

pointswest

FALL 2021



what lies beneath

DUDE RANCH DREAMS • THE BALLAD OF YAKIMA RED

FROM THE DESK OF THE WEST

REBECCA WEST

Executive Director and CEO

For three decades, researchers have been working to map and explore Yellowstone Lake, the largest alpine lake in North America, and the dominant feature of the southeast-



ern corner of Yellowstone National Park.

In this issue of *Points West*, we're pleased to offer a glimpse at "What Lies Beneath," as we showcase a special exhibition of photographs by Chris Linder

of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Linder's images tell the story of how researchers are using advanced technology to reveal the hidden wonders beneath the lake's surface.

For visitors and locals, Yellowstone Lake offers a powerful hold on our sense of place. And as we celebrate Yellowstone's 150th birthday next year, we'll continue to explore that "sense of place" as one of our major themes at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

Themes like Sense of Place, Time, and Continuity provide context as we share the Center's collections and vital work. While connecting people to the stories of the American West, we are aware that the American West is evolving as a place, and as an idea.

Linder's photos tell part of that story in connection with Yellowstone Lake. But they also highlight the unseen efforts of researchers to develop new scientific technologies and discoveries.

The same is true at the Center. While there is always a vast range of artifacts, exhibits, and artwork on display, "what lies beneath" is so much more.

Our education staff use videoconferencing to connect with thousands of classrooms around the world. Archivists and curators work to bring historic documents and new scholarship to light. Our conservator examines treasures for longevity. And maintenance, custodial, and security personnel work behind the scenes to keep people and objects safe and comfortable.

So much is going on beyond what most visitors see at the Center—it seems impossible to share it all. But that won't stop us from trying.

Thanks to supporters, donors, and members like you, every day brings an opportunity to show you more of "what lies beneath" at the Center of the West.

Rebecca West

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what lies beneath

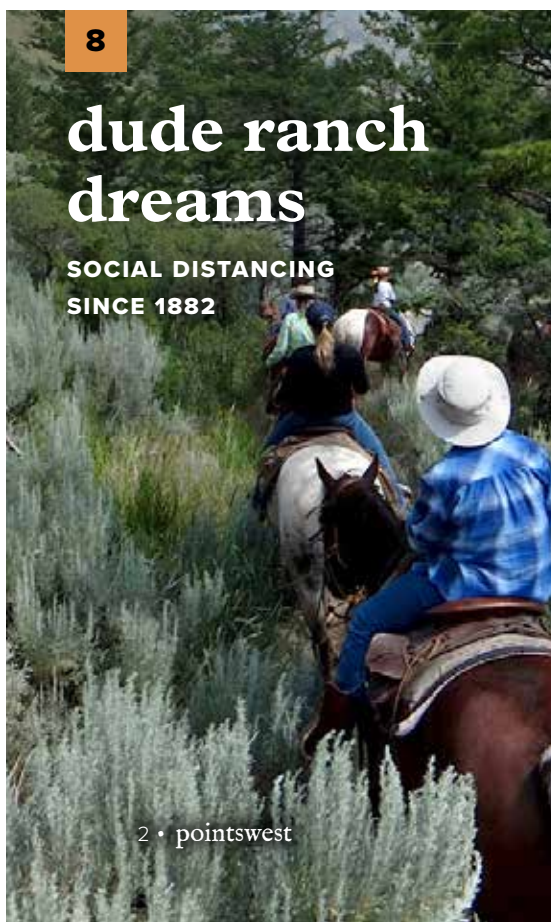
**EXPLORING YELLOWSTONE
LAKE'S MYSTERIOUS VENTS**



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dude ranch dreams

**SOCIAL DISTANCING
SINCE 1882**

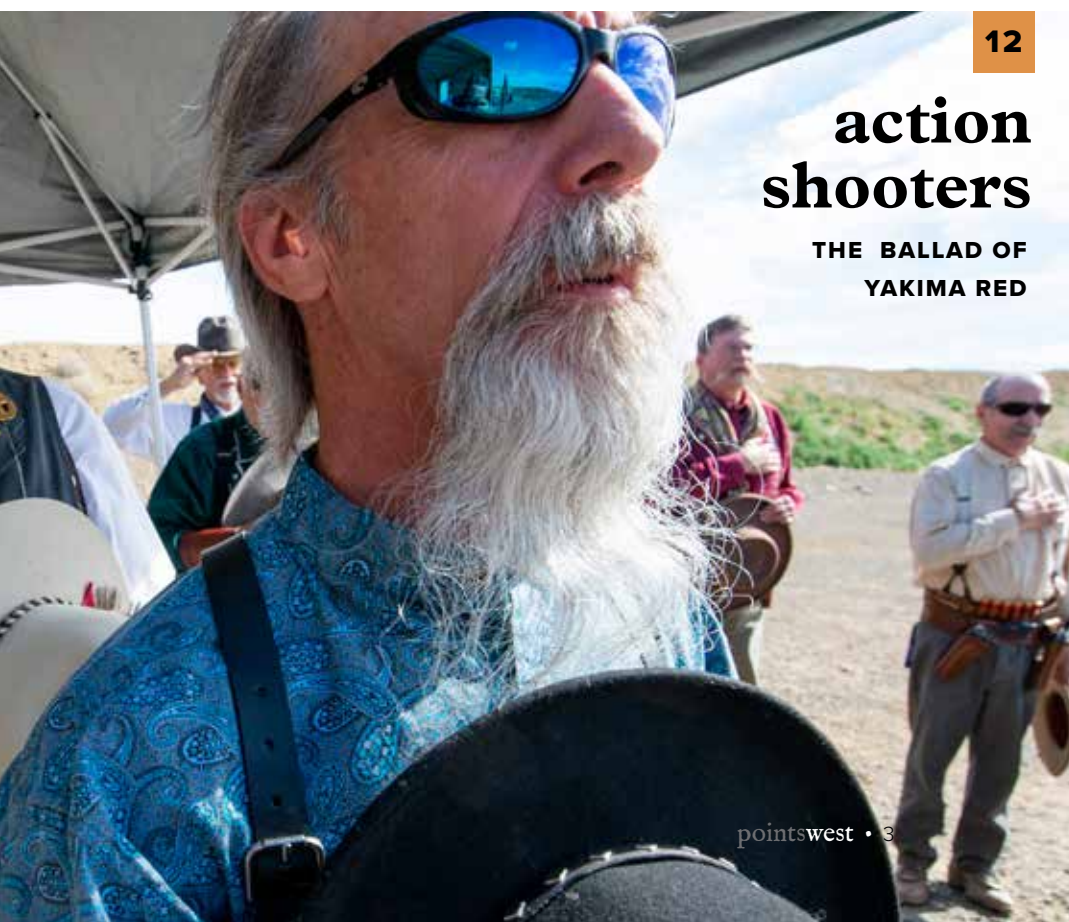




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ABOUT THE COVER | A submersible vessel dips into Yellowstone Lake, lights on and ready to collect specimens and record video for a scientific study. From the special exhibition *What Lies Beneath: Exploring Yellowstone Lake's Mysterious Vents* | Photos by Chris Linder, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.



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THE BALLAD OF
YAKIMA RED

Points West is dedicated to connecting people to the stories of the American West as the membership magazine of the private, nonprofit Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

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**BUFFALO BILL
CENTER
OF THE WEST**



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CHOOSING THE RIGHT COWBOY BOOTS

BY JIM ARNDT

William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody outfitted many of his Wild West performers in dazzling fringed and beaded costumes, and the brightly colored fancy boots they wore enhanced their garb, as well as enabled them to perform rodeo feats such as bull riding and cattle roping.

