



Wyoming Pathways is the statewide voice of people-powered transportation and recreation in Wyoming.

Dear {{FirstName,DefaultTo=Supporter}},

Here are some of the recent pathways related stories from around the state that we thought you might find interesting:

Fall Membership Drive - Where We've Been and Where We're Going

As we transition from summer to fall in the Cowboy State and outdoor enthusiasts attention shifts to the colder weather activities like fat biking, cross-country skiing, walking and snowshoeing, Wyoming Pathways looks back on a busy and successful summer and looks forward to continuing our work to support these activities throughout the state.



Support Wyoming Pathways!

Become a Member or Partner Now!



Supporting healthy and fun people-powered activities requires smart advocacy at both the local and state levels.

We're fortunate in Wyoming to have many local non-profit trail and bike groups that are delivering impressive community pathway and trail projects, and they deserve your continued support. In tandem, Wyoming Pathways advocates for biking and walking at the state and federal level, which compliments local

efforts around Wyoming. We're writing to ask for your support for our work.

To continue our work helping Wyoming communities, we need your support - [please join Wyoming Pathways in our fall membership campaign as an individual member or as a business or organization Pathways Partner.](#)

You can also help us by [joining our mailing list](#), [liking us on Facebook](#) and [following us on Twitter](#).

As the only statewide nonprofit organization advocating for biking and walking issues and needs, Wyoming Pathways works to ensure that programs our local communities depend on continue, and that Wyoming's state agencies and public land managers provide the support needed for local pathway, trail, and complete streets projects to succeed.

This past summer, building on the momentum of the passage of the new Wyoming Bicycle and Pedestrian System Task Force legislation, Executive Director Tim Young was appointed by

Governor Mead to serve on the Task Force. The group has begun work on a first-ever report for the State Legislature on the “benefits and opportunities” of bicycling and walking in communities all around Wyoming.

Read the full story on the Wyoming Pathways website: <http://www.wyopath.org/fall-membership-drive-weve-going/>

Upgrades coming to Beck Lake trails

More trails, a pump park and possibly a gravity trail feature are on the docket for expansion of the Beck Lake Park Mountain Bike Trail next spring.

Jumps, ramps, humps, loops and other features that make biking at Beck Lake Park fun for bikers of all ages are the creation of the Park County Pedalers. The city sets rules, restrictions, seasonal closures and hours.



The Beck Lake Bike Park and Trail System is a work in progress and is intended for free public use. It is open to walkers and runners as well as bikers.

Members of the Pedalers, a volunteer nonprofit organization, perform much of the bike park construction and maintenance of the park. These accomplishments are achieved through partnerships with other entities, including the Bureau of Land Management, the State of Wyoming Recreational Trails Program, the Shoshone Recreation District and the City of Cody.

Read the full story on the Cody Enterprise website:

http://www.codyenterprise.com/news/local/article_8d73629e-7924-11e6-ad29-7b506983540b.html

Red Grade Trails a sensory adventure

Is there anything more fun than that “Aha” moment of discovering something new and wonderful? My first walk along Red Grade Trail was just such a gift. I am a transplant from the hinterlands. St. Louis, to be exact. My idea of going for a walk with friends or my dog was tromping along a suburban lane, dotted with oak trees and forsythia bushes to be sure, but fraught with many an electrical or plumbing truck and lots of mommy vans. Red Grade Trail is a path of a different sort.

Driving the aptly named Red Grade Road up the mountain, a rough-hewn overhead frames the entrance to this particular Wyoming wonderland. Two new parking areas adjacent to the trailhead provide ample space to ditch your vehicle and get out into the wild. The wild? Just a mile out of Big Horn? This beautifully maintained dirt trail somehow does not intrude on the mountain



side. The two miles of gorgeous flora and fauna form a figure eight that can be divided into one-mile segments that even a city slicker can manage. Hikers and bikers of all levels can leave daily life behind to make a half day trip into the glory that is at the foot of the Bighorn Mountain range.

