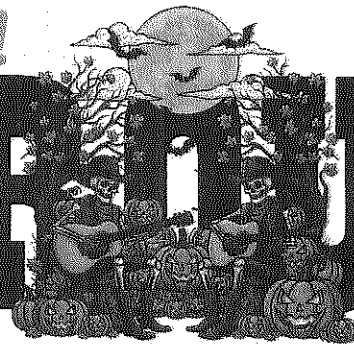


happy halloween!

Volume 37 Number 27 • October 25, 2025

WYOMING LIVESTOCK ROUNDUP



The Weekly News Source for Ranchers, Farmers and AgriBusiness Community • www.wyln.net

A Look Inside

UW Extension hosts Youth Ag Safe Day in Crook County..... Page 8

Natural food dyes developed by SDSU researchers using ag byproducts..... Page 11

Test your word knowledge in this week's Halloween word search..... Page 18

Reducing wild horse populations is good for ecosystem health..... Page 19

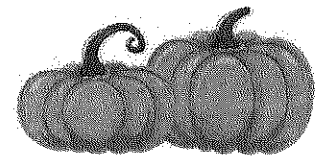
Quick Bits WWPC Meeting

The Wyoming Weed and Pest Council (WWPC) will host business meetings during its fall conference, set for Oct. 29-31 in Jackson. Business meetings will take place on Oct. 28 at 3:45 p.m. and Oct. 30 at 8 a.m. in the Grand Teton Room of the Snow King Resort. There will be a chance for public comment during the meetings, and the public is welcome to attend. For more information or to view a full meeting agenda, visit wyoweed.org/ or contact Lindsey Woodward at lindsey.woodward@wyo.gov or 307-777-6585

Administration makes bold announcements regarding beef

On Oct. 17, President Donald Trump announced a new campaign to lower beef prices for U.S. consumers. This news had immediate and significant impacts on the market, with feeder cattle closing more than nine dollars to end the week.

The president made bigger waves only a few days later when he proposed to expand imports of Argentine beef as a means of lowering record-high prices, *Please see BEEF on page 13*



Pumpkin Party

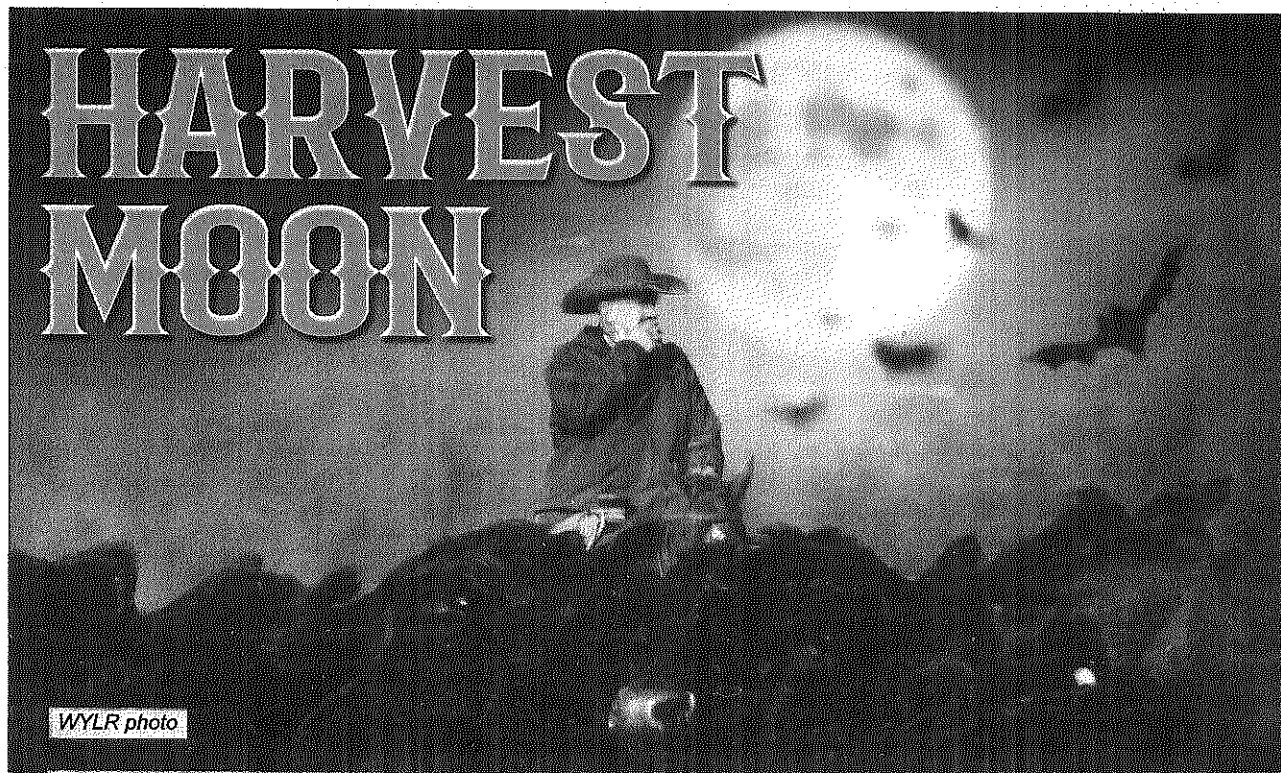
Wyoming State Championship Weigh-Off and Giant Pumpkin Drop reaches new heights

