“Ag Books for Kids” 2021 winners announced

By Kerin Clark

Nearly 10,000 agriculture books have been donated to Wyoming elementary schools through the 17-year span of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation (WyFB) Young Farmer & Rancher (YF&R) Committee “Ag Books for Kids” program. Contests are held each year associated with the book of the year to encourage students to learn even more about agriculture.

In 2021 county Farm Bureau Federations across the state donated 664 “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!” books by Rianna and Sheridan Chaney to Wyoming elementary schools as part of the WyFB YF&R Committee “Ag Books for Kids” project. The students then had the opportunity to participate in a contest to show what they learned about agriculture. The contests included: Coloring Contest for kindergarten and first grade; Poster Contest for second and third graders; and a Marketing Ad Contest for fourth and fifth graders.

According to Raenell Taylor, WyFB YF&R Promotions Sub-Committee Chair, educating elementary students about agriculture is key to our future in agriculture. “Even in an agriculture state like Wyoming we have a lot of students that are far removed from agriculture,” Taylor explained. “We always look forward to sharing our agriculture story with elementary students because they are our future.”

“These contests are a great way for the students to apply what they are learning from reading the “Ag Books for Kids” book of the year,” she concluded.

2021 Contest Winners

Students from across Wyoming were recently recognized for their participation in the 2021 WyFB “Ag Books for Kids” contests. We appreciate all the teachers and students who participated in the contests. We would also like to thank Lexie Dockery, Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation YF&R County Chair, presented awards to Gianna Pavone for winning the Ag Books for Kids State Coloring Contest. Courtesy photo.

Lexie Dockery, Niobrara County Farm Bureau Federation YF&R County Chair, presented awards to Gianna Pavone for winning the Ag Books for Kids State Coloring Contest.

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By Kerin Clark

Electrical grid reliability is vital to the survival of Wyoming agriculture. Without a reliable grid, there is no way to tell if your electric pump for your stock water well will turn on in the morning, if your center pivots will run in the middle of the night, and if you can use most of the appliances in your home. Most all farms and ranches depend on a reliable grid, and it is something we often take for granted.

In February of 2021, we watched from our living rooms and cell phones as power failed across the state of Texas. A dramatic number of accidents and deaths were attributed to a historic polar vortex that swept across it and neighboring states causing numerous power outages.

Most of these power outages have since been attributed to non-weather-related issues.

"30x30 report lacks details" page 9

30x30 report lacks details

--Protecting private property rights and multiple-use of federal lands high priority for Farm Bureau

By Kerin Clark

Big on ideas and short on details is how the American Farm Bureau Federation describes the “Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful report”, also known as 30 x 30.

“AFBF appreciates that the report acknowledges concerns we have raised and recognizes the oversized contributions of farmers and ranchers to conservation while feeding the world. That recognition must carry through implementation,” said Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation President in a May 6 statement.

“The report is a philosophical document that emphasizes important principles such as incentive-based voluntary conservation.”
Helping Young Americans Return to Rural Roots

By Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation President

In times of crisis, our priorities become clear with family topping the list. The pandemic prompted a great migration home for many young Americans last year. As many offices and college campuses went virtual last spring, it presented a prime opportunity for recent graduates and young families to return home and relocate to smaller towns and communities. While only time will tell if these moves become permanent and take root, we now have a unique opportunity to encourage the next generation to plant and grow their lives and families in rural America.

We cannot expect young Americans to stay and build their families and careers, however, if the opportunities in rural communities lag behind our suburban and urban neighbors. Bridging the digital divide is critical to opening those opportunities and access to essential resources, healthcare, education and jobs. That’s why the American Farm Bureau Federation is proud to partner with 19 other organizations, including Land O’ Lakes and Lead for America, the American Connection Corps. This pilot project will place 50 recent college graduates in communities across 12 states to work with local organizations and government entities to help tap into federal and state resources to increase broadband access and connect all members of the community. American Connection Corps fellows will be paid through the program and serve for two years. In addition to their work on broadband access, they will take part in mentoring programs in their local communities, working with young people and empowering them to get involved in and help start local programs and businesses. This is a promising opportunity to bring young people home and encourage them to plant themselves in the local community. You can help spread the word too by encouraging dedicated young folks in your community to apply. The pilot program will begin in communities in Minnesota, Nebraska, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Kansas and Oregon.

If we are going to continue to strengthen agriculture and rebuild our rural economies, we need to create more pathways for young professionals in a variety of fields to return home. Agricultural communities also suffer from a shortage of professionals like veterinarians, whom we rely on to help in the care of our animals but often cannot afford to practice in more remote areas right out of school. Legislative solutions such as the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act play an important role in bridging this gap as well. This bipartisan bill, ‘Return to Rural Roots’ page 5

Research and facts needed

By Ken Hamilton, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President

I doubt that Bill Gates or Colorado Governor Jared Polis reads this column but if they did I would like to provide a few facts that might help them understand why their anti-meat campaign will do little to solve the problem they are accusing meat of causing. The reason is simple. They are blaming meat for a problem (greenhouse gas) it does not cause. They have bought the rhetoric from their environmental friends which is wrong. If they have not heard of Dr. Frank Mitleohner from UC-Davis, they should probably look him up before they launch their next anti-meat campaign.

Bill and Jared, in case you don’t know who Dr. Mitleohner is let me help you out. In 2006 a publication from the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) entitled “Livestock’s Long Shadow” made the claim that livestock, worldwide, contributed 18 percent of the greenhouse gases. Dr. Mitleohner did not think that number was correct. He pointed out that for every $100 of revenue raised, it would lower wages of U.S. workers by $32. In other words, roughly 1/3 of the tax income would come out of wage earners pockets. The study also found that in years one to ten there would be a decrease in job equivalents each year of 80,000 jobs, and over the long run it would result in a decrease of 100,000,000 jobs, again each year. It would have an equally large impact on GDP.

See ‘Research and facts needed’ page 3

Killing the Family Farm

By Todd Fornstrom, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation President

Current efforts to eliminate step-up basis and raise the top tax rate to 39.6 percent would be devastating. In a study done by EY (Ernst & Young) not only would an elimination of the step-up basis have an impact on agriculture, it would also damage other sectors of our economy. The study pointed out that for every $100 of revenue raised, it would lower wages of U.S. workers by $32. In other words, roughly 1/3 of the tax income would come out of wage earners pockets. The study also found that in years one to ten there would be a decrease in job equivalents each year of 80,000 jobs, and over the long run it would result in a decrease of 100,000,000 jobs, again each year. It would have an equally large impact on GDP.

See ‘Killing the Family Farm’ page 9

Calendar of Events

June
1........... WyFB Membership Committee Meeting—Casper
1........... WyFB Board Meeting—Casper
July
9.......... Washakie County Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting—Washakie County Fairgrounds
November
11-13 .... WyFB Annual Meeting--Cody

Visit wyfb.org for calendar updates
Livestock Organizations Discuss Challenges in Cattle Markets


These groups convened at the request of Livestock Marketing Association to discuss challenges involved in the marketing of finished cattle with the ultimate goal of bringing about a more financially sustainable situation for cattle feeders and cow-calf producers.

The group talked openly and candidly about a wide range of important issues facing our industry today, including but not limited to:

- Packer concentration,
- Price transparency and discovery,
- Packer oversights,
- Packers and Stockyards Act enforcement,
- Level of captive supply, and
- Packer capacity.

