOES 1 LARGE YELLOW ONION 1 LB COCKTAIL SMOKIES. DICED **8 CUPS COLD WATER**

3/4 LB VELVEETA CHEESE 1 TSP GARLIC SALT 2 TSP BASIL 1/2 STICK BUTTER MILK

Peel and dice potatoes and onion. Put in large kettle; add smokies. Add garlic, basil and water. Cover, boil rapidly for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally. Broth will be thick. Add cheese and butter. Let simmer to melt cheese. Let cool, add 1-2 cups milk to get desired consistency.

ANNE METZLER ★ RIVERTON

TOMATO BASIL PASTA SALAD

14 OZ PACKAGE FARFALLE PASTA 3-4 ROMA TOMATOES, DICED LARGE HANDFUL OF BASIL LEAVES, CHOPPED 1/2-3/4 CUP PARMESAN OR MOZZARELLA CHEESE **BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE TO TASTE**

Cook pasta according to package instructions. Chop tomatoes and basil. Drain pasta and cool by running it under cold water in a colander. Add tomatoes, basil, cheese and vinaigrette to pasta. Serve and enjoy!

JULIE SCHLAUTMANN ★ GILLETTE

LEMON BASIL CHICKEN

1 TBS OLIVE OIL 1 MED ONION. FINELY CHOPPED 4 CLOVES GARLIC, MINCED 1-1/2 LBS BONELESS SKINLESS CHICKEN BREASTS, **CUT INTO 3/4 INCH PIECES** 2 TBS SOY SAUCE 1/4 TSP GROUND **BLACK PEPPER**

5 CUPS (5 OZ) LOOSELY PACKED BABY SPINACH 1 TBS LEMON ZEST 2 TBS FRESHLY SQUEEZED **LEMON JUICE** 2 CUPS FRESH BASIL LEAVES SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE PREPARED BROWN OR WHITE RICE FOR SERVING

In a large skillet, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion to the hot pan and cook, stirring often, until softened, about 4 minutes. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 30 additional seconds.

Add the chicken, increase the heat to medium high, and let cook for 3 minutes, browning all sides. Stir in the soy sauce and black pepper. Let cook until the chicken is completely cooked through, about 3 minutes longer.

> Stir in the spinach a few handfuls at a time, letting the heat of the pan wilt it as you go. Stir in the lemon zest, lemon juice and basil. Cook and stir just until the basil is wilted, about 1 additional minute.

Taste and season with additional salt or pepper as desired. Serve warm with rice.

NANCY DENK ★ RIVERTON

TOMATO PHYLLO TART

12. 14x18-INCH SHEETS PHYLLO DOUGH (OR 24, 9x14-INCH SHEETS) NONSTICK COOKING SPRAY (VEGETABLE OR OLIVE) 2 TBS BASIL PESTO 3/4 CUPS FETA CHEESE, CRUMBLED 2 LARGE TOMATOES, CUT IN 1/4-INCH SLICES 1/2 TSP KOSHER SALT **GROUND BLACK PEPPER TO TASTE** 12-18 SMALL BASIL LEAVES

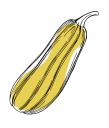
Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Line 11x16 baking sheet with parchment. Lay large sheet of phyllo on prepared pan, evenly, with extra overhanging. Spray lightly with oil, continue stacking and spraying all sheets. Form a rim by folding in edges to fit baking sheet.

Spread pesto over surface of tart. Sprinkle with half of the crumbled feta. Arrange tomato slices over pesto and feta. Season with salt and pepper then add remaining feta.

Bake until crust is brown and crispy, 30-35 minutes. Let cool 5 minutes. Lift parchment onto cutting board. Scatter basil leaves over top. Cut into 24 appetizer pieces. Serve warm.

REE REICH 🜟 BELLE FOURCHE, SOUTH DAKOTA





AUGUST:

SUMMER DUASH



Send complete recipe by JULY 15!

Please include your name, address and phone number.