On Oct. 4, a group of spectators and giant pumpkin growers gathered at the Washakie County Fairgrounds in Worland for the annual Wyoming State Championship Weigh-Off and Giant Pumpkin Drop.

This family-friendly tradition helps ring in fall each year and features an impressive display of massive pumpkins exhibited by expert gourd growers hailing from across Wyoming and surrounding states.

The event always ends with the fan favorite giant pumpkin drop, where the heaviest pumpkins are hoisted hundreds of feet high before careening to the ground.

This year, the win-



HARVEST MOON

WYLR photo

Full moon nearest the autumn equinox is a timeless symbol for ag

Halloween is deeply rooted in agriculture, originating from the ancient Celtic harvest festival of Samhain. Scientifically, this year's harvest moon is 20 minutes later in Canada and Europe.

Working Group

The Southwest Sage Grouse Local Working Group will meet from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Oct. 29 at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's Green River Regional Office. The group will discuss project funding. The public is welcome to attend, but there will be no virtual option. For more information, e-mail Nyssa Whitford at nyssa.whitford@wyo.gov.

WWGA Meeting

The Wyoming Wool Growers Association (WWGA) Membership Business Meeting will be held on Nov. 8 during the West Central States Wool Growers Convention in Cody, with an approximate start time of 2:15 p.m. For more information, contact WWGA Executive Director Alison Crane at alison@wyowool.com.

Crop Prices

As of Oct. 21, December corn fell 3.5 cents to \$4.19 per bushel to halt a five-day win streak which sent the market to its highest close in over three weeks. Prices faded after December futures failed to make a concerted test of the prior week's intraday high at \$4.24. November soybeans fell one cent to \$10.30 after fading from an overnight rally. December SRW wheat futures fell 4.5 cents to five dollars. Prices are still up from a contract low at \$4.92 a week ago.

hain which marked the end of harvest season.

Additionally, the bright orange Harvest Moon that rises over the plains each autumn has become a timeless symbol of hard work, abundance and the successful culmination of another productive season.

By the light of the moon

The Harvest Moon is the first full moon closest to the autumn equinox and often occurs in September or October.

Several sources note, throughout the year, the moon rises about 50 minutes later each night on average, while the Harvest Moon rises at nearly the same time – at or just after sunset – for several nights in a row, roughly 25 to 30 minutes later in the U.S. and 10

elliptical orbit and its position relative to Earth's tilt. Around the equinox, the moon's path is nearly parallel to the horizon, which keeps it visible longer after sunset.

Prior to today's advancements in technology and modern farming techniques, this extra moonlight provided growers and Native American Tribes with a predictable and consistent source of light, allowing them to continue working after the sun went down.

The ability to harvest crops for an extended period of time allowed them to gather as many crops as they could before the frost set in and the land went dormant, maximizing their yield and ensuring they had

Please see **MOON** on page 9

1,788 pounds, setting a new site record before being sent crashing down onto a port-potty from 200 feet in the air.

Weigh-off results

In total, 20 giant pumpkins ranging in size from just under 60 pounds to nearly one ton were on display at the 2025 contest. The weigh-off featured growers from all across Wyoming, as well as one competitor from Montana.

Chad Kurtenbach of
Please see **PUMPKINS** on page 18

NWS threat spurs USDA action

As the New World screwworm (NWS) continues its northward march, sounding alarm bells across the nation's livestock industry, key players like the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Texas A&M University (TAMU) are ramping up public education and prevention efforts.

While no detections have occurred in the U.S. to date, NWS has been confirmed most recently in Nuevo León, Mexico – less than 70 miles from the Texas border – marking the nearest report of the parasitic fly in decades.