The group also agreed to take to their respective organizations for consideration these action items:

- Expedite the renewal of USDA’s Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR), including formula base prices subject to the same reporting requirements as negotiated cash and the creation of a contract library.
- Demand the Department of Justice (DOJ) issue a public investigation status report and as warranted, conduct joint DOJ and USDA oversight of packer activity moving forward.
- Encourage investment in, and development of, new independent, local, and regional packers.

This unprecedented meeting brought together diverse producer organizations to identify issues and discuss potential solutions. These issues and action item lists are not comprehensive, due to time constraints of this meeting. Attending organization representatives were pleased to have reached consensus on many issues and are committed to the ultimate goal of achieving a fair and transparent finished cattle marketing system.

Research and facts needed

From page 2

sounded correct, so he set about to see what was behind that number. What he found was the FAO authors utilized a different measure for livestock than they did for other greenhouse gas emitters. When he challenged the authors on this, they agreed and issued a correction of the report. However, even though the number was shown to be inaccurate we still see people using the incorrect number today.

And like every good fictional story, the documentary “Cowspiracy” went one better and said that livestock contributed 51 percent to all greenhouse gases in the world. Dr. Milteohner challenged their information as well and then the documentary producers changed from 51 to 18 percent, which was the inaccurate FAO number.

Here is where I would like Bill and Jared to really pay attention. Out of all the arable land available for food production in the world, two-thirds of it is marginal, meaning that it is not good enough to raise crops. As Dr. Milteohner puts it, livestock, specifically ruminants, can “up cycle” the plants on those marginal lands which can then be utilized by humans. So Bill and Jared by trying to get people off meat you are asking people to let two-thirds of our arable lands go to waste.

The story does not end there however, as many of the crops which are produced for people also produce a significant amount of product which ruminants can utilize but humans cannot. For instance, corn, which is used for human and animal consumption, also produces corn stalks. Humans, of course, cannot eat and utilize corn stalks, but cows can. I am a big almond fan, however, the husks from almonds cannot be eaten by people. Cows can eat almond husks. Dr. Milteohner explains that 84 percent of all livestock species food worldwide is non-edible for humans. As for the remaining 16 percent of crops produced and fed to animals, Dr. Milteohner explains that much of the food is fed to non-ruminant animals such as chickens and pigs.

But Bill and Jared want us to stop eating meat. If everyone in the US was converted to veganism with the wave of a magic wand, it would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 2.6 percent.

Bill, I would hazard to say that all the computers running a program sold by your company contribute significantly more greenhouse gases than livestock.

So the next time you feel the urge to “save the planet” guys, do a little research to see if what you propose makes sense.

New Member Benefit—Elitch Gardens

Introducing our newest benefit, Elitch Gardens. Make sure to visit wyfb.org to receive 50% off on your tickets!

Located in the heart of Denver and celebrating 130 years of fun, Elitch Gardens is Colorado’s only world-class combination theme and water park. This season boasts 102 days of screaming fun. There’s something for everyone, with 54 rides, slides and attractions, including 14 pint-sized adventures for kiddos, thrilling roller coasters and an entire water park. Thrills continue with tons of special events like three dazzling firework displays and our fright fest Halloween Festival! What are you waiting for? Don’t miss the breathtaking views of Denver and Rocky Mountains while plummeting 200 feet on the Tower of Doom or swinging at 17-stories tall on Star Flyer. The park is open April 24th through October 31st.

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A Friendly Reminder

By Lane Hageman, WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee Member (Southeast District)

At this point in the year 2021, if one were asked to sit and make a list of concerns which have surfaced in this modern world, the list may easily turn into a novel. The growing snowball of issues which Americans currently face, has become a tragedy for all living generations as well as future generations. As a cattle rancher in Southeastern Wyoming, a main concern of mine is the future of our beef industry. An industry which has been driven by individual freedom, self-motivation, and private property rights. All of which are being threatened. The importance of standing up and fighting for it, are more important than ever.

Two of the most unique aspects of agriculture are the idea of individual freedom, accompanied by self-motivation. We work for ourselves. For generations farmers and ranchers have been able to adapt to changing markets, new technology, and shifts in demand, all while working for themselves. Niche markets have been the driving factor for many operations. The changes that I see coming, eliminate these niche markets and force producers into the same playing field. Once we are told what to produce and exactly how to produce it, we no longer live in a capitalists, free market society. We no longer work for ourselves, we work for the government. Similar things have happened in the pork and poultry industries. The work ethic that has been driven by individual freedom and self-motivation will be lost when we no longer work for ourselves. Here are some examples; mandating RFID ear tags how BQA certificates for cattle sales, being forced to raise all natural and antibiotic-free cattle, eliminating benefits to smart management decisions and bailing out poor management decisions, and being told we are no longer the experts of our own operations. The reality is, no one knows an operation better than the individual who works on it. These policies, which are only a few examples of many, are nothing other than an effort to hurt the beef industry and intensify the control that the federal government has over the old-time, hardworking, independent, self-sustaining, freedom minded, God-fearing, property owning farmer or rancher.

The third and most important aspect of our way of life is the existence of private property rights. Not only is most of the land these cattle run on private property, but the cattle themselves are as well. Therefore, allowing us to manage them however we see fit. So, the current ballot initiatives in Oregon and Colorado, which criminalize us for doing our jobs, are an outright overreach by the state. Interestingly these people who are behind this claim their motivation lies behind the protection of these animals. These initiatives are not to protect cattle, but rather to eliminate them. When they implement these policies and farmers and ranchers are out of business, there will be no more cattle. This correlates perfectly with the major push for fake meat. Organizations and restaurants which promote these actions/products, need to be held accountable by us as producers and consumers. We need to support those who support us and draw our support from those who do not. Be not ashamed of the product which you work so hard to raise and don’t be afraid to stand up for it.

The next major up and coming issue concerning private property rights, is the 30x30 land grab. (For more information visit americanstewards.us). Not only would protecting this land from production be devastating to farmers and ranchers, it would be devastating to the world’s food supply and would create catastrophic problems. The effort will only shift private property into the control of the administrative state and eliminate private property principles which are vital to our operations. Truly, the only way to uphold our way of life and properly conserve our land is to keep it in the hands of private individuals. We have to say no to Conservation Easements and be very cautious of the several million acres being put in to CRP. If we as producers don’t stand up and say no to these programs, and let our government pay us off one by one, the cornerstone to our operations will be eliminated and we will become dependent on those who simply are not on our side.

I encourage all Ag producers as times continue to change, to hold individual freedoms and private property rights dear. Understand the reasons for your work ethic and self-motivation as we continue to work for ourselves and for the consumer. Be prepared to unite together and disobey these devastating policies which are currently being pushed. The beef industry has shaped an unmatched work ethic and created entrepreneurs. It has taught generation after generation to stand for what is right, persevere in all situations, serve others, and never ever compromise values and principles. Help us to continue to value and uphold our precious freedoms, which are given to us through agriculture. May we recognize all that this industry has done for us, and do everything in our power to stand up and fight to return the favor. God Bless.

Lane Hageman graduated from the University of Wyoming in 2018 with a bachelor’s degree in Ag Business as well as a minor in Economics. He works on his family’s ranch near Ft. Laramie, Wyoming where they run mostly cow/calf pairs and raise horses. He also currently serves on the Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Board.

WyFB YF&R Committee Spring Tour

A great benefit of being a part of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Young Farmer & Rancher Committee is taking tours while at meetings. It was interesting to learn about the year-round agriculture work growing flowers and plants at Sprouts Greenhouse in Lander. Front row: Kailey Barlow, Aletta Ziehl, and Elizabeth Foxworthy. Back Row: Chelsea Baars, Quade Palm, Kelli Hamilton, Tucker Hamilton, and Griff Sprout with Sprouts Greenhouse. Kerin Clark photo.