In addition to recalling the legends of the Old West, cowboy boots are also functional footwear that can reflect the personalities of those who wear them today. Whether you’ll be riding and roping every day, or just stepping out on the town, here are a few tips to help you select the right pair of cowboy boots for you:

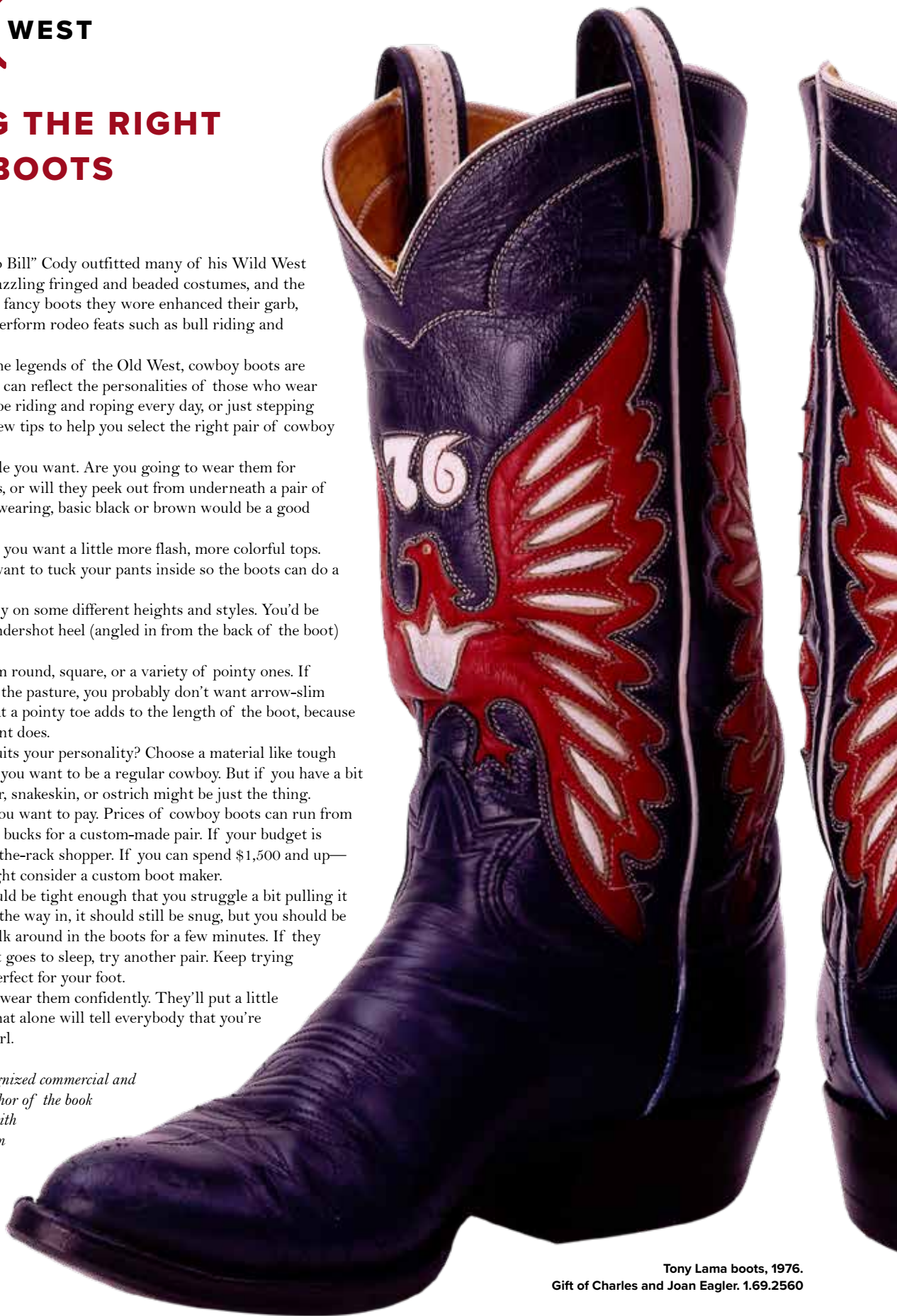
- Decide on a general style you want. Are you going to wear them for everyday with a pair of jeans, or will they peek out from underneath a pair of suit pants? For this kind of wearing, basic black or brown would be a good choice.
- For the line dance floor, you want a little more flash, more colorful tops. These are boots you might want to tuck your pants inside so the boots can do a little showing off.
- Look at the heels and try on some different heights and styles. You’d be surprised at how a higher, undershot heel (angled in from the back of the boot) affects your walk.
- Choose a toe shape, from round, square, or a variety of pointy ones. If you’ll be kicking cow pies in the pasture, you probably don’t want arrow-slim pointy. And keep in mind that a pointy toe adds to the length of the boot, because your toes stop before the point does.
- What kind of leather suits your personality? Choose a material like tough cowhide or softer calfskin if you want to be a regular cowboy. But if you have a bit of the exotic in you, alligator, snakeskin, or ostrich might be just the thing.
- Determine how much you want to pay. Prices of cowboy boots can run from \$150 or less to thousands of bucks for a custom-made pair. If your budget is \$500 or under, you’re an off-the-rack shopper. If you can spend \$1,500 and up—sometimes way up—you might consider a custom boot maker.
- Try on the boot. It should be tight enough that you struggle a bit pulling it on. When your foot slips all the way in, it should still be snug, but you should be able to wiggle your toes. Walk around in the boots for a few minutes. If they hurt or pinch, or if your foot goes to sleep, try another pair. Keep trying until you find the fit that’s perfect for your foot.

Once you own the boots, wear them confidently. They’ll put a little swagger in your walk, and that alone will tell everybody that you’re a confident cowboy or cowgirl.

Jim Arndt is a nationally recognized commercial and editorial photographer and author of the book Buckaroo Boots. Excerpted with



permission from Arndt’s How to Be a Cowboy, published by Gibbs Smith.



Tony Lama boots, 1976.
Gift of Charles and Joan Eagler. 1.69.2560

Cody on Two Wheels

BY JOHN GALLAGHER

Cody, Wyoming, is unique because there is such a variety of recreation, all within a few minutes of downtown. Whether it's climbing, whitewater, biking, or trail running, it's all right here. I love to mountain bike, and I hike a fair amount too. There are lots of great trails for both nearby.



..... **THE PAUL STOCK TRAIL** along the Shoshone River, right along the edge of town, is a great place to take my dogs, Homer and Titian. (I work at a museum, so yes, they're named after artists.) It's great that they can get in the water and cool off. They love to chase bunnies. It's so close, but I'm still amazed by how underutilized it seems whenever we go.



... **BECK LAKE** is very popular both for bikers using the bike park there and for walkers who like the flat, long, paved trail around the lake. I'm a member of Park County Pedalers, and we built the bike park, which has pump tracks and jumps. But there are also single tracks leading from there all along nearby public land. I just did a 24-mile loop on one and didn't see another person.

... **THE OUTLAW** mountain bike trail area north of town near Newton Lakes is more challenging and technical, but it winds along a ridge running through juniper, sandstone, and sage, with incredible views. Try it and you'll see why it's a local favorite.



If you want to get out of town, there's great riding around Red Lodge, Montana. **LINE CREEK PLATEAU** starts way up high in the Beartooth Mountains, around 11,000 feet. You can also hike it (a steep but shady trail) from the bottom. For biking, be prepared to bring two cars, hitchhike, or enjoy a real workout biking back up a section of the Beartooth Highway to the trailhead.



After biking in Red Lodge, it's always nice to stop for a local craft brew at **RED LODGE ALES**. I also like **MAS TACOS** for great Mexican food.

Cody has a few biking groups who do regular rides, including the locally famous Biker Chix for women's rides, and the newly formed Gnarcissists men's group. Stop by Joyvagen, the local bike shop, for more info or anything bike-related you might need.



John Gallagher is the Director of Information Services for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. He is a board member for Park County Pedalers and Wyoming Pathways, advocating for non-motorized transportation and recreation opportunities. He also coaches the Cody Speed Goats, a middle and high school mountain bike team.



DEAR BUFFALO BILL,

After a year cooped up inside, my girlfriend and I are traveling quite a bit this holiday season. I like to pack anything and everything, just in case. She says to leave it all behind and travel light. Who's right?

— FOOTLOCKER FRED in Philadelphia



Buffalo Bill's Wild West "The Pony Express" poster, ca. 1896. Museum Purchase 1.69.5644

Dear Footlocker Fred,

As I suspect you probably already know, the answer to your question depends entirely on what kind of travel you're doing. Short trips or circumstances where you need to cover a lot of ground quickly call for only the essentials. Whereas long expeditions require meticulous planning and packing everything you might reasonably need.

During my time riding for the Pony Express around 1860, I carried only what was absolutely necessary. I was about 14 at the time, and I typically only carried a few biscuits, some water, and a pistol in case I ran into trouble.

Stations with fresh horses and supplies were spaced out about every 15 miles or so, and we galloped from one to the next, changing ponies each time. At each station, we had to transfer the mochila—a leather saddle bag with special pockets full of urgent mail and other correspondence—to the next horse. So no extra weight was allowed.

Of course, there are those who say I never rode for the Pony Express, claiming I was in Kansas attending school at the time. The company's business records are now long gone, but I did carry messages by horseback at age 11 for the freighting company that went on to start the Pony Express.

Regardless, why would I prevaricate or exaggerate about something like that? I suppose you'll just have to take my word for it.

Also, in the late 1850s, I worked hauling freight across the Great Plains for Russell, Majors, and Waddell, which was much more of a marathon, compared to the sprint that was the Pony Express.

We hauled supplies by wagon train to mining camps and outposts along the developing frontier, using teams of mules and oxen to pull heavy equipment, furniture, tools, and other bulky goods to growing cities, mining outposts, military forts, and other far-flung places.