Billion-dollar threat

Cochliomyia hominivorax – commonly referred to as NWS – is a tropical, metallic green-blue fly with large orange eyes, about twice the size of a common housefly.

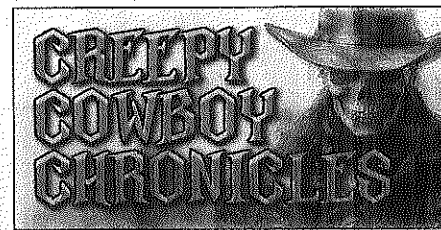
NWS is not a biting fly. Instead, it causes damage to living, warm-blooded animals by depositing eggs into preexisting wounds – though it rarely affects birds.

NWS larvae feed on the living tissues of their hosts, burrowing or “screwing” into the animal's tissue with their sharp mouth hooks – hence the fly's namesake – causing significant damage. If wounds go untreated, infestations can result in infection which can be fatal.

According to an Oct. 13 *Texas A&M AgriLife* article by Communications Coordinator Kay Ledbetter, the fly previously posed a problem in the southern U.S. prior to its eradication in the 1960s.

“Effective eradication in the U.S. was accomplished in 1966, and by 1967, U.S. cases had fallen to fewer than 1,000 – a 99 percent reduction,” Ledbetter writes. “Inursions by the pest continued for several years, prompting a multinational coordinated eradication effort in the late

Please see **NWS** on page 12



Headless bride haunts historic hotel hallways

Although primarily renowned for its plentiful natural splendor, America's first national park also boasts some fantastic history on the supernatural side.

A ghost story dating back more than a

century marks the hallways of Yellowstone National Park's historic Old Faithful Inn, where the spirit of a young bride met by a murderous end is rumored to roam.

The story

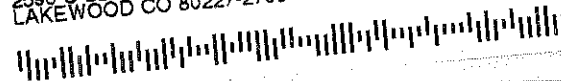
Yellowstone's most notorious ghost story dates back to 1915. It begins in New York City, where the daughter of a wealthy shipping company owner was arranged to be married to the son of another well-to-do family.

The daughter rejected the arranged marriage, as she had fallen in love with a much older man who worked as a servant in the family home and planned to marry him instead. Enraged, her father threatened to cut the woman and her new husband out of any shred of inheritance.

Please see **BRIDE** on page 10

periodical

*****ALL FOR ADC 800
81B 25T
23214 03-03-26
CHANEL MIKEL
MTN STATES LEGAL FOUNDATION
2596 S LEWIS WAY
LAKEWOOD CO 80227-2705



Something for Everyone in the Business



From the
Publisher
Dennis Sun

As October comes to a close, convention season will kick off, running from Oct. 27 to Dec. 10 this year.

In the next 45 days there will be many ag-related events taking place, and it is a good time to get up-to-date on state and national agricultural issues.

The season starts Oct. 27-28 with the Wyoming Farm to School Conference.

This two-day conference in Casper is the first of its kind. It is about those in production agriculture supplying local schools with meat and vegetables for lunch. This worthwhile movement has really caught on in Wyoming and will only get larger.

On Oct. 29-31, the Wyoming Water Association Annual Conference, to be held in Casper, will focus on water issues around the state. There will be much discussion about the Colorado River Pact.

The American Angus Association will hold its annual conference from Oct. 31-Nov. 2 in Kansas City, Mo., bringing Angus breeders together from around the world.

On Nov. 6-7, the Wyoming Association of Irrigation Districts will hold its annual meeting in Casper. With the state's water being so valuable, there will be many discussions on irrigation water.

Also on Nov. 6-7, the 32nd Annual Wyoming Women in Ag Symposium will be held in Gillette. This event is always very informative and includes a local tour of ag businesses.

The West Central States Wool Growers Convention will be held Nov. 6-8 in Cody. This is always a well-attended convention by those involved in the sheep, lamb and wool industry.

On Nov. 10-11, the Range Beef Cow Symposium will be held in Cheyenne. This collaboration of Wyoming, Colorado and South Dakota Extensions provides a great wealth of information about raising cattle in the region. A trade show and the best information from ag colleges and other ranchers makes for a great time.

The 42nd Annual Governor's Business Forum will take place in Laramie Nov. 11-13 where businesses from all industries will gather to hear speakers on the strength of Wyoming industries and what is happening around the state.

The Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation 2025 Annual Meeting and Vendor Fair is set for Nov. 13-15 in Gillette. This is always a good place to plan policy for the coming year and join with people from around the state. It is a real family-friendly event.