WyFB YF&R Committee Spring Meeting

The WyFB YF&R Committee met for their spring meeting early May in Lander. Committee members worked hard on committee business and leadership training before taking some time to hike around Sinks Canyon together. L to r: Chelsea Baars, Aletta Ziehl, Quade Palm (back), Kelli Hamilton, Kailey Barlow, Tucker Hamilton. Seated: Bristol, Elizabeth and Taylee Foxworthy. Kerin Clark photo.
AFBF signs onto letter in dissent of circuit court decision

By Morgan Spiro, WyFB Intern

On April 29, 2021 a three-judge panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit decided against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in favor of an argument presented by the League of United Latin American Citizens. The case was brought forward after an attempt by the EPA to continue studying the affects of chlorpyrifos, a commonly used chemical pesticide.

The American Farm Bureau Federation signed a letter on May 4 alongside 40 other agricultural organizations. This letter, addressed to EPA Administrator Michael Regan, highlighted many concerns about the implications of and the precedent decided in this case.

“Agricultural stakeholders rely on the independent experts at the EPA to reach reasonable, science-based and evidence-based conclusions the EPA did in ultimately denying the petition in this case. In its opinion, the court panel inappropriately substituted its own views for that of the EPA’s regulatory and scientific expertise,” the letter writes, “We are gravely concerned how this precedent might impact the approach EPA must take with other petitions in the future.”

The letter concludes that the groups signing would be ready to assist the EPA as appropriate in correcting its actions.

Return to Rural Roots

From page 2

Interested in experiencing Cheyenne Frontier Days?

How about the Last Cowboy Standing? Put on by PBR (Professional Bull Riders), the Last Cowboy Standing will take place during Cheyenne Frontier Days at Frontier Park Arena in Cheyenne, WY on July 26th & 27th. All members receive 15% off. Members must log in to receive discounted tickets. Visit pbr.com for more information.

interested in experiencing Cheyenne Frontier Days?

From page 2

introduced by Reps. Ron Kind (D-Wis.), Adrian Smith (R-Neb.), Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) and Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.) would reduce taxes for veterinarians who agree to practice in under-served rural areas.

Farm Bureau believes that innovation and small businesses also play a critical role in our rural economies. That’s what led us to start the Ag Innovation Challenge and continue to build on its success. This was the first national business competition to focus on rural entrepreneurs, and it’s been inspiring to see how these small business owners rise to address the challenges facing farmers and rural communities. Applications are now open for the 2022 competition, and we are excited to award $165,000 in start-up funds to 10 businesses thanks to our partnership with Farm Credit and our generous sponsors.

As we move forward as a nation to the other side of this pandemic—Lord-willing very soon—I hope that we carry with us the renewed focus on the importance of family and home. I might be a little biased, but I truly believe there is no better place to raise a family than farm country. Our rural communities and economy are critical to the well-being of our nation, and we can be stronger across our communities as we increase our ability to connect and build on our successes together.

United We Steak

What targets consumers in the five most populous states and serves them summer grilling videos so sizzling hot they generate over 9,000,000 video views?

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• Kayson Branby, Crook County
• Nolan Gaskin, Crook County
• Lochlan Gillis, Crook County
Northeast District Winners
• Madison Hodder, Sweetwater County
• Sage Madsen, Sweetwater County
• Mason Suter, Sweetwater County
• Paige Christiansen, Lincoln County
Poster Contest:
• Harper Henderson, Uinta County
• Alonso Perez, Sweetwater County
• Audrey, Lincoln County
Coloring Contest:

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Ag Books for Kids

From page 1

the county Farm Bureau Federations and YF&R Committee volunteers.

County winners were forwarded to the district where three winners were selected.

District winners all received a copy of “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!” and were forwarded to the state contest.

Young Farmer & Rancher Committee
2021 “Ag Books for Kids” State Winners

**Coloring Contest:**
- State Winner: Gianna Pavone, Niobrara County (Southeast District)
- State Runner-up: Audrey, Lincoln County (Southwest District)

**Poster Contest:**
- State Winner: Garret Jolley, Park County (Northwest District)
- State Runner-up: Violet Peterson, Park County (Northwest District)

**Marketing Ad Contest:**
- State Winner: Veltie Mendoza, Niobrara County (Southeast District)
- State Runner-up: Ann Trinh, Park County (Northwest District)

2021 “Ag Books for Kids” District Winners

**Southwest District Winners**

**Coloring Contest:**
- Aubree Morton, Park County
- Elly Samson, Big Horn County
- Teslyn Lee, Big Horn County

**Poster Contest:**
- Paige Christiansen, Lincoln County
- Mason Suter, Sweetwater County
- Sage Madsen, Sweetwater County

**Marketing Ad Contest:**
- Aubrey Boodleman, Sweetwater County
- Peyden Sisam, Sweetwater County
- Madison Hodder, Sweetwater County

**Northeast District Winners**

**Coloring Contest:**
- Nolan Gaskin, Crook County
- Kayson Branby, Crook County
- Meah Williamson, Crook County

**Poster Contest:**
- Hadlee Krell, Crook County
- Luke Halverson, Crook County
- Bailee Fremont, Crook County

**Marketing Ad Contest:**
- Cassie Drowbridge, Goshen County
- Addy Sidwell, Niobrara County
- Veltie Mendoza, Niobrara County

**Central District:** No entries

**Northwest District Winners**

**Coloring Contest:**
- Annabelle Duff, Goshen County
- Avery Kirkley, Goshen County
- Addie Lytle, Niobrara County

**Poster Contest:**
- Ann Trinh, Park County
- Star Potts, Park County

**Marketing Ad Contest:**
- Grace Perry, Park County
- Ann Trinh, Park County
- Star Potts, Park County

**Southeast District Winners**

**Coloring Contest:**
- Ali, Platte County
- Gianna Pavone, Niobrara County
- Claire Feagler, Goshen County

**Poster Contest:**
- Annabella Duff, Goshen County
- Avery Kirkley, Goshen County
- Addie Lytle, Niobrara County

**Marketing Ad Contest:**
- Cassie Drowbridge, Goshen County
- Addy Sidwell, Niobrara County
- Veltie Mendoza, Niobrara County

**2021 “Ag Books for Kids” State Winners**

- **Coloring Contest:**
  - Gianna Pavone, a first grader at Lusk Elementary in Niobrara County, was the state winner of the coloring contest. Pavone received a $50 gift card from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and an agriculture book titled “Better Together… Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!”
  - Audrey, of Lincoln County, was the state runner-up. She received a $25 gift card and an agriculture book. She completed first grade with Mrs. Harris at Afton Elementary.
  - **Poster Contest:**
    - Garret Jolley, of Park County, won the state poster contest. Jolley received a $50 gift card and an agriculture book titled “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!”
  - **Marketing Ad Contest:**
    - Lusk Elementary 5th grader Veltie Mendoza won the marketing ad contest. Mendoza, of Niobrara County, received a $50 gift card from the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation and an agriculture book titled “Better Together... Digging It with Dairy & Beef, Building Healthy Bodies & Brains!”
    - Ann Trinh, of Park County, was the state runner-up. Trinh received a $25 gift card and an agriculture book.

In its seventeenth year, the “Ag Books for Kids” program is a project of the WyFB Young Farmer & Rancher Committee. Throughout the years, 9,465 books have been donated to elementary schools by the county Farm Bureau Federations. The grassroots efforts of the county Farm Bureau Federations who donate the books and help educate about agriculture contributes greatly to the program’s success. The program’s purpose is to build the collection of agriculture reading materials in Wyoming elementary schools and educate children about agriculture and its importance to us all.
WyFB awards nine college scholarships

**By Kerin Clark**

Investing in the youth of our great state as they work to accomplish their academic goals is important to the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. Each year we award $5,500 in college scholarships to nine Farm Bureau members and/or the children of Farm Bureau members.