For those trips, we kept track of a vast array of cargo, but we also had to pack what we might need for ourselves and our animals as we camped out along the trail. This called for packing a great deal of supplies, including extra food, ammunition, spare parts, and tools for repairs.

But even then, there was no sense packing what we didn't need. Our livestock could graze off the land, and we always enjoyed fresh game over salted and preserved provisions.

After the Civil War concluded, I served as a scout for the U.S. Army during its conflicts with the Kiowa, Northern Cheyenne, and Lakota. I excelled at knowing where I was going, how to get there, and being able to adapt and make use of what I found on the trail. And that's how I would advise you to approach packing and preparing for all of your travels.

What Would Buffalo Bill Do is an occasional advice column written by Col. William F. Cody with assistance from Jeremy Johnston, curator of the Center's Buffalo Bill Museum. Send your questions to buffalobilladvice@centerofthewest.org.



cowboycharcuterie

Ever want to unleash your inner bison and just graze for dinner? Try a Wyoming-inspired charcuterie board to beef up your meat, cheese, and cracker experience.

For your board, include elements that provide a pop of color. In our example you'll find cherries, green beans, and zucchini and yellow squash slices. Interspersing the colorful foods among those that naturally appear more bland (looking at you, bourbon brown sugar and honey beef) helps the eye become bigger than the stomach.

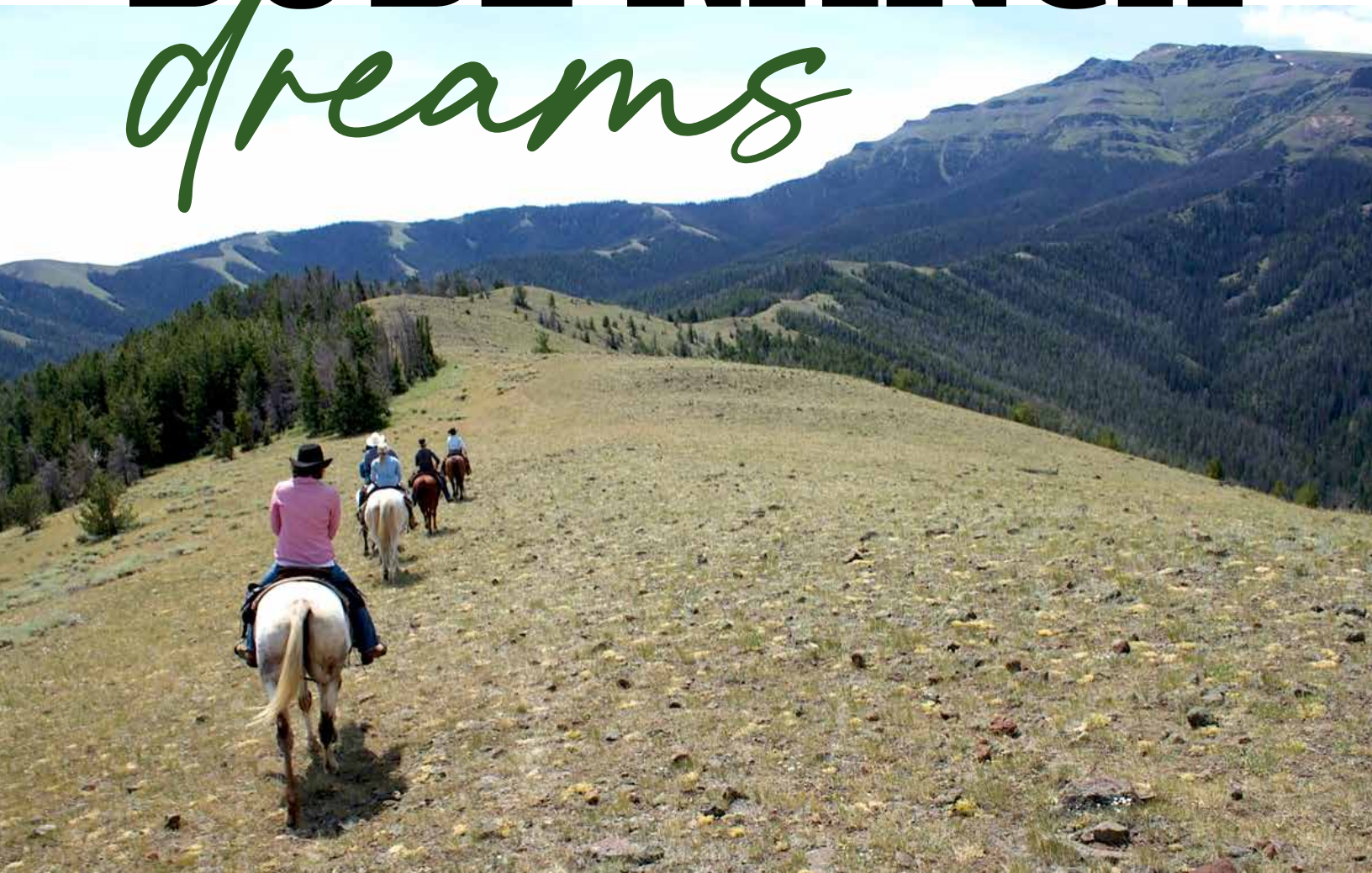
Though variations of texture and color fill the board, the fun lies in the opportunity. Try combinations like beef, squash, and cheddar cheese on a hunk of jalapeño cheddar skillet cornbread for a savory bite — or combine smoked trout and pepper jack cheese on a cracker for something a little more classic with a kick of spice. Do not shy away from the Wyoming classics: huckleberry preserves, chokecherry jam, and maple bacon beef sticks give your board that buckaroo twist that cannot miss.

The beauty of charcuterie lies in the fact that there are no steadfast rules. Include what you love and build to your hunger's desire. At right are some suggestions to craft a board as beautiful as ours.

INGREDIENTS:

- Assorted Crackers
- Cherries
- Chokecherry Jam
- Smoked Trout
- Pepper Jack Cheese
- Pecans
- Roasted Green Beans
- Maple Bacon Beef Sticks
- Pecan Honey Mustard
- Jalapeño Cheddar Skillet Cornbread
- Huckleberry Preserves
- Cheddar Cheese
- Roasted Zucchini and Yellow Squash Slices
- Bourbon Brown Sugar and Honey Beef

DUDE RANCH *dreams*



SOCIALLY DISTANCING IN THE WILD WEST SINCE 1882



The OTO Homestead and Dude Ranch, located in the Absaroka Mountains just north of Yellowstone National Park, was the first dude ranch in Montana.

BY BRETT FRENCH

Dude ranch seems like a contradiction.

After all, dudes don't ranch, and ranches don't raise dudes.

Yet the phrase—along with guest ranch—has come to represent a uniquely western concept of homespun hospitality—like visiting your country cousins for a summer vacation. While there, you can ride horses, fish and swim in a mountain lake, eat a grilled steak as big as your head, and sit around a campfire at night while recounting the day's wild adventures.

If there were a way to fall asleep dreaming of an idyllic western vacation and wake up back in time, dude ranches would be the portal.

The concept of taking visitors in as guests at a working ranch was born out of survival, rather than to provide entertainment for city folk. In the late 1800s, ranches gave travelers room and board out of necessity—there was nowhere else with a roof nearby.

The Eaton brothers—Howard, Alden, and Willis—are credited with starting the first true dude ranch in North Dakota in 1882. Howard Eaton wrote a letter to a friend, which was published in a New York newspaper, in which he waxed poetic about how great it was to live out

West. The letter may have caught the attention of a young Theodore Roosevelt, who visited in 1883. Soon, the Eaton brothers were hosting European nobility seeking a western experience while hunting, camping, and riding horses. The rate for a week's visit was \$10.

"The brothers had no comprehensive scheme yet, but decided to take advantage of the extraordinary surroundings to create a place where Easterners of the better and more influential classes, more particularly of the younger generation, could build themselves up mentally and physically through association with nature," wrote Lawrence R. Borne in his book, *Dude Ranching, A Complete History*.

Roosevelt also promoted the idea of the rugged life in his western adventures, said Jeremy Johnston, curator of the Buffalo Bill Center of the West's Buffalo Bill Museum. That concept, coupled with the idealization of America's pioneer spirit, led many young people westward to pursue their dreams, he added, while "playing cowboy for a while."

Other ranchers soon picked up on the money-making possibilities of hosting guests. Many of them, like the Eatons, started out as guides.

Aaron "Tex" Holm was the first to set up shop west of Cody when he established a dude

ranch in 1907. Eschewing cattle for a strictly visitor experience, Holm Lodge was ideally located for visitors traveling from Cody to what is now Yellowstone National Park's East Entrance via the North Fork of the Shoshone River.

