

Do you have an event coming up? **Let us know** so we can help you promote it!

# High Plains Compass

There is a place where possibilities are as endless as the horizons.

E-NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2011

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Several great events are coming up in the next few weeks!

Check out *Page 6!*

## Community Spotlight: Goshen County, WY

In a previous edition we introduced you to Torrington, Wyoming. This edition is dedicated to the remaining fabulous communities located in Goshen County, WY.

Goshen County is one of Wyoming's extreme eastern counties, with Nebraska for its eastern border. Since

this region sits in the best portion of the great North Platte Valley, it enjoys mild seasons year round and escapes the severe winter storms that hits surrounding areas. Its weather has deemed Goshen County as "The Banana Belt of Wyoming." This county is rich in history with many his-

toric trails such as the Oregon, Mormon, and California trails, the Pony Express, and the Texas Cattle Drive trails having traversed the area.

The communities featured are Fort Laramie, Lingle, LaGrange, Hawk Springs, Huntley, Yoder, Veteran and Jay Em, WY.

## LaGrange

LaGrange Wyoming, the oldest incorporated town in Goshen County, is home to the Frontier School of the Bible. This farming and ranching community features a restaurant/grocery store, public park, tennis courts, community building and a rodeo arena. The LaGrange Heritage Square (pictured at right) is

a renovated historic high school now used as a community and business center that includes a complete fitness center, library, daycare and preschool space, and office space for rent.

LaGrange is located just 30 miles south of Torrington, Wyo., or 58 miles north of Cheyenne, Wyo., on U.S. Highway 85 and just a few miles east. Just north is Sixty-Six Mountain.



# Fort Laramie

*Below: The town of Fort Laramie and the National Historical Site.*



Photograph by James D. Milne

The Town of Fort Laramie, Wyoming has a population of 243 and is located 22 miles northwest of Torrington on U.S. Highway 26. It also has the oldest post office in Wyoming, dating back to the 1880's when the army was occupying the nearby

fort. The town is named after the historic Fort Laramie, an important

stop on the Oregon, California and Mormon trails. Fort Laramie, Wyoming was also a staging point for various military excursions. Now a national historic site, the Fort is located across the North Platte River from the current town, at the mouth of the Laramie River. A mile south of town is an iron bridge built in 1875. Funded by a

\$15,000 congressional appropriation, the bridge ensured the establishment of the Cheyenne-Deadwood State and Express throughout the area. It remained the major route north for many years thereafter. A highway monument east of Fort Laramie along U.S. 26 notes the site of the 1854 Grattan Massacre, one of the few Indian-white conflicts to occur in the vicinity of Fort Laramie.

## Did You Know?

**Veteran** is a community or populated place located in Goshen County at latitude 41.964 and longitude -104.381. The elevation is 4,239 feet. Veteran has a population of 28 with 16 housing units according to the 2000 census.

## Fort Laramie National Historic Site - the Crossroads of a Nation Moving West

This unique historic place preserves and interprets one of America's most important locations in the history of westward expansion and Indian resistance.

In 1834, (where the Cheyenne and Arapaho traveled, traded and hunted), a fur trading post was created. Soon to be known as Fort Laramie, it rested at a location that would quickly prove to be the path of least resistance across a continent. By the 1840's, wagon

trains rested and resupplied here, bound for Oregon, California and Utah.

In 1849, as the Gold Rush of California drew more westward, Fort Laramie National Historic Site became a military post, and for the next 41 years, would shape major events as the struggle between two cultures for domination of the northern plains increased into conflict. In 1876, Fort Laramie served as an anchor for

military operations, communication, supply and logistics during the "Great Sioux War."

In 1890, Fort Laramie National Historic Site closed; along with the frontier it helped shape and influence. Its legacy is one of peace and war, of cooperation and conflict; a place where the west we know today was forged. We invite you to discover and explore the many crossroads that were, and still is The Fort Laramie National Historic Site.

## Hawk Springs

Hawk Springs is a community or populated place located in Goshen County. The elevation is 4,386 feet. Hawk Springs has a population of 69 with 40 housing units and a land area of 1.7 sq. miles. Located off Highway 85 in Goshen County, Hawk Springs of-

fers boating, waterskiing, picnicking and camping. [Hawk Springs Reservoir](#) has a blue heron rookery. Visitors also might see several Canadian geese, mallard, blue-winged and green-winged teal, gadwall, pintail, wood duck, avocet and great horned owl.