The Livingston-King Scholarship, valued at $1,500, is given in honor of former presidents of the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, Herbert D. Livingston and H.J. King, as well as Buddy and Norma Livingston, the parents of former WyFB President Perry Livingston. Additionally, five Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation scholarships and three Continuing Education Scholarships are awarded at $500 each. The Continuing Education Scholarship recipients must be an entering college sophomore, junior, senior or graduate student.

**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship**

**Hailey Wehri**

**Livingston Family and H.J. King Memorial Scholarship**

Hailey Wehri, of Newcastle, is the recipient of the $1,000 Livingston Family/H.J. King Memorial scholarship. Wehri will be a freshman at Casper College this fall studying Animal Science. Her parents are Rick and Ann Wehri.

Wehri states she has enjoyed being involved in many different community and school groups. She is an active FFA member having served as a chapter officer and competing in livestock judging. Wehri also participates in FSLA and served as the president of the National Honor Society Chapter. She was a part of her high school's Sources of Strength, which promoted mental health and well-being of students. 4-H and soccer have also played a large role in her activities. Wehri's family has been involved in many community service projects.

Wehri states her organized and driven nature along with her natural leadership abilities. They note her enthusiasm for continual learning and growth is admirable.

**Heather Hokanson**

**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship**

South High School Graduate Heather Hokanson will attend Laramie County Community College this fall seeking a degree in Education. From Cheyenne, Heather is the daughter of Neil and Dianna Hokanson.

Heather plays in the orchestra and is a member of the National Honor Society, Safe School Ambassadors, Wyoming Academic Challenge and her church youth group. Heather notes Farm Bureau Federation has been important to her family for generations. Her grandfather Kenneth Hokanson served as president of the Lincoln County Farm Bureau Federation.

Her recommenders note she is a hard-working young lady who strives to learn and better herself in everything she does. Among her many attributes they note that Heather's presence, leadership and positive attitude are a great benefit to her peers.

**Elizabeth Lunger**

**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship**

Elizabeth Lunger will be a freshman at the University of Wyoming this fall majoring in Molecular Biology and Agriculture & Natural Resources. From Ten Sleep, she is the daughter of Luke & Gabrielle Lunger. Lunger has been active in sports and clubs during high school. She lettered in basketball, volleyball and cross country. At school she has been a member and officer in National Honor Society, Student Council, FFA and AA Club. Elizabeth also participated in 4-H and volunteers as an emergency medical responder. Her recommenders commend her kind and caring nature along with her natural leadership abilities. They note her enthusiasm for continual learning and growth is admirable.

**Lindsie Farver**

**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship**

Seeking a degree in Plant Sciences, Lindsie Farver will be attending Northern Wyoming Community College Sheridan this fall. Farver, of Saratoga, is a graduate of Encampment Schools. Her parents are Tabatha and Mike Farver.

Lindsie has been active as an FFA officer, FCLA member, National Honors Society, volleyball and the school Buddy System. She has volunteered for food drives, trash cleanup and local blood drives. In the community, Lindsie has served as the Woodchoppers Jamboree and Rodeo Queen.

Her recommenders note she is a highly motivated student that sets goals for herself and is also willing to help anyone in need. Her ability to be a creative thinker and persistent worker are noted as attributes that lead to her success.

**Taylor Reynolds**

**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship**

Taylor Reynolds, of Moorcroft, will be a freshman at the University of Wyoming seeking a degree in Psychology/School Counseling. Her parents are Dustin and Heather Reynolds.

Taylor has been involved with a variety of school activities and organizations as an officer and member. These include: Student Council, Secret Squirrel Brigade, FFA, and Family, Career, Community Leaders of America (FCLA). She also served as the state president of the FCLA. In her community, Taylor has been active in 4-H and her church youth group. She also participates in many community service projects.

Her recommenders say her organized and driven personality contribute greatly to her character as a leader. They note her charisma and personality lifts others up and encourages them to be involved.

**Dalton Butler**

**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Continuing Education Scholarship**

Dalton Butler, of Hulett, is studying Aviation/Range Management at Casper College. His parents are J.P. and Bobbi Butler.

In his first year of college, Dalton made the President’s Honor Roll and was a member of the Oil City Ag Club. He has accumulated all flight hours necessary to earn his Private Pilot’s License. Dalton recants participating in the WyFB “Ag Books for Kids” program in the coloring and poster contests as an elementary student. During his high school years, Dalton was actively involved in sports, FFA, academics, Student Council and volunteering in the community. He partners with his brothers in a family sheep business and has received multiple livestock show awards at the county and state level.

His recommenders describe Dalton as a highly motivated young man who has worked diligently at all of his activities. Dalton’s natural leadership abilities along with his dedication to success and ability to be a forward thinker are a few of his many noted attributes.

**Sydney Bell**

**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Continuing Education Scholarship**

Sydney Bell, of Cheyenne, is studying Pharmacy at the University of Wyoming. She is the daughter of Bryan and Pam Bell.

In high school, Sydney was active in National Honor Society, Skills USA and G-team. She is a member of the Cheyenne Fiddle Orchestra, her church youth group and volunteers at the Laramie County Library.

Her recommenders described her as an engaged and motivated student with strong character. Her commitment to the goals she sets while being resolve in living a way consistent with her faith and values are noted as remarkable traits.

**Emily Keiter**

**Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Continuing Education Scholarship**

A University of Wyoming senior, Emily Keiter, is pursuing a degree in Agriculture Education and Biology. From Burns, her parents are Dave and Lisa Keiter.

During high school, Emily was active in FCA, cross country, track, basketball and 4-H. At college she is a member of the Collegiate Farm Bureau, Collegiate FFA, Campus Ventures and Alpha Tau Alpha. She is also a Children’s Church teacher.

Her recommenders described Emily as a person with high integrity, responsibility and ambition. They note her dedication and determination accompanied by her talent and excellent work ethic make her a tremendous leader and student.
**Electrical Grid Reliability**

WyFB awards nine college scholarships

Bryce Freeman, the consumer representative for the Public Service Commission during his March testimony on the subject.

Electrical grid reliability was discussed during the 2021 meeting of the Legislature. Four similar bills were introduced to the House Minerals Committee; however, nothing was ultimately passed through the legislature before the end of session. The topic will move to interim. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation does not have policy on grid reliability.

“This is cutting edge legislation,” testified Randall Luthie of Governor Mark Gordon’s office. He testified and asked that the committee give the bills much “thoughtful consideration.”

Christopher Pettie of the Wyoming Public Service Commission stressed in his testimony that, “reliability and adequacy go hand in hand,” he continued, “Wyoming has enjoyed outstanding reliability and great availability of service at, historically, very reasonable rates.”

So, what will Wyoming decide to do? A state that has provided extensive coal production to the United States for decades should seemingly not have to worry about generation related issues; but some may want to sway the conversation to alternative forms of energy, such as wind, solar, and nuclear.

According to the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC), there is a chance that this variability in power sources could lead to more complicated long-term planning. “There is a place for wind and solar,” says Shawn Taylor, the Executive Director for the Wyoming Rural Electric Association. Taylor goes on to explain that because wind and solar are intermittent resources, there still needs to be a background plan of power behind them for when they are not actively generating power.