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My Favorite (Imaginary) • C If you'd like to visit Scott Hammond's favorite places in Wyoming, pick up a copy of a Joe Pickett **PLACES IN** novel by C.J. Box, look for Craig Johnson's Walt Longmire character in books or on TV, or catch the WYOMING 2009 movie "Did you Hear About the Morgans?"

SCOTT C. HAMMOND * PROVO. UTAH

'm not lucky enough to live in Wyoming, but I visit regularly. My favorite three places in Wyoming are Saddle String, Durant and Ray.

Saddle String is in Twelve Sleep County, Wyoming and was made famous by the C.J. Box mystery series featuring Joe Pickett. To get there, you travel east from Salt Lake City, or west from Denver along I-80 till you hit about the middle of the state. Then turn north and follow the signs. When you get to Winchester, turn north. Somewhere near the Bighorn Mountains you will find the small, typical Wyoming town with half of the main street businesses boarded up. The Twelve Sleep river flows through town, and the world orbits around fishing, hunting and cattle.

When I visit Saddle String, I bypass the golf resorts and dude ranches, and I enjoy one of several watering holes in the three block, downtown area. It's fun to sit there and listen to the locals talk about the inept sheriff, the corrupt mayor and the down-to-earth game warden named Joe Pickett who seems to solve all the real crime. One caution: in my calculation Twelve Sleep County has a murder rate 80 times the national average, and twice that of the worst neighborhood in Chicago.

After a stay in Saddle String, then it's time to head on over to Absaroka County and the beautiful little town of Durant. Strangely, that part of Wyoming looks a lot like New Mexico, and the center of town bears a striking resemblance to the town square in Santa Fe. It's best to approach Durant on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation side so you can stop at Henry's Red Pony and partake of one of the best hamburgers this side of the Mississippi. Don't bother with Jason Whitehorse's Casino. It's kinda run down now, but it also has the only paved parking lot in the county.

Durant also has a high crime area, but don't let that worry you. If you are not associated with Sheriff Walt Longmire, then you are unlikely to be victimized. It seems like his friends

and acquaintances are the ones who are always taking a bullet or a shovel to the head. Longmire has been sheriff of Absaroka County ever since Craig Johnson wrote him into existence in 2004. His old Ford Bronco can often be seen parked outside the store front on the town square that serves as a jail.

Finally, take the north fork going out of Durant, head northeast for a couple of hours, and you will come to the wonderful little town of Ray, Wyoming, made famous by the 2009 movie "Did You Hear About the Morgans." Ray looks an awful lot like southern Canada, but that said, people in Wyoming are friendly, even towards strangers from New York City, and Utah.

Ray is the home of the perpetual rodeo, and rumor has it that the last person to be run out of town donated 10 dollars to PETA. I personally like Ray because it is a place where you can really get lost.

We have a cabin in a northeast corner of Utah called Christmas Meadows. Bridger Valley Electric Association gives us power, so I'm sure not all of great places in Wyoming are imaginary.