Fishing is offered at the site, and game fish include walleye, large mouth bass, yellow perch and channel catfish. Ice fishing is also offered as a winter activity. The reservoir has 24 camping units for trailers or tents, comfort stations, and a boat ramp.

## Huntley & The Table Mountain Winery

Huntley is a community located in Goshen County at latitude 41.933 and longitude -104.146. The elevation is 4,236 feet. Huntley has a population of 21 with 9 housing units. Established in 2004, Table Mountain Vineyards is Wyoming's

premier winery. The winery produces hand crafted wines from 100% Wyoming grapes, raspberries, honey and agricultural products. The wines are full of "Wyoming Character" and reflect Wyoming's climate and growing

conditions in every sip. Their wines reflect their history and family's commitment to Wyoming Agriculture. We invite you to learn about the ever growing wine experience and experience Wyoming wine! Click [here](#) to take a look!

**39th Annual  
LaGrange Mini  
Fair & Rodeo  
Saturday,  
June 25, 2011**

Ever see a wild cow milking or a boot race? Well, the LaGrange mini fair is the place to see all the action. There is a pancake breakfast, pet parade, gymkhana, ranch rodeo, bull riding and much more. It's a full day of fun.

Come out to experience some cowboy entertainment!

## LaGrange Walking Path

The LaGrange walking path was named Longhorn Lane and is 3,204 feet long or .60 miles. Longhorn Lane winds from the parking lot at the corner of Highway 151 and 3rd Avenue to the LaGrange War Memorial Building at 403 M Street.

In between you will find the path flows alongside the soccer field and on around the LaGrange Riding Arena ending right at the Bill Ward Memorial Playground. If you are not an avid walker and need a rest there are plenty

of benches and picnic tables along the way. In addition to the walking path there is a radio control car race track you can bring your cars and race a friend. There is also a Frisbee Golf Course with 9 holes.

HAVE FUN!

# Yoder

Philip Yoder was born in 1836 at Shanesville, Ohio. In the spring of 1882, he brought his family to Wyoming and settled in Goshen Co. on a ranch along Bear Creek. Philip prospered in raising cattle and horses. In 1921 the Union Pacific Railroad laid track from Gering, Nebraska to South Torrington, Wyoming, the county seat of Goshen, Co. The tracks passed several miles east of the Yoder ranch. Jesse Yoder, Philip's son, organized a Goshen Townsite Development Company to build a new town beside the railroad. The name "Yoder" was chosen in honor of the Yoder family which had lived in

the area since 1881 and for Jesse Yoder who had headed the townsite company.

Real estate offices, measuring a mere 4 by 6 feet, sprang up almost overnight at Yoder. Grocery, hardware, and dry goods stores were soon constructed; also a bakery and a cream station. In 1922 a brick schoolhouse was built and a weekly newspaper was started. That same year, electricity came to town, including electric street lamps. A rodeo was held that summer to celebrate the founding of the town.

In four years' time, Yoder grew from nothing to a town of between 500 and 600 people. There were

three drugstores, two barber shops, three hardware stores, two cream stations, a hotel, a bank, several churches, a bakery, a doctor's office, a community hall, three lumber yards, a telephone office, a rooming house, and a livery stable -- not to mention the many residences.

Yoder thrived for about ten years. Then came the Great Depression of the 1930's. One after another, the business places closed and people moved away. The population fell so that by 1970, the citizens numbered 101. Today it is just a sleepy country town with a grade school and a modern post office.

## Did you know?

There are only a hand full of residents that have lived in Jay Em, Wyoming for most of their lives.

Jay Em is located north of Lingle on county road 85 towards Lusk and Keeline, mostly obscured by trees from the road-side.

# Springer Reservoir

Springer Reservoir is a reservoir in Goshen County in the state of Wyoming, near Yoder. Fishermen will find a variety of fish including lake trout, sock-eye salmon and smelt here. Whether

you're spinning, fly fishing, net fishing or trolling, your chances of getting a bite here are good. So grab your favorite fly fishing rod and reel, and head out to Springer Reservoir. If all goes well, the

bank trout will be hooked by your chubs, the smelt will be biting your alewives and the sock-eye will be grabbing your smelt.

Now what are you waiting for, get fish-

*Be Social!*



# Lingle

The Town of Lingle is located approximately 95 miles north of Cheyenne, Wyoming on US Highway 85 and 10 miles west of Torrington, Wyoming. I-25 is 38 miles to the west on U.S. Highway 26.