Because we are accustomed to the beautifully cold Wyoming weather, most of our generation tools for electricity are already weatherized. Blackouts typically occur here because of transmission issues related to heavy wet snow and strong winds. Taylor’s proposed solution to ensuring the reliability of our own power sources would be getting our lines underground. This expensive task would eliminate the concern related to heavy weather conditions that may affect the integrity of power lines.

**Killing the Family Farm**

Agriculture would be disproportionately affected since farms and ranches are typically held in the same ownership for decades. Elimination of a step-up basis would place a tremendous burden on the next generation which is trying to take over the family farm/ranch. The agricultural population continues to age, and we are already seeing assets from one generation moving to the next. If a farm or ranch cannot afford to pay the increased annual taxes, then the next generation has no choice but to sell the operation.

Capital gains is a tax on inflation. If you consider a modest 2 percent inflation rate from 1997 to 2020 the value of land has increased over 57 percent. If you have inflation of 5 percent, land values can increase over 200 percent in the same time frame. This tax inflation is tremendously unfair to our citizens.

I contacted our Congressional Delegation this spring encouraging them to oppose any efforts to eliminate the step-up basis and increase the rate for capital gains. In our communications I also asked the Delegation to stand against efforts to reduce the estate tax exemption such as Sen. Bernie Sanders from Vermont is proposing in S. 994.

Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation has long advocated for total repeal of estate taxes but efforts to reduce the current levels goes the wrong way and penalizes agriculture disproportionally as a group. Death should not be a profit center for the government.

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CLASSIFIED POLICY:
1) Wyoming Farm Bureau members are entitled to free classified advertising in this publication for the purpose of selling items they grow or make themselves, selling used machinery or household items, for posting wanted advertising. Real estate sales not included. Each member family is entitled to two (2) free ads per month, for 3 months, of up to 40 words each. Member ads will be accepted by e-mail to kclark@wyfb.org or by mail to WyFB, ATTN: CLASSIFIEDS, P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073. Please include member’s name and county.

2) Non-Wyoming Farm Bureau members and WyFB members acting as agents or dealers of products produced outside the member’s family may purchase commercial classified advertising at $0.50 per word, at a minimum of $5.00 per ad. Discounts: 5% for 4 to 9 insertions, 10% for 10 or more insertions. Commercial ads must be submitted in writing, and an agreement regarding payment must be made between Farm Bureau and the advertiser.

DEADLINE:
Ads should be received (via mail or email) by the 3rd Thursday of the month in order to appear in the next month’s issue. Advertisers are asked to check your ad and report any errors. Paid ads must be mailed, typed or neatly printed, together with any payment due, to Wyoming Agriculture, Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 1348, Laramie, WY 82073. Free ads must be submitted by mail or e-mail after running three months. Ads for which there is payment due will run according to agreement between Wyoming Farm Bureau and the advertiser. Advance payment is preferred for first-time advertisers.

NOTE:
The appearance of any ad in Wyoming Agriculture does not constitute an endorsement or approval of the product or service offered. The advertiser is liable for content of the advertisement and any claims arising therefrom against this publication. The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation reserves the right to refuse any advertising not considered in keeping with its publication’s standards.

WANTED
Building log cabin along the Clark’s Fork and want to do the basement walls in old wood. LOOKING FOR OLD BUILDINGS OR BARN OR EVEN AN UNWANTED SCRAP PILE. Anything with a history greatly appreciated. Will disassemble. 253-677-6212

New Members

**Note: (REG) denotes new “Regular” membership

ALBANY
Mary Elaine Aliegow (REG), Laramie; Braidyn Bristow, Erie; James Listen (REG), Laramie; NLRR, LLC (REG), Bremen

BIG HORN
Gerald Buffington, Greybull; Sonda & James Killen, Greybull; Christine & Lawrence Snyder, Basin; Margarita & Terry Triplett, Shell; Alisha & Nicholas Wright, Big Horn

CAMPBELL
Jared Kopp, Gillette; Sauda & Lee Phillips, Gillette; Candace & Steve Kahl, Gillette

CARBON
Mike Espy/ Battle Mountain Ranch (REG), Savery; Tabitha & Michael Farver, Saratoga; Joyce & Pat Jeffrey, Encampment; Sam Sikes, Hanna

CONVERSE
Haley & Jon Bevarnesta, Douglas; Brittany Goodman, Douglas; Kiley & Brian Kocher, Douglas; Terry & Joe Voiles, Douglas; Julie & David Wickett, Glenrock

CROOK
Karen & Bill Barton, Buffalo; Doris & Brad Brei, Beulah; John Eaton, Sundance; Linda Frazier (REG), Sundance; Chris & Jim Maupin (REG), Hulett; Kim & Dave Reed/ Reed Ranch, Hulett; Cheryl & Matthew Stewart, Moorcroft; Cheryl & Matthew Stewart, Moorcroft; Katie & Shane Wolf (REG), Hulett

FREMONT
Rhett Abernathy (REG), Lander; Jeannette Kotas, Riverton; Marta Robert, Lander; Debra & Lee Petersen, Riverton; Frank Schwarz, Lander; Ashley & Patrick Solan, Riverton; Margaret Theiler, Riverton; Cory & Shawn Wagner/ Battle Axe Cattle Co. (REG), Casper

GOSHEN
Tracy Coffelt, Torrington; James Beck/ Muleshoe Land & Cattle (REG), Torrington

HOT SPRINGS
Andy Snooks, Sheridan

JOHNSON
Mike Bunting, Sheridan; Anne & Norman Kittleson, Buffalo

LARAMIE
Laurie & Bernard Codr, Cheyenne; Nancy & Tom Duggan, Cheyenne; Anna & Brodie Eklund, Albin; Daniel Fitzmorris, Cheyenne; Jennifer & Robert Geoghe, Cheyenne; Kristy & Robin Geringer, Cheyenne; Kay & Gerald Jessen, Cheyenne; Luana Lathi, Cheyenne; Jamie Lobato, Cheyenne; Meggan & Vincent McQueeney, Cheyenne; Sandra Nicholas, Cheyenne; Kara & Jack Poppe, Cheyenne; Kathleen Quinn (REG), Cheyenne; Margaret Sewell, Cheyenne; Shannon Somerset, Cheyenne; Kelly Wayne, Cheyenne; Gregory Wilkie, Cheyenne

LINCOLN
Cameron Bird, Cokewide; Karol Clarke, Kemmerer; Vic Kremer, Etna; Brandi & Joshua Limb, Kemmerer; Crystal & Matthew Williams, Kemmerer; Carolyn & Waido Wood, Kemmerer

NATRONA
Jennifer & Brent Bach, Casper; Kerry Carr, Mills; Pam & Alery, Mills; Mark Fleming, Casper; Gregory Hanway, Casper; Amanda & Andrew Higgins, Casper; Chad Hoover, Mills; Ronal Lawson, Evansville; Carol & Wayne Nelson, Casper; Rebecca Sundsset, Douglas; Ryan Wyse, Casper

PARK
William Cramer, Cody; Karen & Lee Elton, Powell; Candiss & Robert Hill, Cody; Leashia & Andrew Paige, Cody; James Pearce, Powell; Kathryn & Danny Peterson, Meeteetse; Lynn & James Sessions, Meeteetse; Sandra Whalen, Cody

SHERIDAN
Vicki & Thomas Benedict, Sheridan; John Boam, Big Horn; Kenneth Carlson, Sheridan; Edward Collins, Sheridan; Pamela & Wayne Gable, Wyoarno; Megan & Gregory Hansen, Sheridan; Steven Holzender, Sheridan; Gerald Kaul (REG), Sheridan; Sarah & James McGinnis, Sheridan; Mandy & Max Morris, Sheridan; Shannon Pfoffenroth, Sheridan; Michelle & Aric Reed, Dayton; Sally & Edwin Roosch, Sheridan; Amy Steel & Daniel Goodwin, Sheridan; Heather & Matthew Westkott, Sheridan; Christopher Wilson, Sheridan