The Cheyenne Livestock Exposition in Cheyenne, set for Nov. 17-30, is a great place for all ages to show high-quality livestock.

GUEST OPINIONS

A New Ninth Circuit Decision Raises the Question, Does FLPMA Matter?

By Ivan London

Recently, the Ninth Circuit issued a decision which could have grave consequences for farmers, energy users and anyone who relies on exploration of federal land.

In a case called *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes vs. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)*, the court addressed how a specific federal statute – the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) – interacts with Tribal rights and treaties.

In short, the Tribe won a victory, for now, holding an early 20th century treaty constrains BLM from allowing a company to explore federal land for minerals.

Put simply, the decision is alarming, particularly for anyone who cares about energy independence, food security and the prosperity of the American West.

Ordinarily, FLPMA resolves uncertainties when it comes to how federal land can be used.

When it comes to major projects like the one at issue in the case, predictability is the key, and while respect for treaty

rights is a core principle of federal law, federal courts must also give effect to FLPMA's mandate. The two should be reconciled, not placed in conflict.

But in its ruling, the Ninth Circuit declared FLPMA's cornerstone duty to reset management of federal lands in the West is meaningless in the context of a Tribal treaty. Instead, the court held that treaty provisions from the early 20th century can override FLPMA's framework, even on lands which have been under federal management for generations.

Respecting treaty rights is important, but it should not come at the expense of disregarding Congress' clear statutory directives. So, while courts have put forth a narrative that FLPMA fundamentally changed land management in the West, the Ninth Circuit instead articulated a major loophole which renders the law nearly meaningless.

The Ninth Circuit was not painting on a blank canvas though. For years, federal courts have used FLPMA as a

sword against projects on federal land but not given it the same credence when FLPMA would protect private conduct. This is just not right.

At Mountain States Legal Foundation (MSLF), we rarely cheer for larger or more invasive government. Our mission has always been to hold federal regulators in check. But in this case, the public's interests are best served by giving effect to Congress' clear statutory mandate in FLPMA.

This law protects projects providing energy, food and jobs – reflecting the pro-project public Congress had in mind, rather than the litigation-driven opposition of groups determined to stop every use of public lands.

Congress enacted FLPMA in 1976 to ensure federal lands would be managed for multiple use and sustained yield. These are terms of art which have legal meanings.

Congress required BLM to prevent

Please see FLPMA on page 7

HOFFMAN ¹/₅ RANCH

Bringing Back Balance

NOW
OFFERING

PAP TESTED

» A big selection of Hereford & Angus bulls were summered and PAP tested in Walden, CO at over 8000 ft.

» Angus pairs ran in Granby, CO this summer to continue our commitment to building our PAP options.

» Come buy them in the fall and we will winter them until after our spring bull sale.

FLPMA continued from page 2

“unnecessary or undue degradation,” precisely to strike a balance between development and conservation. For decades, this mandate has shaped how BLM regulates grazing, oil and gas production, timber harvests, mining projects and rights-of-way.

BLM doesn't always get it right, but at least FLPMA is supposed to guide how decisions are made in these areas. And courts and agencies alike are supposed to treat the “multiple-use” standard as a real, enforceable standard.

It says nothing about deferring to older treaties which would constrain BLM from applying FLPMA in the usual course.

But this dedication to the law has eroded over the past years, including a recent effort by BLM to create leases rewarding applicants for perversely taking federal lands away from the public.

The agency is now proposing to walk this effort back, and MSLF will support BLM in making sure the effort was short-lived.

Now, however, the Ninth Circuit has reduced the multiple-use duty to a hollow formality in one context here.

This about-face undermines both the statute's text and decades of agency practice. Worse still, it comes after “anti-use” groups spent decades wielding FLPMA

to block grazing, oil and gas leasing, mining and timber harvests – all of which are uses of federal lands Congress elevated as national priorities.

If FLPMA was a sword for activists who wanted to block all of these projects yesterday, then how can the same premise suddenly provide no shield for American producers today? The law must be equally available to all.

The consequences of the *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes vs. BLM* case may be felt across the economy.

In the case, BLM had authorized a company to use land to obtain potash and phosphate – two common ingredients used in fertilizer for farmers.

Without reliable domestic sources of potash and phosphate, American farmers will have to consider relying on fertilizer imports from Morocco, Russia and China.

In broader terms, the decision may affect energy exploration, since Tribes can assert treaties which long ago disposed of their lands in favor of federal ownership but still come with strings attached.