Lingle is named after Hiram Lingle, who was a promoter of the region and its agriculture. Lingle, Wyoming has just under 500 people in the city, and the people in the area often believed to be the "jack of all trades."



Help the Sidney Jaycees help our Community. Take this quick 10 question survey to let us know what you feel is important and needs our focus. Use the following link to voice your opinions: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3CGH2QY>

## The Western History Center

How would you like to touch the 9-foot tusk of a mammoth that lived over 20,000 years ago? Are you interested in historic and pre-historic displays? Are you a rock and mineral hound? Then you need to visit the Western History Center in Lingle, WY!

Come get your hands dirty or just browse the Center with your eyes. There is something of interest for all ages who delve into the past, especially in the hands-on activity area.

Activities at the Western

History Center include: preservation of historic and prehistoric sites, the curation and analysis of artifacts, field schools and on-going oral history program, and numerous other activities. The Center also offers guided tours of various sites in the area that can be tailored to your time and interests. After you have feasted on local history, visit the gift shop, which specializes in children's learning activities, and the bookstore, which has a large selection of books on western history.

### **Check out the:**

- Mammoth Tusks
- Historic & Archeological Displays
- Rocks & Minerals
- Guided Tours of Dig Sites

### **Hours of Operation:**

June, July, August  
(10am -4pm) Mon.-Sat.

September to May  
(9am -3pm) Mon., Thurs., Sat.

Admission \$1.50  
(12 and under free)

Advance Reservations Required for Dig Tours \$40 per person.

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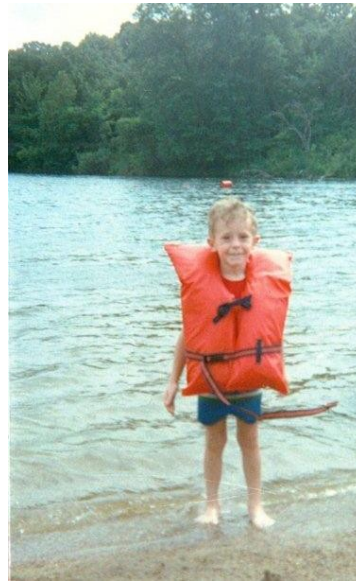
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**“There is a place where the possibilities are as endless as the horizons.”**

## Mystery Photo



Where was this photo taken?

**HINT:**  
There's only  
“one-way”  
to get there.

E-mail your submission!

*Congratulations to Brad Rusk, Michael Dickman, and Ramona Joyce for correctly guessing last month's Mystery Photo!*

# High Plains Compass Events!

**Mar. 16, 17, 30, 31, Apr. 13, 14: Non-profit Leadership Institute**, A series of trainings in Alliance, NE

**Mar. 17: Legal & Financial Issues Class**, Harms Center, 7pm, Scottsbluff, NE

**Mar. 17: Leprechaun Leap**, Hillside Bar and Grill, 5:30pm, Sidney, NE

**Mar. 18: Girlz Rock Dance Show**, Sidney Middle School Gym, 6:30pm, Sidney, NE

**Mar. 23: Get Fit & Stay Fit Lunch & Learn**, WNCC, 11am, Sidney, NE

**Mar. 24: Pushing the Elephant**, Midwest Theatre, 7:30pm, Scottsbluff, NE

**Mar. 26: Gurley Lions Club Consignment Auction**, Community Hall, 9am, Gurley, NE

**Mar. 26: Gurley Goes Green**, Parade, Community Hall, 4pm, Gurley, NE

**Mar. 30: Leveraging Technology for the Future of Nebraska**, Gering Civic Center, 1pm, Gering, NE

**Mar. 31, Apr. 1: April Verch & Band**, Historic Midwest Theatre, 7:30pm, Scottsbluff, NE

**Apr. 2: “A Night of Tomfoolery VII”**, Sidney Elks Lodge, Sidney, NE

**Apr. 2-3: Little Britches Rodeo**, Goshen County Indoor Arena, 9am, Torrington, WY

**Apr. 5, 6: Pure Performance “Life of an Athlete”**, Prairie Winds Comm. Center, 9am, Bridgeport, NE

**Apr. 6-9: Child Seat Technician Training**, Scottsbluff, NE

**Apr. 9-10: KSID Radio Spring Expo**, Cheyenne County Fairgrounds, 10am, Sidney, NE

For a complete listing of our events, please visit our

EVENTS page.

To add an event, please click HERE!

*Sign Up For Our Upcoming Events Here!*