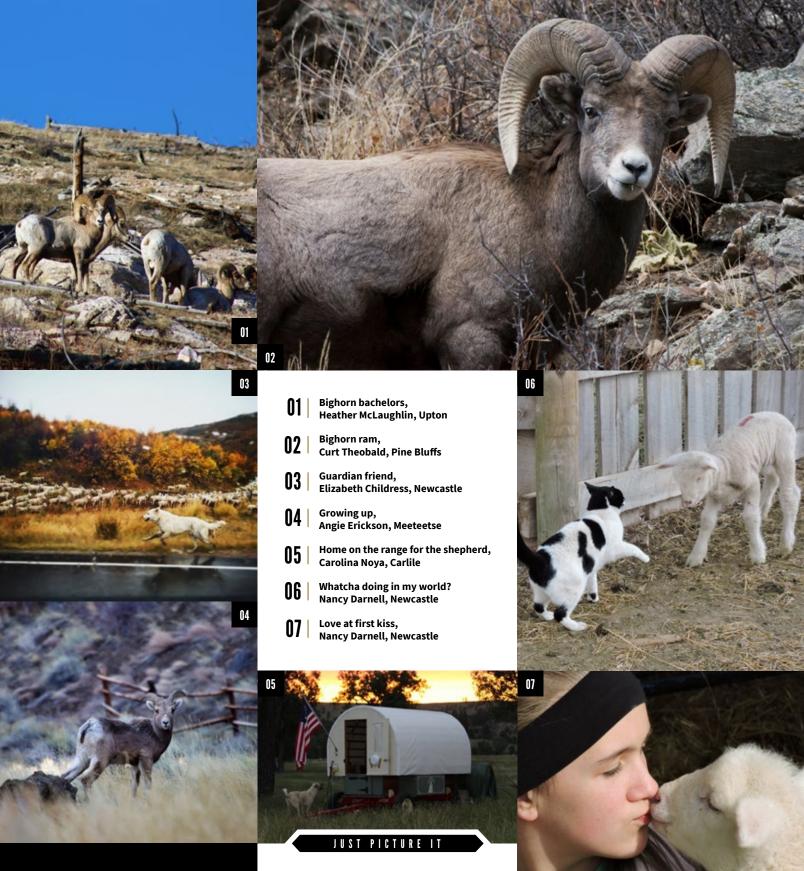
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Put Your Pen to Paper!

Please include your name, address, and phone number.

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THIS MONTH:

SHEEP

AUGUST (DUE JULY 15):

FOREST





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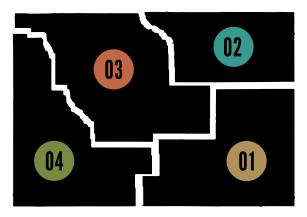
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Please include your name, hometown and a title.

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.

>>> WHAT'S HAPPENING REGIONAL MAP →





MYSTERY SHEEP TRAP TREK

JULY 13 ★ 9A-3P

Although the exact location is never known until a couple weeks from the date, organizers from the National Bighorn Sheep Center and Dubois Museum promise that the scenery will be beautiful, there will be difficult hiking up and down steep hills and high clearance 4x4 vehicles and carpooling will be necessary.

\$10, advance registration required.

Call 307-455-2284 for registration and information.

NORTHWEST

*

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

01 SOUTHEAST

CENTENNIAL

JULY 2-4

Library Book Sale: 11a-4p, \$2 per bag Sun. Info 307-745-8983.

IIIIY 3-4

Centennial Valley Art Show and

Sale: Works by 30 local and regional artists. 9a-6p Sat, 9a-4p Sun. Nici Self Museum, free, info 307-745-9322, frogpt@yahoo.com.

CHUGWATER

JULY 16-17

Chugwater Music Fest: Live

entertainment, vendors. 10a-5p each day. Songwriting contest for \$500 prize takes place 4p Sat. Chugwater Municipal Park, \$20 day, \$10 children, info 307-331-9298.

ENCAMPMENT

JULY 16-18

Grand Encampment Cowboy

Gathering: Western entertainment, cowboy poetry and music, cowboy church, food, dance and more. Grand View Park, free, info 307-327-5465.

LARAMIE

JULY 10

Laramie Brewfest: Local and regional brews, live music. 1p, Depot Park, \$45, \$40 in advance. Info 307-760-3355, laramiemainstreet.org.

JULY 17

Albany County CattleWomen Ranch

Tour: View historic area ranches. Meet at Wyoming Territorial Prison Historic Site 8a, departure at 9a. Advance registration required, info 307-760-5590, 307-745-5116.

SARATOGA

JULY 3-4

Festival of the Arts: Platte Valley Community Center, info 307-327-8187.

IIIIY 24

Sleuthing with Joe Pickett: Saratoga Museum event for C.J. Box fans with dinner, raffles, trivia and auction. First prize pays \$450. Bottle Bar Art Studio, 110 Bridge Street. \$30, info 307-710-3226.

WHEATLAND

JULY 9-10

Blue Mountain Car Show:

Restored cars and lots of entertainment throughout historic downtown Wheatland. Info 307-322-9838.