Larry Larom is credited with taking dude ranching to the next level in the Cody area when he bought the Valley Home Ranch in 1915. A New York native, Larom partnered with his Princeton classmate Winthrop Brooks in the venture. Winthrop was the last member of the Brooks family to head Brooks Brothers' New York clothing store, the oldest in the United States. Their association had another perk, office space in New York City from which Larom wooed well-heeled Easterners.

"The concept of a dude ranch as distinct from a hunting camp or lodge owed much to ... Larom," wrote author John Clayton in a *WyoHistory.org* article. "Larom's great innovation was to transform boardinghouse-style accommodations into those of sufficient luxury to attract upper-class guests, especially women."

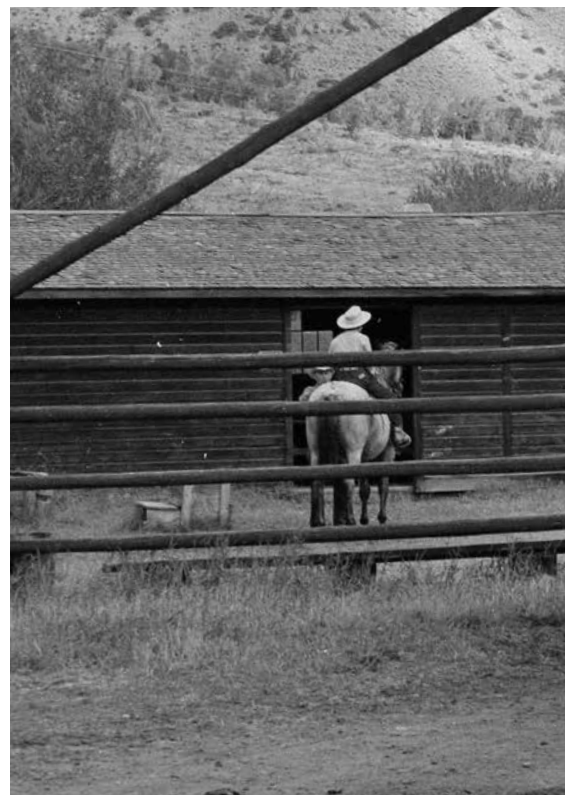
Women may also have been intrigued after reading Wyoming author Caroline Lockhart's nationally published short story about dude ranching in a 1907 woman's magazine, *The Red Book*. According to research by author Lynn

Rimrock Ranch, left and below, is located between Cody, Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park. It features historic log buildings and authentic Western decor.





A horseback riding trail at Rimrock Ranch near Cody, Wyoming crosses a creek before winding through the Shoshone National Forest.

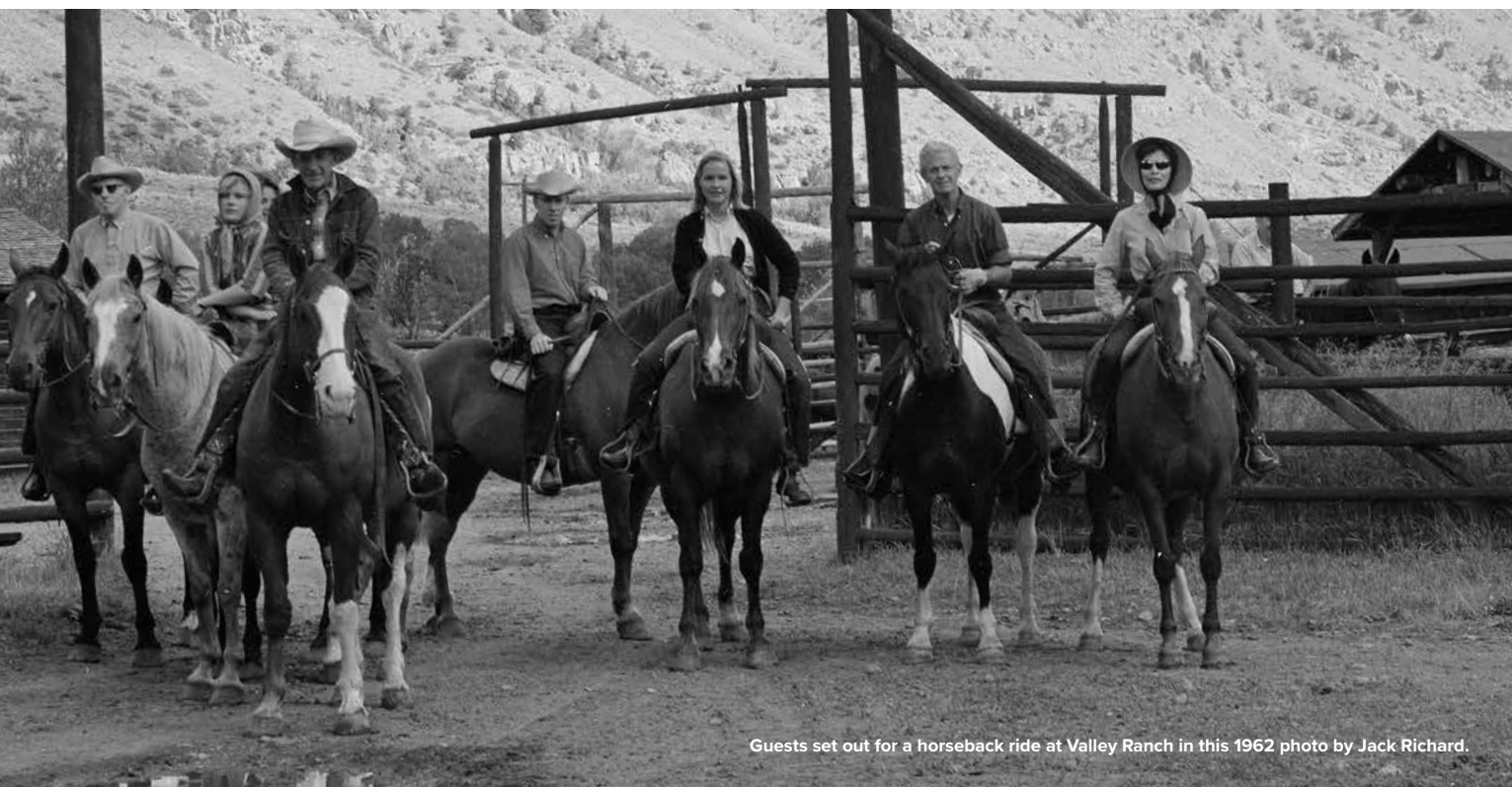


Downey for her upcoming book *American Dude Ranch: A Touch of the Cowboy and the Thrill of the West*, Lockhart's story titled "The Dude Wrangler" gently mocks a local wrangler attempting to herd a group of Easterners through Yellowstone. Two years later she set the short story "Jim's Dude" on a similar ranch.

The genre may have struck a chord with readers, since the next year Lockhart chose a dude ranch as the setting for her sixth novel. Although dude ranches provided characters and themes for her fiction, Downey said Lockhart was conflicted about how dude ranches took something genuinely western and softened it up for paying visitors, doing a discredit to "real" men and women of the West.

One of those real women was Mary Shawver, who in 1916 became business partners with Tex Holm. (Holm Lodge remains in business today as the Crossed Sabres Ranch.) Her duties included everything from cooking and helping care for the horses to keeping the home fires burning on cold winter nights when guests were long gone.

Another woman, opera singer Geraldine Farrar, brought attention to the dude ranching industry near Cody in a new way. In 1918, Farrar arrived in town to star in a silent film, *The Hell Cat*. After the film's release to positive reviews, other film crews and actors visited the Cody region, providing free advertising for the businesses. Celebrity stays at dude ranches continued into the 1940s with well-known actors Barbara Stanwyck, Robert Taylor, and Clark Gable seeking western getaways.



Guests set out for a horseback ride at Valley Ranch in this 1962 photo by Jack Richard.

Yellowstone National Park proved to be a key attraction as other dude ranches were established in the area in the early 1900s at Jackson, Wyoming, and the Montana gateway towns of Red Lodge and Gardiner. Johnston also credits Buffalo Bill Cody for luring visitors to the region via his Wild West show. He promoted tours to Yellowstone as well as hunting in the region, and he made friends with wealthy families back east, some of which sent their children out west for a “strenuous outdoor experience.”

By 1925, there were enough ranchers catering to dudes that the owners collaborated to organize the Dude Ranchers’ Association, holding a formative meeting in Bozeman, Montana. Larom was named the group’s first president, which counted 26 ranchers as members. By the following year, membership had jumped to 47, likely due in part to the involvement of the Northern Pacific Railroad, which advertised the dude ranches while also ferrying passengers. Business was soon booming.

By 1929, Wyoming dude ranches were hosting more than 10,000 guests each year. By 1947, more than 100 dude ranches had been developed throughout Wyoming.

To be a member of the association now requires a two-year inspection and approval process to ensure the facility meets the association’s stringent standards.