SUBLETTE
Ron Abrams/ Ron & Marina Abrams Trust, Cora; Cole Anderson, Pinedale; Sue Briggs (REG), Pinedale; Amber Olson, Big Piney; Michael Pompy, Big Piney

SWEETWATER
Deanne & Dale Harris, Granger; Brooke & Brian Hunsaker, Rock Springs; Julie Lorg (REG), Green River; Michelle & Jay Lyon, Green River; Susan & Lance Magee, Rock Springs; Brian Mertin, Rock Springs; Justin Neal, Green River; Jackson Ramsay (REG), Rock Springs; Russell Stewart, Rock Springs; Sandy & Ethan Thomas, Rock Springs

TETON
Julia Hugel, Wilson

UINTA
Brittany & Jacob Anderson, Loneetree; Connie & Sammy Barton, Evanston; John Carleton, Fort Bridger; David Dennis, Evanston; Dalton Fenus, Lyman; Darin O’Brien, Fort Bridger; Rach, LLC, Kingfisher Bend (REG), Evanston

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WYOMING AGRICULTURE

Wyoming Classifieds

**Note: (REG) denotes new “Regular” membership
Wild Horse & Burro Events

Wyoming/Nebraska 2021

Wheatland Off Range Corral, Wheatland, WY
Grand Opening
June 4-5
(After this event, adoptions will be the first Friday of every month)

Wind River Wild Horse Ranch, Lander, WY
June 5
September 4

Deerwood Wild Horse Ranch, Laramie, WY
June 12

Britton Springs Adoption, Lovell, WY
June 24-26

Cheyenne Frontier Days, Cheyenne, WY
July 23-31

Wyoming State Fair Mustang Days, Douglas, WY
August 20-22

Husker Harvest Days, Grand Island, NE
September 14-16

Wyoming Honor Farm, Riverton, WY
September 17-18

Please come prepared to follow recommended guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

ADOPTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM: Bring home your own wild horse or burro plus $1,000 through the Adoption Incentive Program.
Obituaries

William Richard “Bill” Vollman
August 5, 1921 - April 21, 2021


Bill, son of WR and Flora “Flo” (Brown) Vollman was born as an only child in Douglas on Friday, August 5, 1921. Immediately his parents took him to the family homestead 30 miles northwest of Douglas, an area known as Hyland Loop. As an only child, Bill enjoyed spending time with his cousins, Kenneth, Tuffy, and Iola Taylor. He attended grade school at the Hyland School and went to high school in Casper and Douglas, graduating from Douglas High School in 1939. After graduation he went to the University of Wyoming for one year and then went to California where he worked for Lockheed Martin.

Not too long after moving to California his father asked him to return to the ranch as their ranch hand had been drafted to the war. Three years later, Bill was also drafted in 1944 and happily served in the United States Navy. He went to Farragut Naval Training Center in Idaho, and from there was assigned to a Naval Troop Transport, the USS Botetourt. It was a new ship and the cargo was not tied down yet and things shifted in rough water. The crew all got sea-sick and only three of the men (Bill being one) were well enough to get things secured. That night, Bill had been assigned a night watch but his Ensign (superior) excused him from that duty since he had worked so hard. On one stop the ship made, they picked up Bill Lindmier, and Bill was happy to see him; on two other occasions he met up with Tuffy Taylor, Bill’s cousin who was also in the Navy. After the atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, the ship was ordered into Tokyo Bay and was near the Battleship Missouri during Japan’s surrender ceremony. Bill was honorably discharged in 1946 and returned home to the ranch.

In 1946, Bill met Alice Leeling during a dance at the LaPrele Dance Hall. They married on June 29, 1947 and moved to the Vollman Ranch. Together they raised three children, Vicki, Robert and Lori. In 1967 Bill lost his dad, and within a year, they lost their daughter Vicki and Bill’s mother in an automobile accident.

He took great pride in his cattle, always studying Angus genetics to improve his herd. Bill enjoyed the harvest season of dry land farming and later being part of the progress and improvements made by Bob on their newly acquired irrigated farm. He valued having good neighbors. Through the years Bill was active with the Weed and Pest board, Farm Bureau, 4-H, and the Wyoming Pioneer Association and he was the first FFA state degree recipient from Douglas. He loved square dancing and polka dancing. Also, listening to music was a favorite past time, especially in the later years.

Around 1987, Bill and Alice retired and moved to Douglas from the ranch. Bill wasn’t ready to quit just yet and drove to the ranch most every day to work. He enjoyed driving the pastures checking water, salting cows, fixing fence, and was still climbing windmills at 90 years old. He worked hard to pass on traditions that were taught to him. Even when he was unable to continue working livestock, he still enjoyed going to the ranch and watching his grandsons and great grandchildren using the skills that he had passed down through each of his children and onto the future of his ranch. Bill and Alice took many adventures together around the world, such as Australia, New Zealand and Alaska to name some of the favorites. They never spent a night apart in their 73 years together, until the last couple years when health issues would necessitate one or the other stay a night or two in the hospital, and of course Bill’s short stay with the Douglas Care Center at the end.

Preceding Bill in death were his grandparents; father on April 5, 1967, his mother on March 25, 1968; and daughter, Vicki, on March 28, 1968.

Bill is survived by his wife, Alice, of 73 years; son, Bob (Sherry) Vollman of Douglas; daughter, Lori (Darrell) Brown, of DeKalb, Missouri; grandsons, Brady (Ron) Vollman and Jared (Mandy) Vollman both of Douglas; Aaron (Rachel) Brown and Eric (Katie) Brown both of DeKalb; and great grandchildren, Joslyn, Cadence, Lauryn, and Zander Vollman all of Douglas and Hunter, Shelby, Erin, and Dodge Brown all of DeKalb.

A funeral service was held, April 29, 2021, at the Upper Ag Building on the Wyoming State Fairgrounds in Douglas, Wyoming with Pastor Bill Williamson of the First Baptist Church officiating. Interment is in the Douglas Park Cemetery with military honor accorded by the Samuel Mares American Legion Post #8 and the United States Navy Funeral Honors.

A memorial to the Wyoming Pioneer Association, P.O. Box 1545, Douglas, Wyoming 82633 would be appreciated by the family.

Serving as pallbearers were Travis Dickau, Jess Dickau, Robert Fink, Ed Fink, Greg Kruse, and Warren Manning.

Robert L. Kaufmann
September 3-1931 - April 15, 2021

Robert L. Kaufmann, 89, passed away April 15, 2021 at Sheridan Memorial Hospital. Robert, better known as Bob, was born September 3, 1931, in Sheridan, Wyoming to Alex and Ann (Kerbel) Kaufmann. At five years of age, the family moved from the big stone house, now known as the Ranch at Ucross to what was known as the Kaufmann Ranch. He attended Kearney Grade School and graduated from Sheridan High in 1949 and the University of Wyoming in 1954, with a B.A. While attending the University of Wyoming he was on the Rodeo Team and received many Bronc Riding trophies, buckles and saddles.

He married Patsy Ostrom in 1953 and they ranched 32 years on Piney Creek. Two daughters, Jeanne Ann Camino and Carol Kaufmann, were born of that marriage. They later divorced.