02 | NORTHEAST

CLEARMONT

JULY 17-18

SageRidge Ranch Workshop:

Fiber, meditation, food, camping, info 307-217-2594, sageridge.net.

MOORCROFT

JULY 9-10

Jubilee Days: Chuckwagon breakfast, parade, barbecue, street dance, kids' events. Ranch rodeo 8p Fri. Various locations around town. Info 307-756-9300, 307-761-2700.

ONGOING

West Texas Trail Museum: Now open year-round 9a-5p, Mon-Fri. Open Sat June to August. Info 307-756-9300.

NEWCASTLE

JULY 23

Weston County Fair: Rodeos, bbq, carnival and more. Free admission.

JULY 27

Mini Roughstock Rodeo: For kids 4-18. 6p, info 307-746-9256.

PINE HAVEN

JULY 3

Fireworks over Keyhole Reservoir:

Town of Pine Haven and the Pine Haven Volunteer Fire Department host event. 9p, Donations accepted, info 307-756-9807.

SHERIDAN

JULY 13-18

Sheridan WYO Rodeo: PRCA rodeo, parade, high-speed bed races, carnival, street dances and more. Info 307-675-9963, sheridanwyorodeo.com.

UPTON

JULY 16-18

Upton Fun Days: Golf tournament, kids rodeo, games in the park, buffalo burgers at Old Town, parade, fly-in at the airport and more, info 307-391-0346.

03 NORTHWEST

CASPER **JULY 9-17**

Central Wyoming Fair and Rodeo:

Pancake breakfast, kid's activities, carnival, demolition derby, PRCA rodeo starts July 13. Info 307-235-5775.

CODY

JULY 1-4

Cody Stampede Rodeo: PRCA rodeo, Stampede Park, info 307-587-5155.

50th Anniversary Wild Horse and Burro

Act: 1-3p, at the FOAL Klosk on Hwy 14-16-20, 27 miles east of Cody. Free, info friendsofalegacy.org.

DUBOIS

JULY 4

July 4 Celebration: Kiwanis children's games & prizes, 10:30a, Dubois Town Park. Parade, rodeo, ice cream social and fireworks at various locations. Info 455-2556. duboiswyomingchamber.org, Kiwanis event info 307-455-2243.





JULY 8

Rising and Falling Mountains:

Speaker from Kansas State University explains geologic processes in the greater Yellowstone region. 7p, Dubois Museum, free, info 307-455-2284, fremontcountymuseums.com.

JULY 17

Dubois Museum Day: Games, vendors and reenactors, museum tours at annual fundraiser for the Dubois Museum, 11a-2p. Highlights include flint knapping at Dennison Lodge from 11a-2p, raptor demonstration at 2p, and Yellowstone Army soldier talk at 2p. Info 307-455-2284, fremontcountymuseums.com.



JULY 22

Butch Cassidy: Author Bill Betenson will speak about Butch's time in Wyoming. 7p, Dubois Museum, info 307-455-2284, fremontcountymuseums.com.

JULY 23

History Happy Hour: A 20th century ice-craze and quest for chilled beverages changed the American cocktail. Tastings for 21 and older. 6p, Dubois Museum, \$20, info 307-455-2284, fremontcountymuseums.com.

JULY 25

Cowboy Church: Celebrate National Day of the Cowboy. Coffee, biscuits and gravy 8a, music and message 9a. Clarence Allison Rodeo Arena, info 307-851-2712, 307-851-2565.

JULY 31

Fly-In and Community Aviation

Day: Hot air balloon tethered rides, Kiwanis pancake breakfast 6:30-10a, concessions, local and county vendors, aviation-oriented trainings, seminars and more. 6a–1p, info 303-250-5155. Pancake breakfast info 307-455-2243.

LANDER

JULY 4

Pioneer Days: Rodeo July 3-4, July 4 events include parade, fireworks, kid's events, food, half-marathon and more. Info 307-349-8070, landerchamber.org.

JULY 8

Esther Hobart Morris, The Unblemished Story of the Nation's First Female Judge:

Author Kathryn Swim Cummings to speak, 7p, Pioneer Museum, free, info 307-332-3339, fremontcountymuseums.com.