What had started out as a way to supplement a ranch’s income—while helping to off-

set the hardships of drought, harsh winters, and fluctuations in beef prices—had transitioned into a new business model thanks to eastern friends, investors, and marquee guests.

“The remote locations often led to creative socializing, costume parties, games, romances, contests, and practical jokes,” according to the website DudeRanch.org. “This social interaction became just as important as the horseback riding.”

One hundred years later, tourism in western states is thriving in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Interest in domestic travel to rural locations, often in and around national parks, has boomed. Dude ranches are once again perfectly situated to capture and captivate these new adventurers.

“The future of the industry is bright, as a dude/guest ranch really offers what people are craving these days—a gateway to nature and adventure without all of the crowds; and a safe place where kids can be kids and get a taste of what it means when you say wide-open spaces out West,” said Colleen Hodson of the Dude Ranchers’ Association. “The Cody area is still home to four Dude Ranchers’ Association member businesses—Rimrock Ranch, Crossed Sabres Ranch, 7D Ranch, and The Hideout Ranch.” Another 20 to 30 in the region don’t fit the DRA criteria, since they allow drop-in visitors.

Like other vacation destinations, Hodson said dude ranches have adapted to today’s travelers by offering more activities, including

shooting sports, archery, whitewater rafting, and ziplines, as well as educational opportunities centered around activities like horseback riding and fly fishing. Amenities may include gourmet meals, catering to special dietary needs, and even fine linens for nighttime when dudes finally recline.

Gary Fales’s parents bought the Rimrock Ranch west of Cody in 1956, a business he now runs with his wife, Dede. The original business dates back to 1926. Despite the pandemic, his ranch was busy in 2020, Fales said, and that carried over into the 2021 season, as well.

Although it has been nearly 100 years since the ranch was first founded, Fales said the heart of his guest ranch has changed little.

“People love to horseback ride,” he said.

The rides he offers are up narrow trails to reach the top of mountains where guests can see 150 miles in any direction, not galloping through sagebrush. “We do river floats, rodeo, and Yellowstone tours, but basically we’re a horseback riding business that provides lodging,” he said.

“It’s an old business that’s pretty steady.”



Brett French is a longtime reporter and editor for the Billings Gazette, where he writes about the outdoors, including hunting, fishing, natural resource issues, and sometimes even riding horses to the tops of high mountains.



STORY + PHOTOS BY MARK DAVIS

Paul “Yakima Red” Hoeft spent decades repairing modern vehicles, each with infuriatingly different mechanical systems—even year-to-year, and by the same makers. Yet, through those knuckle-busting 43 years, he spent much of his time dreaming of an era when automobiles weren’t racing across Rocky Mountain roads.

Specifically, Hoeft’s daydreams were of life in the Old West; six-shooters on the hip and a Winchester repeating rifle in a scabbard at his side. “I was born in 1959. My great-grandfather was born in 1859. So that probably would have been more suitable for me,” he said.

There are some advantages to being born in the 20th century. Hoeft’s great-grandfather “didn’t make it to 1910.

Things were a little tougher then.”

Hoeft is a perfectionist with automotive tools in his huge, well-worn paws. But his choice of weapons are all single-action firearms. A cowboy action shooter, Hoeft uses guns known for being somewhat difficult, mechanically speaking. But they’re beloved by those willing to deal with the occasional jam in exchange for romanticized dreams of life in the late 1800s.

But practice makes perfect, even with replica firearms based on century-old designs.

“We probably shoot more in a weekend than some people shoot in their lifetime,” said Hoeft, who competes in single-action competitions as the fictional character Yakima Red. “We’ve actually worn guns out.”

Single-action refers to the action of the trigger. Its “single action” is to release the hammer, and a single-action gun will only

fire after the hammer is cocked before each shot. Competitors like Hoeft are drawn to single-action shooting because of this old-fashioned way of shooting, just like the cowboys in everyone’s favorite western films.

“Yak,” as his friends sometimes call him, “because I run my mouth,” gears up in authentic period garb for competition shoots. Then he straps on his guns, grabs some ammunition and heads to the range. For a typical shoot, Yak takes two Italian-made Uberti reproductions of 1873 Colt revolvers; a mule-eared, double-barreled, 12-gauge shotgun imported by the Early Modern Firearms Company; and an Uberti reproduction of a Model 1866 Winchester sporting rifle.

Groups around the globe compete in organized cowboy action shoots, sanctioned by the Single Action Shooting So-



Michael Radecki, aka Latigo, watches the Single Action Shooting Society competition at the Heart Mountain Rod and Gun Club in June. The Colter's Hell Justice Committee holds competitions monthly, drawing in Radecki and others from Montana.

THE BALLAD *of* *Vakima* *Red* ACTION SHOOTERS DRAW ON HISTORY

ciety (SASS), an international organization created in 1987 to preserve and promote the sport.

Contestants use firearms typical of those wielded in the Old West, according to SASS rules, and competitors are judged for speed and accuracy on a course of different shooting stages.

Each shooting scenario, as they are called, features an array of situations based on famous historical incidents or well-known movie scenes, with shooters testing their skills against metal targets that give off a loud “clang” when struck.

Competitors mostly use reproduction firearms, due to the cost of originals and the wear and tear the weapons take during the season. While good reproductions aren’t cheap, they are many times less expensive than original models.

Reproductions of certain models start-

ed gaining in popularity with the burgeoning western movie genre during the 1950s, said Danny Michael, Robert W. Woodruff Curator of the Cody Firearms Museum. That includes models like the 1873 Colt revolver, and the Winchester repeating rifle.

A robust contingent of single-action shooters across northwest Wyoming get together to shoot as the Colter’s Hell Justice Committee. The group meets monthly at the Heart Mountain Rod and Gun Club, on the hardscrabble sagebrush steppe just east of Powell, Wyoming.

Michael said he’s intrigued by cowboy action shooters, as well as the sport’s widespread popularity.

“There are single-action shooting groups all over the country. Virtually every locale I’ve been around, I’ve heard of one within a reasonable driving distance,” he said.

The Colter’s Hell Justice Committee is a chapter of the Wyoming Single-Action Shooters, one of six in the state. They draw men and women of all ages and experience levels, from novices to world champions.

Mark Spencer, from Lovell, Wyoming, and Powell’s Allan Knowles were both U.S. Olympic shooting sports team members in the 1980s.

Spencer was on the 1980 rapid-fire pistol team, but didn’t get a chance to shoot due to an American boycott of the games in Moscow.

Knowles was on the small bore rifle/prone position squad in 1984 as an alternate. He didn’t get a chance to compete, but just making the team put him in the top echelon of international competitive shooters.

Now they’ve adopted colorful aliases, and attempt to live out their dreams of



Cowboy action shooters gather to share their love of firearms and history. From left, James Knight, Ron Watkins, Richard Peterson, Susan Watkins, Richard Palmer, Michael Radecki, Dan Shuey, Scherrie Knight, Dave DeKrugger, Alan Knowles, Kenneth Gerke, Rudy LaCroix, and Paul Hoeft.



James "Muggins Taylor" Knight prepares for the three gun competition, which features revolvers, rifles, and shotguns popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s.



Paul "Yakima Red" Hoeft (center) discusses cowboy action shooting scenarios with (from left) Jared "J-Rod" Hoeft, Gavin "Montana Redeye" Williams, and Kenneth "Shotgun Kegger" Gerke. The scenarios, clothing, and firearms all reflect the Old West of before 1913.

taming the West on the first Saturday of the month from March through November, weather permitting.

Several members also belong to the Montana Territory Peacemakers, a group based in Billings, Montana. They hold their competitions on the fourth Saturday of the month, giving area shooters the chance to double up on the fun.

Participants are required to adopt an alias appropriate to a character or profession of the late 19th century, a Hollywood western star, or an appropriate character from fiction. Knowles, also known as Chama Bill, won the small bore world championships in Brazil in 1984. Spencer

goes by Huachuca Scout, a nod to his Native American heritage, and has a large collection of trophies as well.

Hoeft said he got his nickname from the label on a bushel of apples. Co-director of the group with Hoeft, Ron "Flat-nosed George" Reed can also be found deftly wielding Dutch ovens in downtown Cody, Wyoming, as a chuck wagon chef for the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

Some members enjoy the historical and role-playing elements as much as—or even more than—the competitive shooting. "I may complain a little, but I love the clothes," said Cecile Knowles, aka Mudhen Millie.

“We probably shoot more in a weekend than some people shoot in their lifetime.”

— PAUL HOEFT



Susan "Buckskin Lily" Watkins moves from the shooting competition to the safety inspection table where all guns are checked for safety before they can be removed from the shooting zone. The group is as serious about safety as they are about the culture of the West.

Authentic clothes are so important that many use accessories they've collected from the period. Knowles does a button check before she leaves the competition to make sure the couple returns home with the same amount they came with.