Read the full story on the Sheridan Press website: <http://thesheridanpress.com/?p=58652>

Fall Hikes to do on Pole Mountain

Fall is here. Aspen trees are golden and there's a nip in the air.

While some lament the end of the hiking and mountain biking season, in reality, fall is one of the best times to get outside and enjoy both activities. Aside from occasional bouts of cold and possible snow flurries, September through mid-November offers the highly acclaimed Indian summer where temperatures can remain mild or require just an added layer or two to remain comfortable. It has the added benefit of being blissfully mosquito-free.



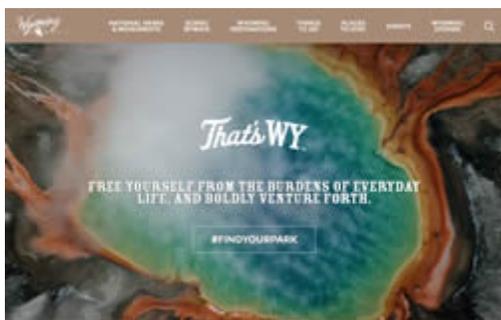
Such excellent fall outdoor opportunities are less than 30 miles west of Cheyenne in the Medicine Bow National Forest. Pole Mountain offers excellent prospects for hikers and mountain bikers with routes taking less than hour or a whole day. The choices are so numerous it would take more than one fall season to try them all. The lower elevation, as compared to the Snowy Range another 30 miles to the west, extends the season before snow arrives and the trails become more suited to skiing.

Read the full story on the Wyoming Tribune Eagle website:

http://www.wyomingnews.com/things_to_do/fall-hikes-to-do-on-pole-mountain/article_813ed336-81a4-11e6-a821-2f3527ee31b8.html

Wyoming Gets National Recognition for Tourism Campaign

(Cheyenne, Wyo.) - The Wyoming Office of Tourism was recently honored with two national awards for recent campaigns.



The Office of Tourism's new website TravelWyoming.com won the "2016 Outstanding Website Award" for travel websites, given by the Web Marketing Association (WMA), and the organization's sticker program won a "WOW Award" for "Most Creative Idea" given by Destination Marketing Association International (DMAI).

According to their website, the Web Marketing Association is the producer of the WebAward Competition. Now in its 17th year, the WebAward program is the longest running annual website award competition dedicated to naming the best web sites in 96 industries, while setting the standard of excellence for all website development.

"We are incredibly honored to have our website recognized for this award," said Diane Shober, Executive Director of the Wyoming Office of Tourism. "Over the past year, we have worked hard to redesign the site to make it more user friendly, more accessible and more inspiring for potential visitors. This award demonstrates that we are on the right track with our new site."

Read the full story on the Buckrail website:

<https://pitchengine.com/buckrail/2016/09/27/wyoming-gets-national-recognition-for-tourism/002519273052086614118>

As Wyoming's economy slows, city planners consider future development

Many Wyoming cities are using a dip in new construction to take a wider look at how they might develop over the coming years.

For many city planners, the slowdown, spurred by an economic downturn, is a respite from the frantic development that sweeps across the state during boom times.

“Long-range planning a lot of times gets pushed to the back burner because we’re so busy keeping up with current planning,” Casper city planner Craig Collins said.

With fewer strip malls and subdivisions to consider, larger questions emerge about what kind of communities the Cowboy State can support in the coming decades. Despite signs that oil and coal prices may not return to boom levels, many of Wyoming’s urban planners are still preparing for growth.

Read the full story on the Casper Star Tribune website: http://trib.com/business/as-wyoming-s-economy-slows-city-planners-consider-future-development/article_4fd441bc-91f3-5454-8eba-4ea2c2e21c2b.html



Transit-Oriented Development to Trail-Oriented Development

Now that more and more cities are witnessing the benefits of Transit-Oriented Development, a mixture of housing, office, and retail development integrated into a walkable neighborhood and located close to public transportation, a new trend has emerged:



Trail-Oriented Development.