JULY 15

Lester Hunt: The Wyoming Governor from Lander: Author Charlotte Dehnert will speak about the Democratic Governor, his story and his legacy. 7p, Pioneer Museum, free, info 307-332-3339.

JULY 15-18

International Climber's Festival:

Brewery tour, trade fair, trail run, film festival, yoga, live music, art crawl, writer's clinic and world-class rock climbing. Info 307-332-3892, climbersfestival.org.

JULY 24

Family Name Plates: Children create customized family plaques in the shape of Wyoming symbols. 1-3p, Pioneer Museum, \$4, registration required 307-332-3339.

JULY 24

Riverfest Art & Music Festival in the Park: Artist booths and demos, live music, kid's activities, food and spirits. \$5, 12 and under free. Info 307-332-5772, landerartcenter.com.

MEETEETSE

IIIIY 9

Prairie Wildfire Concert: Bluegrass band from Buffalo, Wyoming to perform on Meeteetse Museums' lawn. 6p, free, info programs@ meeteetsemuseums.org.

JULY 31

Double Dee Tour: Meeteetse Museums' annual tour of historic ranch. Meet at the museums in town. High clearance vehicles encouraged. 8:30a, info programs@meeteetsemuseums. org or 307-868-2423.



Send complete information by **JULY 15!**

We are updating the event dates for the What's Happening section. Please send events occurring in September.

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

Photos are always welcome.



Look for more events at wyomingrea.org/news.

QUESTIONS & SUBMISSIONS:

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

RIVERTON

JULY 10

Riverton Happy Days: Vendors, crafters and artisans, food trucks, games and activities for all, local talent and more. 8a-3p, info GoRiverton.com.

JULY 16-18

Riverton Rendezvous Balloon Rally: Balloon glow, tethered balloon rides, car cruise, fireworks, food and more. Info rivertonrendezvous.com.

JULY 17

STEM/STEAM DAY: Learn about science, technology, engineering, the arts and mathematics. 2-4p, Riverton Museum, \$5, reservations required, 307-856-2665.

ONGOING

Farmers' Markets: Wednesday

Farmers' Market 5-7p at Riverton City Park, info 307-851-8712. **Saturday** Fremont County Master Gardeners' Market 9-11a, Riverton City Hall parking lot, info 307-851-7562.

SOUTH PASS CITY

JULY 10-11

Gold Rush Days: Gold panning, reenactments, live music, bake sale, anvil blasting, tours of the Carissa Mine & Mill and more. Fireworks 10p Sat. Info 307-332-3684.

JULY 31

Paint the Town Red:

Historical cocktails in a historic saloon with live music. 6:30-8:30p. Reservation required, \$50. Info 307-332-3684, southpasscity.com.

04 SOUTHWEST

ROCK SPRINGS JULY 30-31

Red Desert Roundup Rodeo:

Parade, PRCA rodeo, muttonbusting, cash scrambles, live music. Sweetwater Events Complex, info 307-362-3771, rdrrodeo.com.

I wonder what he's thinking



saw him standing behind the barn, out of the coolness of the early morning breeze, soaking up the sun's first promises of a warmer spring day. His eyes were half closed, his lower lip sagged just a little as he stood as horses do, hip-shot and relaxed in the early morning sun. His registration papers say that this will be his 24th year, although you wouldn't know it by looking at him just standing there all haired up and fat. Now, I'm usually in a hurry to do my few morning chores so I can move on to the first project on my to-do list for the day, but as I stood there taking in the scene I had a sense of owing him this moment. I leaned back against the barn, felt the sun's warmth on my own being and shared with him this small space in time. As I studied him, I found myself wondering "what's he thinking?"

Is the morning sun triggering memories of warm summer days long ago, when he was running carefree and pestering his mother, as the miracles of life unfolded for a newborn colt in the pastures of Utah, from whence he came? Perhaps he's remembering the first touch of mankind, the continued patient guidance of that touch and the feeling of his life changing as he transitioned from being that carefree colt and into the useful working cow horse that his breeding and training destined him to be.