But when it comes down to having a gun in her hand, she's no different than the rest of the competitors—she loves the culture. When she started, her husband bought her a semi-automatic pistol. She wasn't happy. "I told him I didn't want a space gun. I wanted a cowboy gun."

Knowles is more into accuracy than speed, "You'll notice my times aren't that fast because I like to hit the targets every

time. I love to hear the bang and clang," she said.

But most of all, she loves the camaraderie of like-minded folks who love guns, the culture of the Old West, and the freedom shooting sports offer. Michael, who has been at the Center of the West since 2016, said shooting sports can help free the mind.

"It might sound a little bit weird for people that aren't familiar with shooting, but I've met lots and lots of shooters that describe [shooting] as almost a Zen type of thing," he said.

Put another way, it's hard to stress about your job or finances when you have a

high-caliber revolver in your hands.

"And there's that historical connection to know what it was like to shoot back then—the process," Michael said. "I think that's appealing for people."



Mark Davis is the outdoors reporter for the Powell Tribune. He has worked previously as a reporter and photojournalist in Chicago and Omaha and enjoys hunting, fishing, birdwatching, and all outdoor sports.



WHAT LIES BENEATH

Exploring Yellowstone Lake's Mysterious Vents

Fog burns off the surface of Yellowstone Lake just as the sun rises over the rim of the Absaroka Range. Photograph by Chris Linder, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.



BY RUFFIN PREVOST
PHOTOS BY CHRIS LINDER

Summer visitors to Yellowstone National Park are likely to see fishing boats, scenic cruisers, and even a few research watercraft during a fair-weather day at Yellowstone Lake. In the winter, the sprawling lake freezes over—more than two feet thick in places—and no vessels venture out.

But that wasn't always the case.

In the late 1950s, the National Park Service used "ski planes" to traverse the park and Yellowstone Lake in the winter. Bob Richard was a park ranger in his twenties then, and led a group of visitors from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in the two-person vehicles, which preceded snowmobiles. Ski planes were small, enclosed craft mounted on three skis, and driven by an airplane engine with a push propeller in the back.

Driving the lead ski plane—which had no wings and did not fly—Richard led the group across the (mostly) frozen lake. He did not know then that submerged thermal features could keep sections of the lake's surface completely free of ice in the winter, even when temperatures linger for days at 20 degrees below or colder.

"So I was doing 75 mph with them following me, and we opened up onto blue water," Richard recalled.

Learning a quick and terrifying lesson about what lies beneath the lake in all seasons, the group narrowly avoided turning

the ski planes into submarines, "and that's why they don't go across the lake like that anymore," Richard said.

In the more than 60 years since, Richard has spent three decades as a Yellowstone tour guide based in Cody, Wyoming, sticking to the roads around the lake.

And researchers since then have conducted dozens of peer-reviewed, scientific studies aimed at mapping the lake floor, and learning more about the hundreds of mysterious vents and other thermal features beneath the surface, as well as the unique and varied microbial ecosystems that flourish there.

Visitors to the Buffalo Bill Center of the West can get a behind-the-scenes look at one of the latest and most ambitious of such projects through *What Lies Beneath: Exploring Yellowstone Lake's Mysterious Vents*, a special photography exhibition that documents the scientific expedition known as the Hydrothermal Dynamics of Yellowstone Lake (HD-YLAKE).

On view in the Draper Natural History Museum's John Bunker Sands Photography Gallery through May 1, 2022, the exhibition features photographs taken by Chris Linder, a photographer working with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, as well as a remote submersible used for previous similar projects.

"I would love for this to help people appreciate just how much work goes into getting scientific data," said Linder, a former oceanographer turned photographer and videographer, now specializing in documenting scientific expeditions to extreme environments.



Ryan O'Grady (left) and Mark Shapley (right) from the LacCore National Lacustrine Core Facility at the University of Minnesota secure the successfully collected cores to the frame of the coring vessel. Photograph by Chris Linder, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

“Environmental field work like this takes place all over the world, with scientists working and adapting in difficult conditions to overcome challenges,” he said. “It’s so much more than just data points or numbers on a spreadsheet. There’s a whole process to this kind of work that has always fascinated me.”

Spanning three summers from 2016 – 18, the HD-YLAKE project focused on the northern half of Yellowstone Lake, which lies inside the Yellowstone volcanic caldera, and is home to more than 250 hydrothermal vents and dozens of hydrothermal explosion craters, all hidden beneath the surface.

Researchers used specially adapted gear first developed for deep-sea operations to learn more about how earthquakes, volcanic processes, and climate affect the hydrothermal systems located beneath the lake.

Funded by the National Science Foundation and conducted with assistance from the U.S. Geological Survey, HD-YLAKE used remotely operated submersibles and a range of geophysical and geochemical instruments and sensors to measure and monitor water temperature, pH

levels, lake floor movement, thermal vent water flow, and a number of other environmental factors. Researchers from 10 different institutions analyzed—and in some cases are still reporting on—data gathered for the project.

The hottest vents measured were found near Stevenson Island at Deep Hole, the deepest spot in the lake at 410 feet. Water streaming from vents there was 345 degrees, according to a USGS report. That’s far hotter than any surface water temperature in the park—and hotter than any other lake on the planet—because the deep water acts like a pressure cooker, allowing for temperatures beyond water’s usual boiling point of 212 degrees.

Researchers found that these deep-water, super-hot vents are fundamentally different in some key characteristics than their surface-level counterparts elsewhere in Yellowstone. And that hundreds of feet deep, in total darkness, novel forms of microbial life exist, and even thrive.

That kind of basic research could eventually lead to important scientific breakthroughs, said David Lovalvo, founder and president of

the Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration, a nonprofit organization that assisted with HD-YLAKE.

Lovalvo points to the discovery decades ago of a unique “extremophile” bacterium found in the boiling waters of Yellowstone’s Lower Geyser Basin. That microbe eventually enabled polymerase chain reaction DNA testing, a quick, cheap, and effective way to diagnose certain diseases and genetic changes.

Samples drawn from Yellowstone Lake’s floor have yielded a wide range of novel microbial life, Lovalvo said, leading him to believe the “chances are good of finding something in those thermal vents that could be a significant find that could be tremendously valuable to human health.”

“That’s just one of a number of really compelling reasons why scientists are so fascinated with that lake,” he said.

Its sheer size is another reason. Covering a surface area of 132 square miles, Yellowstone Lake is roughly as big as Las Vegas, and is North America’s largest alpine lake. More than 141 rivers and streams flow into the lake,

but its only outlet is at Fishing Bridge, leading north into the Yellowstone River.

Members of the Hayden Expedition attempted to map the lake in 1871, spending 24 days sailing in an 11-foot boat along its 141 miles of shoreline, and dropping lead sinkers in approximately 300 spots to gauge depths.

"The lake was very rough," wrote Albert Peale, a member of the Hayden Expedition. "The wind once was so strong that the mast was broken off and carried away."

Modern researchers faced the same challenges, with wind and waves limiting their ability to operate late in the day, said Linder, who embedded with the HD-YLAKE team on several outings to capture photos and video of their operations.

With most days following a predictable pattern of calm mornings leading to windy and choppy afternoons, "it was a race to fin-

“The lake was very rough. The wind once was so strong that the mast was broken off and carried away.”

— ALBERT PEALE

ish the work every day before the winds picked up," Linder said.

Launching or recovering a submersible vehicle in frigid waters from a small, six-person research boat can become prohibitively dangerous in 3-foot waves and howling winds, Linder said, "so we were always at the mercy of the elements."

But for Linder, even on an off day when a sudden September storm brought hours of rain, sleet, and snow, the chance to document and tell the HD-YLAKE story was worth the rough conditions. Linder has covered more than 50 expeditions since 2002, more than half of those in polar regions.



Plumes of steam billow out of fumaroles along the banks of the Yellowstone River just north of Yellowstone Lake. The caldera is characterized by high heat flow and hundreds of active hydrothermal features. Photograph by Chris Linder, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

Lovalvo has also done his share of globe-trotting, working on projects in Indonesia, remote sections of the Atlantic Ocean, the Galápagos Islands, and even filming the wreck of the RMS *Titanic* in the North Atlantic.

But Yellowstone Lake still stands out as special and unique for so many seasoned explorers.


"Yellowstone is by far the one place that has intrigued me most, and where I've spent the most time," said Lovalvo, who first came to the park in 1985, and eventually bought a home in Montana's Paradise Valley, near Yellowstone's North Entrance.

"I grew up on the ocean, so I had never

been in the real mountains before," Lovalvo said, recalling his first trip over the Beartooth Highway to Yellowstone's Northeast Entrance more than 35 years ago. "I remember stopping at the top of that highway, looking out, and thinking: 'I'm never going to leave this place.' And I've been back here every year ever since."



