

June 4, 5 & 7, 2024

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Presented by:
The Torrington Telegram, The Lusk Herald,
The Guernsey Gazette & The Platte County Record-Times



Fairs & Festivals

Legend of the Rawhide

JESS OAKS

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LUSK – The small, quiet, town of Lusk is located in the high plains of Wyoming and with a population near 1,500 (2022) it sits as the Niobrara County seat. The town was founded in July 1886 by Frank S. Lusk, who was a Wyoming rancher and stockholder in the Wyoming Central Railway.

Since 1946, the town has, traditionally, held the Legends of Rawhide Pageant, which began as a way for the town to support their local fairgrounds. The script for the event was based on old stories

passed through history and the original scrip was written by Lou "Bonnie" Paris.

"The first pageant was part of the 1946 Niobrara County Fair after World War II. The story is a retelling of how the Rawhide Buttes got their name. These buttes stand ominously on the horizon and there are multiple stories as to where the name came from, but the most memorable is this story of a wagon train heading west from Iowa to test their luck in California during the 1849 gold rush," Wyoming in Motion said.

"Traveling through what is now Niobrara County, once territory of the strong Sioux nation. One member of the wagon train claimed he would shoot the first Indian he saw. He did just that. Drawing aim on an Indian Princess he pulled the trigger and sealed his

fate. The remaining members of the wagon train tried to save him but after an overwhelming raid by a band of Sioux, he surrendered himself to save the band of travelers. His punishment, being skinned alive," Wyoming in Motion explained.

"Each year the people of Niobrara County and surrounding areas volunteer their time and energy to produce this pageant. The work of the community resonates through Lusk as excitement builds leading to a great weekend filled with shows, dances, and other events throughout town," Wyoming in Motion said.

"The Legend of Rawhide has always been a way to bring people together, celebrate our heritage, and give back to our community as well as raise funds to serve this community. We are thrilled to announce over the last ten years, we

have donated over \$200,000 to different areas in our community," the event Facebook page reads.

"If you have never been to The Legend of Rawhide or have been every year here are a few things to know: For those who have small children and/or sensory sensitivity as a part of the show there is gunfire. Fire and smoke are a part of the performance. The Lusk Volunteer Fire Department will be on site. No Animals are allowed on the grounds, other than those in the performance. If you have any questions, please send us a message, or reach out to a board member," the pageant's Facebook page explained.

The Legend of the Rawhide is scheduled for July 12-13, 2024, and events kick off with the pre-show on Friday, July 12 at 7:30 p.m. This year's featured concert features Southern Fried.



38th Annual Chugwater's Chili Cook-off and Roundup

June 15th, 2024
Staats Park

-CHILI COOK-OFF
-CHILI TASTING
-NINJA COURSE
-BRONC RIDING
-OLD CAR SHOW
-VENDORS

Live Music!!!

-Brennan Scott
Greene
-Sterling Drake
-The Cowboy
Killers

**Kenny Feidler at
the After Party
Concert**

Tickets

\$20 All Day Pass

\$30 All Day Pass
with the After
Party Concert

\$10 Just the After
Party Concert

**Tickets Available
Online or At Event**

www.chugwaterchilicookoff.org



FILE PHOTO

A photograph of the rawhide events over the past years.

Fairs & Festivals

Summertime: County fair time

JESS OAKS

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WYOMING – Throughout the state, FFA and 4-H members are gearing up for one of the most anticipated weeks of the year. During the end of July and early days of August, many small towns host their county fair.

Communities gather for rodeo events such as the ranch rodeo held during the Platte County Fair, Barn in the USA, on Saturday, July 27 at 5 p.m. The rodeo features competitive events not seen during a traditional rodeo such as calf marking.

“Ranch rodeos are a different kind of rodeo competition. Local ranch teams will gather to compete in events that are designed to test the cowboys’ skills in aspects of everyday ranch life. Events including team sorting, branding, cow milking, and trailer loading are sure to provide plenty of challenges for the team and excitement for the crowd. So come on out and watch teams as they’ll have one night to compete for cash, prizes, bragging rights, and the chance to compete at the Wyoming State Fair,” the Platte County Fair website explained.

The event is free for children under five, \$5 for children five to 12, and adult tickets can be purchased for \$10.