Without confidence national-priority projects can be approved under a fair legal standard, the U.S. risks falling behind in securing the critical resources needed for affordable, reliable and responsible energy,

manufacturing and national defense.

And without tools like active forest management, communities in the West will face more catastrophic wildfires which threaten lives, livelihoods and the very lands FLPMA was meant to protect.

To be sure, the *Shoshone-Bannock Tribes vs. BLM* case was a two-to-one vote at the Court of Appeals, meaning one of the three judges dissented from the holding. This dissent got it right – courts must give meaning to Congress' words.

To say FLPMA doesn't protect the process here is to say Congress wasted its breath, which is a conclusion the Supreme Court has rejected repeatedly when interpreting federal statutes.

Let's hope the case doesn't stop with a negative ruling because our energy independence, food security and the health of our forests and other lands demand a legal framework that means what it says.

If courts have meant what they said about FLPMA providing this framework, then they need to be consistent.

In this recent case, the Ninth Circuit worked hard to invent a loophole. It's not there though. Pretending otherwise is a mistake.

Ivan London is a senior attorney at MSLF, practicing energy and natural resources law. He can be reached by visiting mslegal.org.

UW launches program

From October 2025 to May 2026, University of Wyoming (UW) Extension will lead a program to inspire outdoor adventures and encourage families to spend time together.

“Ready, Set, Explore” is a free annual program open to the public. Participants can complete monthly activities with anyone they consider family, from parents and siblings to friends and neighbors.

Those who register for the program between October and May will receive an e-mail with a link to all eight months of activities. Each month includes outdoor activities, tips about health and nature, a handout on a natural resource, a snack idea and a journal prompt.

Activities are designed to help families connect to each other and to nature. October's activities, for example, include going on a fall scavenger hunt, decorating pumpkins and building a scarecrow.

Families can receive a small prize every month for completing at least four activities and submitting a written reflection on their experience with these activities.

Ready, Set, Explore is led by UW Extension Educators Hailey Sorg, Josh Bliss, Joddee Jacobsen, Gretchen Gasvoda and Jedidiah Hewlett.

Families who participate in Ready, Set, Explore for at least four of the eight months are awarded an annual day-use pass for Wyoming State Parks. The pass covers day-use fees for one vehicle for all Wyoming state parks and historic sites. It does not cover other fees, such as camping fees.

For more information or to register for the program, visit bit.ly/ready-set-site. Contact the Ready, Set, Explore team at readyssetexplore.4h@gmail.com or 307-235-9400.

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!
 FACEBOOK.COM/WYOLIVESTOCKROUNDUP 

BIG HORN BASIN LIVESTOCK AUCTION LLC
 BIGHORNBASINLIVESTOCK.COM 
WORLAND, WY
 CALL TO CONSIGN CATTLE
 SALE BARN: 307-347-9201
 DANNY VIGIL: 307-388-0781

Visit Cattle USA for broadcasting and online bidding – auctions.cattleusa.com

Oct. 23 – 645 Head • Cows & Bulls Steady

BULLS		
Pierce, Karl - Deaver	Lungren, Luke - Worland	Ten Sleep Cattle, Inc. - Ten Sleep
1 Blk Bull, 2140#.....\$190 ⁰⁰	40 BWF Cows, avg. 1431#..\$179 ⁰⁰	1 BWF Cow, 1300#.....\$168 ⁰⁰
1 Blk Bull, 1915#.....\$186 ⁰⁰	1 Blk Cow, 1515#.....\$177 ⁰⁰	Cross, Neil - Powell
Dobson, Martin - Burlington	1 Blk Cow, 1795#.....\$176 ⁰⁰	1 BWF Cow, 1530#.....\$165 ⁰⁰
1 Blk Bull, 1535#.....\$187 ⁰⁰	Greybull River Land & Cattle - Meeteetse	1 Blk Cow, 1240#.....\$139 ⁰⁰
1 Blk Bull, 1670#.....\$186 ⁰⁰	1 Blk Cow, 1635#.....\$179 ⁰⁰	Bolli, Colton - Meeteetse
Spear D Ranch - Basin	1 Blk Cow, 1440#.....\$142 ⁰⁰	1 Long Horn Cow, 965#.....\$157 ⁵⁰
1 Red Bull, 1765#.....\$186 ⁵⁰	Hayhook Angus LLC - Meeteetse	Humphrey, Bobby - Thermopolis
Vacher, Kayden - Riverton	1 Blk Cow, 1440#.....\$178 ⁰⁰	1 Red Cow, 1020#.....\$144 ⁰⁰