Maybe he's thinking back on the day that I'd bought him and loaded him into the trailer, driving off to start his new life and the lasting partnership we eventually formed. He might be thinking with pride of the hundreds of cattle we've gathered and trailed, the many brandings we've worked together where his willingness to settle into the task of dragging calves to the branding fire in his steady and easygoing way set him apart from so many others.

Knowing him like I do, I figure he's probably laughing to himself as he thinks about all the times he leaned heavily on me as I huffed, puffed and sweated under his weight while struggling to tack on a new set of shoes. I'd bet he knows that I know ... he did that on purpose. Or perhaps he's reminiscing the pleasure he seemed to relish out of timing a loud snort in the branding pen and scattering the calves, just as I was about to throw a for certain "perfect" loop.

Possibly, he's just be letting his mind wander back to the solitude and wildness of the mountain trails we've ridden, the panoramic vistas we shared on high mountain passes, the ring of his horseshoes on rock, and the rhythmic sounds of the pack string as they trailed along behind us. Is he recalling the

bugles of elk on the ridgetops as he grazed in the meadows far below? Is he hearing the lonesome brays of the pack mules back in camp, when we rode out to hunt as the eastern sky was showing just a smidgen of pink?

Is he thinking he's about had enough of this winter's hay, and that maybe the sun's promise of warmer days ahead has him contemplating the taste of the green grass that he knows is on its way? Does he think about how there's a stiffness in his joints on cold mornings and that he now travels at a gait befitting of his age? Is he thinking he's OK with getting old, and except for a few rides that the grandkids might steal off him, he's alright with the knowledge that he's pensioned and is no longer called upon to saddle up for a long work day? Or is he sad, thinking how much he misses it?

Is he aware that he was one of the good ones and that he's part of the heartfelt sorrow that centuries of horsemen have suffered when they see that another of the good ones has gotten old? Does he have any inkling of how much I'll miss him when he's gone?

It began to dawn on me, that so much of what I wondered about the thoughts he may be having actually trail along those that pertain to me. The stiff joints on cold mornings, my slower pace, how it's getting harder to reach the stirrup on tall horses and my more frequent recollections of memories and thoughts of the past. Like him all the signs are there, I'm just plain getting ... old.

I'm not sure how long I stood there, but as if on cue, he turned to me with a look of understanding that made me realize that maybe ... just maybe, in that silent and brief period of time shared there in the sun beside the barn, our thoughts had crossed paths and that he too was wondering, "I wonder what he's thinking?"

Chuck Larsen managed Saratoga-based Carbon Power and Light for 23 years. He now lives in Hulett with his wife, Linda.

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02 FOR SALE

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

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Ltd. Ed.

Wood Stove with all piping, \$500. Email for pics cpm@wyoming.com or (307) 755-4289.

Shaver Outdoor Wood Boiler Furnace.

Aermotor Windmills and parts, cylinders, pipe, rod, submersible pumps, motors, control boxes, Hastings 12 ga. bottomless stock tanks and more. In business for more than 75 years. Herren Bros., Box 187, Harrison NE. 1-308-668-2582.

Wyoming Big Horn Saddle, 15" Excellent condition \$275. Call/email for pics. cpm@wyoming.com, 307-755-4289.

07 WANTED

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Send details to: PO Box 13557, Denver, CO 80201.

We Pay Cash For Mineral & Oil/Gas Interests

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WANTED CJ or Wrangler reasonably priced.

Any condition but rusted. 512-797-1664.

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.