Ruffin Prevost is a freelance writer from Cody, Wyoming, and editor of Points West. He operates the Yellowstone Gate website and covers Wyoming and Yellowstone National Park for the Reuters global news service.



Thank You

Thanks to all of our members and donors for your dedicated support. The past year has reminded us how fortunate we are to have you all in our family of donors. Your support has made it possible for us to face the many challenges of 2021. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

We would also like to highlight the following sponsors of the 2021 Patrons Ball. Even though we were unable to hold the Patrons Ball this year, the following individuals and businesses chose to donate their sponsorships to the operations of the Center. Generous people doing generous things in difficult times! Thank you.

Anonymous
Porter Bennett & Carolyn Quan
Paul & Judy Cali
Caryl & Roy Cline
Bill & Mary Anne Dingus
Margaret & William Frère

David & Cynthia Hayes
Hirtle, Callaghan & Co.
Carlene Lebous & Harris Haston
Merit Energy
Maggie & Dick Scarlett
Stokely Hospitality Enterprises

CHARITABLE GIFT LAW CHANGES

We wanted to take this time to remind you of some important CARES Act provisions that are scheduled to expire at the end of 2021. These provisions may affect you—and could make it easier for you to make a gift to the Buffalo Bill Center of the West. They include:

- ✓ An expanded charitable giving incentive that allows taxpayers who take the standard deduction to make up to \$300 in charitable cash contributions for single filers (\$600 for married couples) to qualified charities like ours (but not to supporting organizations or donor advised funds) this year.
- ✓ For those who do itemize their deductions, the law allows for cash contributions to qualified charities such as ours to be deducted up to 100 percent of your adjusted gross income for the 2021 calendar year.

THESE OPPORTUNITIES EXPIRE DEC. 31

We are so grateful for your generosity, which touches—and changes—so many lives. Please contact Amy Sullivan at amys@centerofthewest.org or 307-578-4008 to discuss how your gift can help further our mission.



Endowments Matter

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TODAY & TOMORROW

We at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West have been spending quite a bit of time talking about our theme for 2022. “This Is Your West” is only four words but holds so much impact for individuals, families, and communities. During this holiday season, whatever “Your West” is, we encourage you to give to the Center’s Operations Endowment so we can continue to share the stories of the West for generations to come.

WHY ENDOWMENTS ARE IMPORTANT

An endowment provides an ongoing source of revenue for the future. It is a fund that every organization should have to maintain its fiscal viability. Think about it like an investment account or a money market account growing over time to offset operational or programmatic expenses.

BENEFITS TO THE DONOR

- ✓ An endowment aligns with donor values and allows them to support the bottom line of charities they support. It is an investment in the future, rather than giving toward current operational expenses. It provides another option for donors to express their philanthropy.
- ✓ Endowment gifts are easy to make. Gifts can be in the form of cash, stock/securities transfer, IRA charitable rollover, planned gift, or beneficiary designation.
- ✓ It leaves a legacy. The gift could be named after someone, themselves, or a family member being honored. It is a wonderful way to provide an option for donors to give a legacy.

BENEFITS TO THE ORGANIZATION

- ✓ An endowment builds stability. Having a larger pool of money as security and a perpetual revenue source gives the organization more stability. An organization can plan more for the future, such as how it will grow, and free up time to project for and grow other avenues of revenue.

- ✓ An endowment also relieves some pressure from raising funds year after year, releasing the staff to be more innovative, take risks, build out programming, and support the community in different ways.
- ✓ An endowment also builds a pipeline for future gifts. Many donors want to see that an organization is stable before they invest in it for the future through a legacy gift. Donors can give a gift through a will to the endowment, and also support the endowment through a current gift.

WHAT IS THE CENTER’S OPERATIONS ENDOWMENT?

The Center’s endowment is a permanently restricted endowment. The endowment payout is only to be used for operational needs and the organization cannot access the principal. Nothing creates better fiscal stability for an organization than an endowment.

One of the best ways to invest in “Your West” is to donate to the Center of the West’s operational endowment—an investment in the future for all of us!

For more information contact Amy Sullivan, Carolyn Williams, or Rebecca McKinley in the Development office at 307-578-4008 or by email at amys@centerofthewest.org, carolynw@centerofthewest.org or rebeccam@centerofthewest.org

ENDOWMENT GIVING...

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Buffalo Bill Center of the West Director Rebecca West visits with rodeo star Charles Sampson, who is featured in the Center's special photo exhibition



IN THE NEWS

LAST CHANCE FOR EIGHT SECONDS

Only a few weeks remain to view *Eight Seconds: Black Cowboys in America*, a special photography exhibition on display through January 7, 2022 in the Anne and Charles Duncan Special Exhibition Gallery.

The exhibition explores the American cowboy through the lens of acclaimed photographer and designer Ivan B. McClellan, who has headed creative campaigns for Wrangler, Stetson, Nike, Adidas, and Disney.

Among those who have toured the Center's Eight Seconds exhibition is Charles Sampson, who is also featured among its photos. Sampson competed in 10 Wrangler National Finals Rodeos, winning in 1982. He stopped by this summer while working as a wrangler at Rimrock Ranch, located halfway between Cody and Yellowstone National Park.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO WALTER GOODMAN, JR.

Buffalo Bill Museum Emeritus Advisor, Walter F. "Hap" Goodman, Jr. turned 100 on Sept. 26, 2021.

Having first joined the Buffalo Bill Museum Advisory Board in 1988, Goodman became an emeritus member in 2011, and is active on the advisory board, traveling to Cody, Wyoming often.



Hap's first visit to Cody and Yellowstone National Park was in 1935, when his family came to visit his father's hometown.

A man of many interests, Hap and his wife, Loraine, are world travelers and collectors of Western American art and Buffalo Bill memorabilia. In 1998, to honor Hap's grandmother (who was William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody's beloved older sister), the Goodmans established the Julia Cody Goodman Acquisition and Conservation Fund.

Hap has written about the travels and adventures of his father, Walter Sr., who was Buffalo Bill's nephew. Hap and Loraine's daughter, Sally Goodman is also an advisor to the Buffalo Bill Museum, ensuring the Cody-Goodman heritage carries on at the Buffalo Bill Center of the West.

ARMAX JOURNAL LAUNCHES

The first issue of Armax: The Journal of Contemporary Arms is due to ship before the end of the year. Armax is a peer-reviewed journal for small arms history produced in cooperation with the Cody Firearms Museum. Center of the West members will receive a 10 percent discount while CFM members can receive a 30 percent discount. More info can be found at centerofthewest.org/armax or at armax-journal.org.

GRANT FOR EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Center of the West's Indian Education for All program has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities – American Rescue Plan. The Indian Education for All program offers professional development for Wyoming teachers to meet statewide standards for Native American education, as well as to provide creative outreach and interpretive program content. The grant supports staffing, supplies, and expenses for this innovative program through 2022.

CODY CULTURE CLUB

The Cody Culture Club celebrates the unique culture of Cody, Wyoming, by offering insightful programs, with appetizers and cash bar, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. on these dates:

- JANUARY 13 – Are We There Yet? The Ecology of Migration
- FEBRUARY 3 – Constellations & Stories of the Western Sky
- MARCH 10 – History of the Irma
- APRIL 14 – Recording the Yellowstone Hotspot Track

Look for details and advanced ticket sales at centerofthewest.org/codycultureclub.

KIDS ASK WHY PODCAST

Kids Ask WhY, the podcast that encourages kids to explore their natural curiosity about the world around them by asking questions of experts, launched its second season on October 5 with the first of seven new episodes. The theme for this season is "What events in Wyoming make the American West a unique place, and help define its character?"

Produced by Wyoming Public Media and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West, Kids Ask WhY features young journalists (7 – 12 years old) from Wyoming, who cover varied topics that connect them to their home—the modern American West.

In each episode, Wyoming student-journalists attempt to answer their questions about Wyoming through interviews with experts. In episode one, Sophia Moore from Cody, and Taft Winter from Otto take the reins as they delve into two important "seasons" in Wyoming: Fire Season and Hunting Season.

The new season is now online and available for streaming or download at kidsaskwhy.org.



DETAILS

SHOT WITH

NIKON D850

LENS: Nikon 500mm 5.6

EXPOSURE: 1/3200 at f 6.3

ISO: 100

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and get a \$50 Points West Market gift card. Send hi-res image and 400-word story to editor@centerofthewest.org.

pheasant flying over snow

BY ROB KOELLING

Pheasants are common throughout the agricultural lands of the northern Bighorn Basin of Wyoming. Frequently seen feeding along roads and in fields, the roosters are dazzling with their vibrant colors and long tails.

But that doesn't mean they are easy to photograph. When alarmed, a pheasant will often flatten itself on the ground. It can vanish into cover so scant that it seems impossible it could hide anything. If cover is not available, a pheasant will run, and it is very fast.