Bob was a life-long member of the Sheridan Elks Lodge. He was a member of the Johnson County Fair Board and a Judge at the Johnson County 4-H Fair and High School Rodeos for several years. Bob was President of the Farmers Co-Op during the mid-80’s, served on the School Board of the Kearney School and was a member of the Beef Growers Association of Johnson and Sheridan Counties.

Bob, along with all the Champions, was honored at the 75th Anniversary of the Sheridan WYO Rodeo, July 14, 2005, as the Champion Bareback Rider in 1953.

Bob was an excellent rancher and an all-around “handy man”. There was nothing he couldn’t fix. He always enjoyed taking his girls to the horse shows and Coralee to participate with the Equestrian Annettes in their many parades. Carol was the Sheridan WYO Rodeo Queen in 1978. Jeanne was Champion Barrel Racer, at the age of 15, and was also honored at the Sheridan WYO Rodeo in 2005.

Bob truly enjoyed time with his grandchildren when they were young, feeding cattle, hunting, Easter Egg hunts and driving snow machines. Bob sold the ranch in 2000 and moved to his present home in Sheridan where he was residing at the time of his death.

Bob was preceded in death by his father, mother, brother Dick and wife Pat. Survivors include his two daughters, his companion and caregiver during the past 37 years, Coralee Davis, Grandson Kelly Camino (Britni and great-grandsons Corbin and Hudson); Joe Camino, Luke Camino (Joslyn, great-grandsons Braxtyn and Sterling, and great-granddaughter Riley); Heidi Boragli (Paul, great-grandsons Anthony, Norris Graves and great-granddaughter Patsy Graves); Grandson Robert Weber, great-grandson Alex and great-granddaughter Ashlee, as well as nephews Tom and James Kaufmann and several cousins.

A Celebration of Bob’s life was held at the Kane Funeral Home on May 8th.

Friends wishing to, may donate to the Dog & Cat Shelter, 84 East Ridge Road, Sheridan, WY 82801, or the Sheridan High School Rodeo Club, c/o Sheridan High School, 1056 Long Drive, Sheridan WY 82801.
This is the story of two Godly men who lived their lives to the fullest and took advantage of every opportunity to share the Gospel of Christ.

It started 89 years ago when Victor “Poppy” Andrew Johnson was born on April 26th, 1932 to James and Agnes Johnson in Laramie, Wyoming. He was the third out of four children. Victor was orneryer than he looked. There are many stories, some we can talk about and some we can’t, that have been told down the years about Victor. One in particular involved an outhouse when he was seven years old. His mother and sister were visiting the outhouse when they noticed a stream coming from a knothole in the wood of the john and soaking their laps. When they realized what it was, they ran out of the outhouse screaming, to the great delight of Poppy. The punishment he knew he was going to get was worth it to him. He also figured out a way to bottle the skunk scent in little bottles and use it for his purposes. On one occasion, he decided his sister’s boyfriends car needed some extra aroma so he placed some drops under the floor mats and on the exhaust. Their date that night was extra smelly. That boyfriend never did figure out why his car always smelled like a skunk.

Victor completed eighth grade and started ranching with his father. He would haul bulls down to Denver as a young teenager. He met Mary Lathrop through the First Assembly of God church. He wooed Mary with his beautiful singing voice and banjo playing. On one of their first dates, Poppy invited Grandma Mary to his family’s house for dinner. They all bowed their heads to pray. When everyone’s eyes were closed and they were thanking God for their blessings and food, Poppy was putting a large helping of mashed potatoes on Grandma Mary’s dinner plate. When the prayer was over and everyone opened their eyes, all were quite astonished to see that Mary had helped herself to a large portion of food. The embarrassment was almost too much for Mary as her face turned multiple shades of red. Poppy was pretty happy with himself. God brought them together in Marriage on May 7th, 1952 where his musical talents came to an abrupt end, to the great annoyance of Mary for the rest of their 62 years of marriage.

They had two sons Jerry and Orville Johnson. According to Orville, they had Jerry and they thought that they could do better so they had another son, and he thought, that they thought, he was perfect, so they stopped having children. And this continued the legacy of the Johnson 99 Ranch.

Orville was born on November 3rd, 1956 in Laramie, Wyoming. Around the time of Orville’s birth, Victor, along with his father and brothers, Leonard and Kenny, decided it was time to liquidate the Hereford cattle, buy Angus cattle and split the ranch into different ranches. Victor’s sister, Mary got married to a preacher man and moved to Washington.

Poppy led his family through the trials and tribulations of the ranch life. Regardless of what they faced, he and Mary placed all challenges at Jesus’ feet and nothing could be a testament to that more than when he lost his brother Kenny at a very young age, when he was hit from behind by a drunk driver on I-80. Poppy’s focus and love revolved around his ranching lifestyle. There is no place that he would rather be than riding horses, feeding cattle, irrigating hay fields, haying, and telling his grandchildren they needed to be kicked. Poppy and Mary led their flock, now 7 generations strong, to embrace their faith in everything they do and say and to trust God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and this has evolved into some of the strongest individuals you will ever meet.

Part of the Johnson family tradition was to sit around pickin’ and grinnin’; holidays, family gatherings, any time they could take a few minutes off from ranching. This is where Orville’s love for singing and playing the guitar was born and developed. The Drovers Band came into action and their first gig was at the High School Rodeo in Laramie. Orville would take his rolls of cash that he had earned playing in the band, into the Bank of Laramie. Dick VanPelt would watch him make a bee line for a certain teller or he would hang around killing time until she was available. This kept happening over and over and people started taking bets on how many times Orville would visit Lindy at the Bank each week. They started dating and on one date they were sitting in his car. Orville bet Lindy a penny that he could kiss her without touching her. Lindy, with her competitive nature, accepted the bet and she knew she couldn’t lose. So Orville kissed her and said, “You won the bet! Here is your penny!”.

Orville and Lindy were married on September 12th, 1981. Orville continually teased Lindy and always told their children that Lindy was the one who proposed marriage to him.

They had their oldest daughter Samantha on March 6th, 1983 in Laramie during a horrible snow storm and it took them two hours to get to the hospital from the ranch. According to Stacy, she thought, they thought could do better and eighteen months later, they had another daughter. She was perfect so they stopped having children. They had Stacy at the ranch with two midwives and Orville caught her in his arms as she was born.

Some of Orv’s proudest moments was when he walked both of his daughters down the aisle on their wedding days. After he lifted his daughter’s veils, he would pull their spouses and them close together and whisper into their ears, “Just remember, the most important thing, is to serve the Lord.” When Stacy and Kyle told Orville they were expecting he would always say, “I am so excited” then he would look at Kyle with disgust and say, “I kind of want to hurt you”. He loved each of his grandchildren with an incredible love and desire to disciple and guide.

In the more recent years, Orv and Lindy took in many individuals who needed a place to stay for awhile or a place to work to get back on their feet. Orv not only loved his family but he made all who were around him feel like family. He also chose to love many young individuals as his own. So many of you have adopted him as your dad and he filled the role beautifully. Orv did not hesitate to speak truth, even though sometimes you didn’t want to hear it. He loved helping others learn how to train horses and invited people to bring their horses to the ranch to work through different challenges.

Orv would tell his daughters, “make sure when you get off your horse, he is a little better than when you got on”.

Orv loved to tell jokes! You can probably recall a joke that you have heard from Orv. Most of his jokes were appropriate, some not as appropriate. Most were at appropriate times, some at not the most appropriate ones. Samantha and Stacy would tell their dad, “We are going to town, so please try not to be yourself” and then they would all laugh.

Orville never missed an opportunity to tell people that he taught his daughters everything they know and he was absolutely right.