According to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Trail-Oriented Development (TrOD) is an emerging planning tool that seeks to combine the active transportation benefits of a trail with the revitalization potential associated with well-designed and well-managed urban parks to help create more livable communities. TrOD aims to provide a network of local business and housing choices within a web of safe and enticing trails.

Read the full story on the website:

<http://spacestoplaces.blogs.realtor.org/2016/08/03/transit-oriented-development-to-trail-oriented-development/>

UW police are encouraging students to practice bicycle safety

Laramie, Wyo. - With the beginning of the fall semester, the University of Wyoming Police Department (UWPD) reminds bicyclists to follow standards of safety and courtesy, and to register their bikes.

“UW is a walking campus, so major walking paths may be subject to dismount zones,” says UW Police Chief Mike Samp. “Remember, when you are on your bike, you have the same responsibilities as drivers. So, you have to obey traffic signals, stop signs, ride with the traffic, and you should never ride more than two people abreast in the right-hand lane.”



Additionally, he advises riders to use signals, and slow down and give pedestrians plenty of space when passing.

“Bicyclists are encouraged to ride at the same speed as pedestrians in dual-use areas,” Samp says.

Read the full story on the KGWN website: <http://www.kgwn.tv/content/news/UW-police-are-encouraging-students-to-practice-bicycle-safety-391908161.html>

4 spots to see fall colors in Wyoming

Fall feels especially brief in Wyoming.

The weather can change from sweltering to snowy in a matter of weeks. You don't have to live long in the Cowboy State to experience sub-zero temperatures, or even a blizzard, in October or November.



But autumn, however short, still has its charms. Most of the year, Wyoming's landscape is either white snow or brown prairie. But for those few weeks of fall, parts of the state explode in color as the trees -- primarily aspens, but also willows and maples -- turn gold, orange and red.



Read the full story on the Casper Star Tribune website: http://trib.com/news/state-and-regional/spots-to-see-fall-colors-in-wyoming/collection_cd57402d-82a3-532e-ae34-e49128adc8f0.html

Wyoming's Public Land Dilemma

Wyoming is home to a variety of wildlife, mountain ranges, rivers, and streams. Yet, access to the land where the wild things roam can be tricky since ownership of the vast acreage is divided among state, federal, and private landowners. In the Laramie Range in the southeast portion of the state, much of the land is owned by Richard Bonander, who's interested in swapping a portion of his land with state land, angering thousands should the request be approved.



According to the Casper Star Tribune, if the State Board of Land Commissioners approves this request on Oct. 6, it would block access to more than 4,000 acres of public land used for hunting and recreation. While land trades happen occasionally, many are positive for both the state and the private landowner. Because Wyoming state law doesn't permit crossing private land to access public, this one isn't helpful to anyone but Bonander.

Read the full article on the gohunt website: <http://www.gohunt.com/read/news/wyomings-public-land-dilemma>

Read the story referenced above on the Casper Star Tribune website:

http://trib.com/lifestyles/recreation/sportsmen-oppose-wyoming-land-trade-that-could-block-thousands-of/article_9cb570e4-e25b-5208-a706-211222e8f936.html

Bicycle tunnel vision



In the sagebrush hills on the Bucking Bird Ranch outside Lander is an innovative course of extremely challenging jumps, turns and tunnels that is young Alan Mandel's mountain bike dream line.

After studying professional mountain bike trail design in Canada, Mandel returned to his Wyoming hometown this year to build his own creation on his parent's property, a former emu ranch.

It begins on an cow trail through the sagebrush. It features three mogul-like mounds called "rollers" perfectly spaced to mimic the rise and drops of a rollercoaster and a series of jumps to fling the rider high into the Wyoming sky. But Mandel's favorite features are two 12 to 14-foot long tunnels. One moment Mandel is vertical and then he drops to earth and plunges briefly under the surface. It provides a riding experience that he says is like no other.

In fact, Mandel, 22, says he's never seen tunnels built on another bike track.

Mandel grew up in Lander on the Bucking Bird Ranch 10 miles south of town.