10 MISCELLANEOUS

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

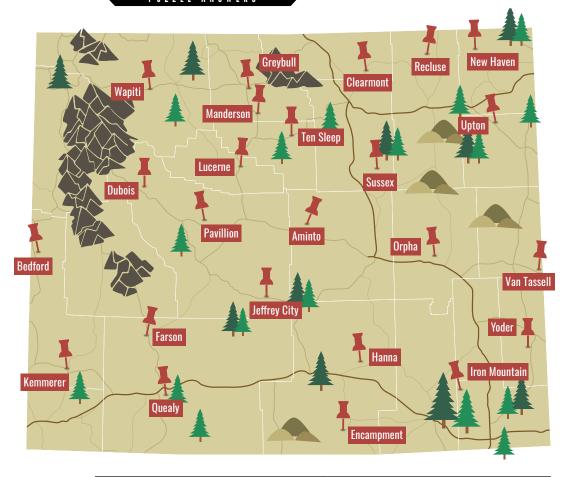
Murphy







Around the State





RATE YOUR KNOWLEDGE! HOW MANY STOPS DID YOU FIND?

> 20

Well-traveled

> 15

On the go

> 10

Could use a few miles

< 10

Stayed at home

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PUZZLE ON PAGE 25

Doctor urges seniors to carry medical alert device

Seniors snap up new medical alert device that comes with no monthly bills

People don't always do what worse, those medical alert systheir doctor says, but when seasoned veteran emergency room physician, Dr. Philip B. Howren says every senior should have a medical alert device, you better listen up.

"Seniors are just one fall away from being put in a nursing home, Dr. Howren said. "With a medical alert device, seniors are never alone. So it keeps them living independently in their own home. That's why seniors and their family members are snapping up a sleek new medical alert device that comes with no monthly bills ever," he said.

Many seniors refuse to wear old style help buttons because they make them look old. But even lect areas.

tems come with monthly bills.

To solve these problems Universal Physicians, a U.S. company went to work to develop a new, modern, stateof-the-art medical alert device. It's called "FastHelp™" and it instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

"This slick new little device is designed to look like the pagers doctors wear every day. Seniors love them, because it actually makes them look important, not old," Dr. Howren said.

FastHelp is expected to hit store shelves later this year. But special newspaper promotional giveaways are slated for seniors in se-



■ NO MONTHLY BILLS: "My wife had an old style help button that came with hefty bills every month and she was embarrassed to wear it because it made her look old," said Frank McDonald, Canton, Ohio. "Now, we both have FastHelp™, the sleek new medical alert device that our grandkids say makes us look 'cool' not old," he said. With FastHelp, seniors never have to worry about being alone and the best part is there are no monthly bills ever.

Seniors born before 1956 get new medical alert device with no monthly bills ever

It's just what seniors have been waiting for; a sleek new medical alert device with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help with just the push of a button for a one-time \$149 price tag that's a real steal after today's instant rebate

The phone lines are ringing off the hook.

That's because for seniors born before 1956, it's a deal too good to pass up.

Starting at precisely 8:30am this morning the Pre-Store Release begins for the sleek new medical alert device that comes with the exclusive FastHelp™ One-Touch E 911 Button that instantly connects you to unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

"It's not like old style monitored help buttons that make you talk to a call center and only work when you're at home and come with hefty bills every month. FastHelp comes with state-of-the-art cellular embedded technology. That means it works at home or anywhere, any-



■ FLYING OUT THE DOOR: Trucks are being loaded with the new medical alert devices called FastHelp. They are now being delivered to lucky seniors who call the National Rebate Center Hotline at 1-866-964-2952 Ext. HELP2764 today. Everyone is calling to get FastHelp, the sleek new medical alert device because it instantly connects you to unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

(Continued on next page)

time cell service is available whether you're out watering the garden, driving in a car, at church or even hundreds of miles away on a tour or at a casino. You are never alone. With just a single push of the One-Touch E Button you instantly get connected to free unlimited help nationwide with no monthly bills ever," said Jack Lawrence, Executive Director of Product Development for U.S. based Universal Physicians.

"We've never seen anything like it. Consumers absolutely love the sleek new modern design and most of all, the instant rebate that practically pays for it and no monthly bills ever." Lawrence said.

FastHelp is the sleek new medical alert device with the best of combinations: a quality, high-tech engineered device that's also an extremely great value because there are no monthly bills ever.

Better still, it comes with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever – which makes FastHelp a great choice for seniors, students and professionals because it connects to one of the largest nationwide networks everywhere cell service is available for free.