As a last resort, if faced with an imminent threat or a barrier (like a fence that can't be squeezed through), it will take flight. Capturing a photo of one in flight can be its own challenge, because it is difficult to predict when and where a pheasant might show up.

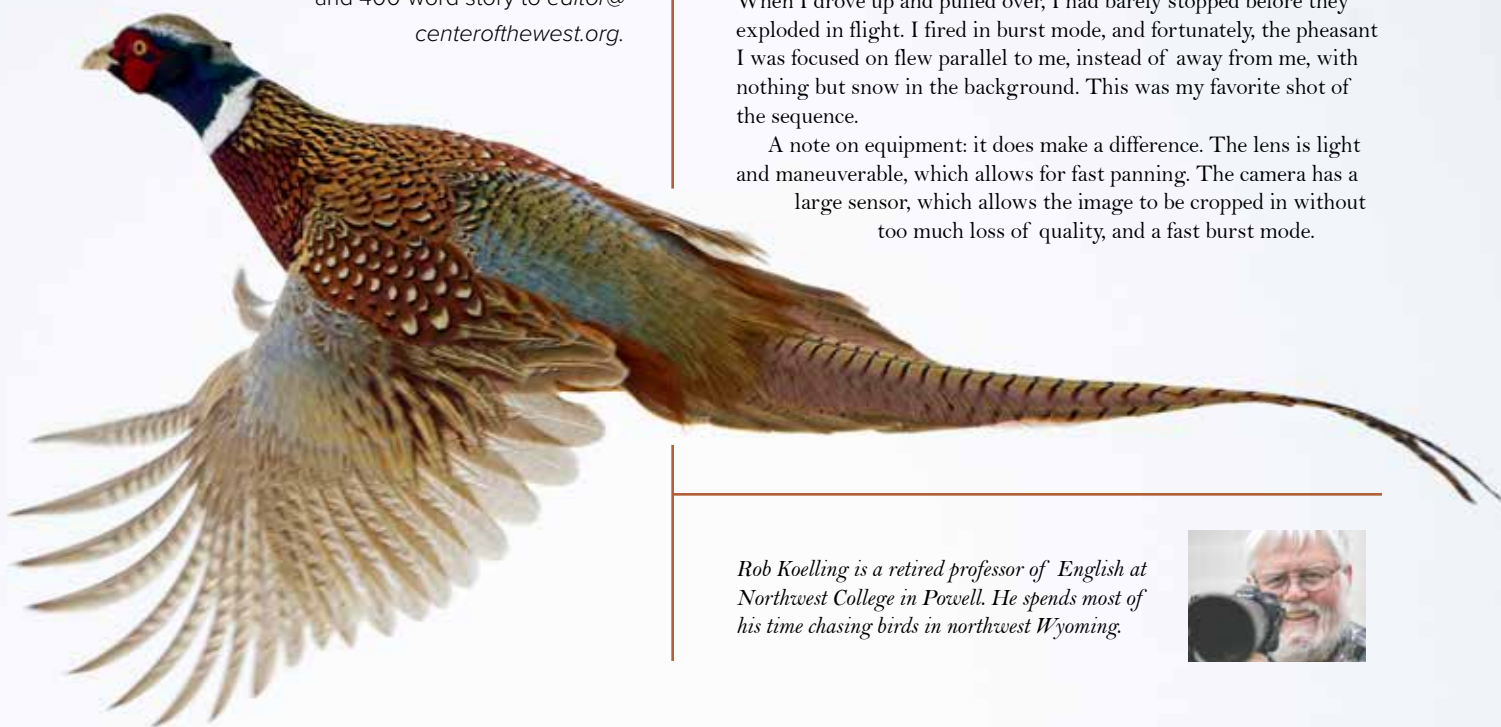
Last winter, I realized that in snow, pheasants will typically fly rather than trying to run. I didn't have the opportunity to test out the theory then, but a significant winter storm blew through northern Wyoming this year in the middle of February and left upwards of eight inches of snow on the ground.

I started by driving past corn fields which had been harvested the previous fall. I soon found a field where the edge was lined with bare spots where pheasants had scraped off the snow. The road was gravel and had almost no traffic. I knew that if I drove by at a constant speed, the pheasants would ignore me. But the moment I pulled over, they would scatter—most of them taking flight.

It was cold and heavily overcast when I went out to try for a photo. About a dozen pheasants were feeding on the edge of the field. When I drove up and pulled over, I had barely stopped before they exploded in flight. I fired in burst mode, and fortunately, the pheasant I was focused on flew parallel to me, instead of away from me, with nothing but snow in the background. This was my favorite shot of the sequence.

A note on equipment: it does make a difference. The lens is light and maneuverable, which allows for fast panning. The camera has a large sensor, which allows the image to be cropped in without too much loss of quality, and a fast burst mode.

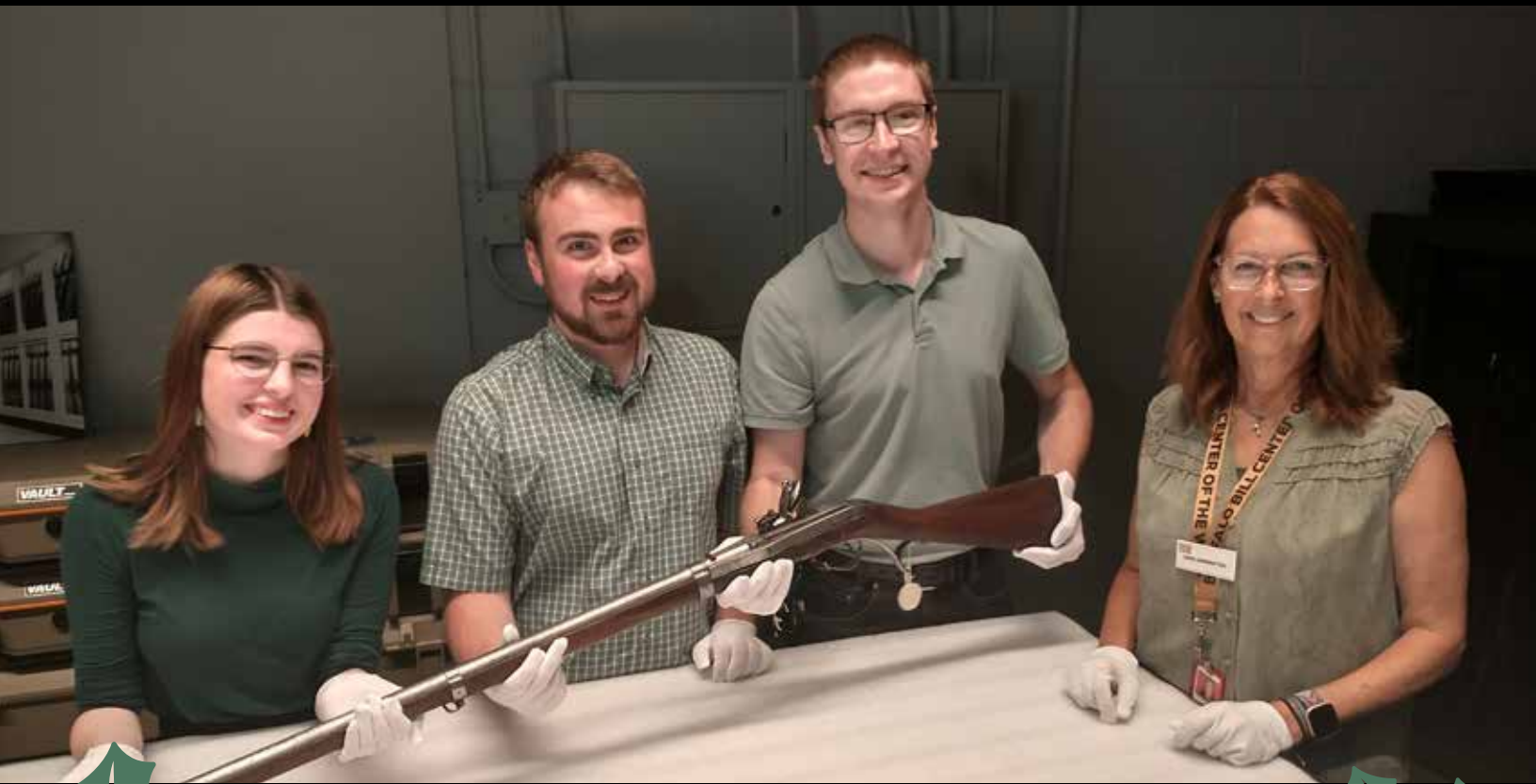
Rob Koelling is a retired professor of English at Northwest College in Powell. He spends most of his time chasing birds in northwest Wyoming.



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