Read the full story on the WyoFile website: <http://www.wyofile.com/column/bicycle-tunnel-vision/>

Brand USA attempts to draw visitors from UK to Wyoming

CHEYENNE – A new video that promotes activities in the Cheyenne area will be used to help attract visitors from the United Kingdom.

Brand USA, a marketing group established by Congress in 2010, produced the three-minute video as part of its global travel campaign.

Congress created Brand USA in 2010 to help reduce a sharp decline in international travel to the United States that occurred from 2000-10.



The organization does not use U.S. tax dollars to operate, Dee Zulauf of Brand USA said. Instead, it operates on a system that collects fees from travelers who arrive from visa waiver

markets.

The Wyoming Office of Tourism and Visit Cheyenne – the tourism arm for Cheyenne and Laramie County – partnered with Brand USA to create the digital video.

Read the full story on the Wyoming Tribune Eagle website:

http://www.wyomingnews.com/news/brand-usa-attempts-to-draw-visitors-from-uk-to-wyoming/article_7dea82ee-77e9-11e6-8eb4-a3ca41016491.html

Governor Mead Names New Director of State Parks and Cultural Resources



CHEYENNE, Wyo. – Governor Matt Mead has named Darin Westby as Director of the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources effective immediately. Westby replaces Milward Simpson who announced his resignation in July. Westby has a degree in Mechanical Engineering, his Civil Professional Engineering license and a certificate in public management. He has worked for State Parks and Cultural Resources for over 15 years and is currently the Field Support Chief.

Read the full story on the Wyoming Governor's website:

<http://governor.wyo.gov/media/news-releases/2016-news-releases/governormeadnamesnewdirectorofstateparksandculturalresources>

The Last Hours of a Legendary Wyoming Alpinist

by Angus M. Thuermer Jr. | SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

It's likely that many who knew renowned alpinist Kim Schmitz reckoned he would die a traumatic, even painful, death.

He should have been killed in an avalanche in China in 1980 when a snow slide swept him 2,000 feet and killed his companion, Aspen, Colorado photographer Jonathan Wright.

A 70-foot fall in the Tetons should have done him in instead of leaving him permanently crippled. Friends wouldn't have been surprised if his pain-driven drug and alcohol addiction, which he repeatedly shook, resulted in some deadly tragedy.

Read the full story on the WyoFile website: <http://www.wyofile.com/last-hours-legendary-wyoming-alpinist/>



Ed Strube recognized for life-long work on Braille Trail

Ed Strube, former Niobrara resident and longtime member of Casper Mountain Lions Club was totally surprised at a recent meeting in early August, which he assumed was just another work party night.

A stone monument had been placed on the Lee McCune Braille Trail on Casper Mountain (named to honor a Casper Mountain Lions Club member). It was inscribed with the words: "Lion Ed" The man with the vision to share the wonder of Nature with the blind, followed by three



well-chosen terms- Educator, Visionary and Friend. Having a big part in helping create it, had been a dream come true for Strube, who made it his passion to develop and complete after visiting the Roaring Fork Braille Trail in Colorado.

Read the full story on the Lusk Herald website:
http://www.luskherald.com/v2_news_articles.php?page=72&story_id=3763

What's Happening with our Partners - Some of our partner organizations have recently released newsletters/articles that may be of interest to you as well:

Friends of Pathways - [Blog](#)

IMBA - [Blog](#)

NCBW - [Newsletter](#)

People For Bikes - [Blog](#)

Platte River Trails - [Website](#)

Mountain Bike the Tetons - [Website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Newsletter Archive](#)

Rails to Trails Conservancy - [Blog](#)

Sheridan Community Land Trust - [Website](#) and [Newsletter](#)

Safe Routes to School - [Newsletter](#) and [Blog](#)

We hope that you find this information useful and will take action to make Wyoming a better and safer place to bike and walk. If you have any suggestions for improvement, please be sure to [contact us](#) and [please also consider becoming a Wyoming Pathways member or partner](#).

Sincerely,

Tim Young
 Executive Director
 Wyoming Pathways

Connect with Us



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