Orville loved to squish faces. He would grab the back of your head with one hand and with the other he would squish your nose. If you have ever had this happen, you knew he loved you. Orville was always coming up with ways to do things differently or better and he became quite the inventor. Just recently he created an easy gate opener and was in the process of getting it ready to be marketed. The family will continue to complete this project that Orville started. God gave him the gift of creation and he didn’t waste it.

Many of you have had the opportunity to experience the long standing family tradition of pickin’ and grinnin’ as Orville’s family entertains you with their songs and humor. Along with Orville’s amazing musical talents, you couldn’t find a better horseman. Ask the person sitting next to you and you can bet they have had a horse trained by Orv. Almost every horse that is used on the ranch or by the grandkids’ activities has been trained by Orv.

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**News from the County Farm Bureau Federations**

**Johnson County Farm Bureau Federation Ag Books County Winners**

Submitted by Carmen Rodriguez

**Poster contest:**
1st-Finn Johnson
2nd-Clain Aviles

**Color contest:**
1st- Jameson Songer- not pictured
2nd- Cohen Gall
3rd-Harlee Bayer

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**Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation awards scholarships**

By Barb Erickson, Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Secretary

Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation members support the future generation through educational scholarships for graduating seniors and continuing education students and now has added the Chuck Curry Memorial Scholarship for continuing education students who demonstrate an agriculture focused career path and are dedicated to the preservation and promotion of excellence in agriculture as an industry and a way of life.

A few months ago, the Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Board of Directors made the decision to honor the dedication and memory of the late Chuck Curry who served as the Mountain West Farm Bureau Insurance Agent for nearly 30 years. Chuck’s heart and soul was dedicated to serving his clients and especially those involved in agriculture. He was born and raised on the family farm in Goshen County and as the saying goes, “you can’t take the country out of the boy”! The first Chuck Curry Memorial Scholarship was awarded to two well-deserving young ladies who also have a great appreciation for ag. Both girls come from families who have been strong supporters of the Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation for many years. Kadra Clark, daughter of Jake and Kerin Clark of Yoder, and Paige Miller, daughter of Paul and Christine Miller of Torrington, each received a $500 scholarship to help them in their future educational endeavors. As we remember and honor Chuck, we also congratulate Kadra and Paige and wish them well.

Kadra who is studying Business Marketing at Chadron State College writes that “For the future of agriculture, I see communication and promotion playing an even bigger role. Farmers and ranchers need to share their stories and show consumers the importance of agriculture in our world.”

Paige who is studying Animal Science at Colorado State University shares that she is eager to see and be a part of the continuous advance in technology that is now in the hands of her generation which with agriculturalists, scientists, engineers and businessman will be responsible for feeding the growing population of this country.

Congratulations also go to the three recipients of the Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Scholarship. Calista Dugger, daughter of Jeromie and Kendra Dugger of Torrington, received a $500 scholarship as a high school graduate planning to major in Agriculture Business and Pre-Law at Casper College. Continuing education scholarships in the amount of $250 each were awarded to Jacob and Noelle Chapman, son and daughter of Marge and Jeff Chapman of Torrington. Jacob is studying Agriculture Education with an Animal Science emphasis at Black Hawk College in Illinois while Noelle is at the University of Wyoming finishing up her Doctor of Pharmacy and MS in Health Services.

We are proud of the young people in Goshen County!
30x30 report lacks details

From page 1

The 24-page report outlines eight principles, but not very many details.

- Principle 1: Pursue a collaborative and inclusive approach to conservation
- Principle 2: Conserve America’s lands and waters for the benefit of all people
- Principle 3: Support locally led and locally designed conservation efforts
- Principle 4: Honor tribal sovereignty and support the priorities of tribal nations
- Principle 5: Pursue conservation and restoration approaches that create jobs and support healthy communities
- Principle 6: Honor private property rights and support the voluntary stewardship efforts of private landowners and fishermen
- Principle 7: Use science as a guide
- Principle 8: Build on existing tools and strategies with an emphasis on flexibility and adaptive approaches

The challenge issued in the report states that “The 30 percent goal also reflects the need to support conservation and restoration efforts across all lands and waters, not solely on public lands, including by incentivizing voluntary stewardship efforts on private lands and by supporting the efforts and visions of States and Tribal Nations.”


Several questions have been raised about what exactly “conserve” would look like with this initiative,” said Ken Hamilton, Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President. “Farmers and ranchers are the biggest group of landowners in the U.S. Naturally, people who have private lands are concerned as to what this could mean to them.”

“It has not escaped our notice that Congress permanently funded the Land & Water Conservation program after holding the line on this for a long time,” Hamilton explained. “One of the things that those funds can be used for is to purchase private lands.”

In regard to federal lands, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service manage about 30 percent of the land mass in the United States. “If the idea is to try and manage all the rest of federal lands like they do wilderness areas or parks, then the ability to utilize

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OBIITUARIES—CONTINUED

Victor and Orville Johnson

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children has the Orville Johnson “touch” in their training. Although Orville could sing in front of hundreds of people, he didn’t love the leadership role, but God had different plans for him. If Orville wasn’t speaking at church, assisting with High School Rodeo, Farm Bureau, Stockgrowers, rodeo queening, and Conservation District Events, in his spare time he and his “Woman” helped establish the Wyoming Draft and Driving Association and if that leadership wasn’t enough, God placed him in a position of ministry with the Rancher’s Gospel Band and Friday Night Live Events fulfilling God’s calling to grow God’s kingdom wherever he roamed. Orville, honored his father and mother well. Part of he, and Lindy’s ministry was taking care of Poppy, helping him to continue working on the ranch and including him in all things. They enjoyed the time they spent with him and served with humility and as servants heart.

Anybody that really knew Poppy and Orville, knew that they were anxiously anticipating the coming of Jesus Christ and eternal life. We will terribly miss both Poppy and Orville. On the ranch, not one thing doesn’t remind us of them. Today is a celebration of their walk home with their Lord and Savior and to the place God has prepared for them. So many lives were touched by the life of Orville and Victor. We are not able to share all of the stories today but we would really like you to email them to us so that we can put them in a special memory book to make sure his grandchildren and the generations to come will have these stories.

Orville and Victor ran the race God had for them with endurance. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18. We have felt God close and we pray this for all of you.

30x30 report lacks details

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the 48% of the federal surface area in Wyoming for economic activity will be significantly limited,” Hamilton said. “While Congress must designate lands as “wilderness” we have seen where Congress doesn’t have to act to designate these lands. By not acting the federal agencies must manage those identified lands as wilderness until Congress acts on the recommendation.”

As of May 17, three Wyoming counties (Goshen, Niobrara and Uinta) have seen their county commissioners adopting non-binding resolutions in opposition to the 30 x 30 plan. Goshen County Farm Bureau Federation Board Members Lori Schafer and Joe Campbell took the issue to the Goshen County Commissioners on May 4 to raise awareness of the plan. The resolution opposes the 30 x 30 plan and states the order may inappropriately result in harm to local and regional economies.

“In conversations WyFB has had with the Wyoming County Commissioners Association regarding county resolutions, they indicated this will be a topic at their mid-May spring meeting,” Hamilton stated. “Farm Bureau will discuss this topic with them again and know more on the County Commissioners views following their meeting (after the paper deadline).”

“All told whether the goal is to utilize private lands or public lands to accomplish the goal, we in agriculture will be on the front lines,” Hamilton continued.

“Protecting private property rights and multiple-use of federal lands is high priority for the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation,” Hamilton concluded. “We will continue to engage on all levels to ensure agriculture and private property rights are protected.”

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