And here's the best part. All those who already have an old style monitored medical alert button can immediately eliminate those monthly bills, which is why Universal Physicians is widely advertising this announcement nationwide.

"So if you've ever felt a medical alert device was too complicated or expensive, you'll want to get FastHelp, the sleek new medical alert device with no monthly bills," said Lawrence.

The medical alert device slugfest was dominated by two main combatants who both offer old style monitored help buttons that come with a hefty bill every month. But now Universal Physicians, the U.S. based heavyweight, just delivered a knockout blow sending

the top rated contenders to the mat with the unveiling of FastHelp. It's the sleek new cellular embedded medical alert device that cuts out the middleman by instantly connecting you directly to highly trained 911 operators all across the U.S. There's absolutely nothing to hook-up or install. You don't need a land line and you don't need a cell phone. Everything is done for you.

"FastHelp is a state of

the art medical alert device designed to make you look important, not old. Old style monitored help buttons you wear around your neck, or require expensive base station equipment or a landline are the equivalent of a horse and buggy," Lawrence says. "It's just outdated."

Millions of seniors fall every year and spend hours lying on the floor helpless and all alone with no help.

But seniors who fall and

get immediate help are much more likely to avoid getting sent to a nursing home and get to STAY living in their own home independently.

Yet millions of seniors are still risking their safety by not having a medical alert device. That's because seniors just can't afford to pay the monthly bills that come with old style medical alert devices.

That's why seniors born

before 1956 are rushing to cash in the whopping \$150 instant rebate before the 7 day deadline ends.

So there's no need to wait for FastHelp to hit store shelves later this year because seniors born before 1956 can get it now just by using the \$150 instant rebate coupon printed in today's newspaper before the 7-day deadline ends. If lines are busy keep trying, all calls will be answered.

HOW TO GET IT:

► IF BORN BEFORE 1956: Use the rebate coupon below and call this Toll-Free Hotline: 1-866-964-2952 EXT. HELP2764

▶ **IF BORN AFTER 1956:** You cannot use the rebate coupon below and must pay \$299 Call: 1-866-964-2955 EXT. HELP2764

THE BOTTOM LINE: You don't need to shop around. We've done all the leg work, this deal is too good to pass up. FastHelp with the instant rebate is a real steal at just \$149 and shipping and there are no monthly bills ever.

PROS: It's the sleek new medical alert device that comes with the exclusive FastHelp One-Touch E 911 Button that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts or deposits. It connects you to the vast available network of cellular towers for free and saves seniors a ton of money because there are no monthly bills ever making this deal irresistible. Plus it's the only medical alert device that makes seniors look important, not old.

CONS: Consumers can't get FastHelp in stores until later this year. That's why it's so important for seniors born before 1956 to call the National Rebate Center Hotline within the next 7 days. For those who miss that deadline, the sleek little medical alert device will set you back over \$300 bucks.



P7201A OF22175R-1

FastHelp*

One-touch help. Anytime. Anywhere.

With no monthly bills ever.

EBATE COUPON

EXPIRES 7 Days From Today's Publication Date After Coupon Expires: The FastHelp is \$299.00 plus shipping & handling

\$150 Off



FastHelp, the new medical alert device that instantly connects you to free unlimited nationwide help everywhere cell service is available with no contracts, no deposits and no monthly bills ever.

USE THIS COUPON: To get \$150 off FastHelp you must be born before 1956 and call the National Rebate Center Hotline at **1-866-964-2952 EXT. HELP2764** before the 7-day rebate deadline ends.

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Join millions of older Americans who are rediscovering the joy of walking

"I'm on the move again with my all-new Perfect Walker"!"



For years, I found myself walking less and less. As I got older, aches and pains in my back and legs caused me to stay in my chair, watching TV... and watching life go by. My doctor told me to be more active, and I tried. I tried canes, walkers and rollaters... and I

hated them. Shuffling along, hunched over, looking at the ground two feet in front of me- that didn't seem like a fun way to get around. Then, one day, a friend introduced me to the **Perfect Walker**. Nothings going to stop me now!

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