The 2024 Platte County Fair will also host the Cyndi

Lock Memorial Rough Stock Rodeo, a Wyoming Rodeo Association event, on Friday, July 26.

“We will be donating the proceeds of this event to No More Empty Saddles and Hunting with Heros to help continue to fight mental health problems along with suicide awareness in the western industry. As well as helping send disabled veterans on some awesome hunts in this great state of Wyoming. Tickets will be for sale soon on tomhorndays.com,” the Platte County Fair website reads.

In addition to the ranch rodeo, the Platte County Fair will also host a Western States Ranch Rodeo-sanctioned ranch bronc riding contest on Saturday.

“It’s cool to be a cowboy. Similar to Saddle bronc riding these cowboys will mount a bucking horse with their own saddle. If you are into ranching traditions this is the event for you. It’s going to take more than good luck and an eight-second ride for these working cowboys to go home with money in their pockets,” the fair website said.

The fair also hosts a variety of activities during the week, including a pedal tractor pull.

“The Lion’s Club is always coming up with new and exciting things at the Platte County Fair and this event will be no different. Like a tractor pull but with pedal tractors, you won’t want to miss the laughs and enter-

tainment this event is sure to bring,” the Platte County Fair website explained.

The free event takes place Tuesday, August 1 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. and the event is open to boys and girls ages 6-12. Prizes are awarded to every age group.

The Wheatland Wrestling Cornhole Tournament will be held Tuesday, August 1 with a \$50 team entry fee. Registration begins on site at the outdoor arena at 5:30 p.m.

“The Wheatland wrestlers invite players of all ages and skill levels to come enjoy a favorite backyard pastime to win cash prizes. Come as a player or a spectator and enjoy the competition,” the website explained.

The fair will also feature mutton bustin’, pig wrestling, and more. The parade, a local favorite, is scheduled for Saturday morning.

“Get that trailer cleaned off and decorated and join in the annual Platte County Fair Parade Saturday August 3. Remember to win the grand prize your float must depict the current years theme,” according to the fair website.

Jared Rogerson and The Rodeo Wreck will perform on Saturday, August 3 at 9 p.m.

The Goshen County Fair, Barn in the USA, is scheduled for July 27–August 4 and the Niobrara County Fair is scheduled for July 26-August 3.



**GLEND O
DAYS**

June 15th Come Join the Fun!

Sponsored by the Town of Glendo

Town of Glendo

Small in number **BIG** in heart!

114 S. Yellowstone
Glendo, WY 82213
Phone: (307) 735-4242

Parade - 10 a.m.
Yard Sales
Vendors Free Lunch
Glow Party
Street Dance



**SUMMER
&
GATHERINGS**

Celebrate responsibly.

**buzzed
drunk**
driving is driving
designate a sober driver





The Legend of Rawhide

1946-2024

The Annual Celebration of the History, Legend and Western Heritage of Niobrara County

Thursday July 11, 2024

Main Character Rehearsal - 4:30 PM

Dress Rehearsal - 6:30 PM

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Friday, July 12, 2024

7:30 PM - Pre- Show

8:15 PM - Flag Ceremony

8:30 PM - Legend Performance

Concert Featuring Southern Fryed to follow

Legend Performance ~9:30PM

Tickets

Performance - \$20

Southern Fryed - \$10

12 & under - free for the concerts

More information can be found at
www.legendofrawhide.com. Join us in Lusk, WY
for this western heritage experience!

8:30 AM - Volleyball Tournament Registration

9 - 11 AM - Closest to the Pin in the arena

10 AM - Pitch Tournament Registration

10 AM - Cornhole Registration | Play at 10:30AM

1:30 - 4 PM - Ranch Feed/ Team Driving Contest

4 PM - Parade line up at the fairgrounds

The Parade will go by the hospital at 4:30 and
proceed down Main Street

7:30 PM - Pre-Show

8:15 PM - Flag Ceremony

8:30 PM - Legend Performance

Concert Featuring Southern Fryed to follow

Legend Performance ~9:30 PM

Auction and Gun/Money drawing at the first
break of the band

Fairs & Festivals

Chugwater Chili Cook-Off

BY JESS OAKS

joaks@torringtontelegram.com

CHUGWATER – In 1986, the Chugwater Chili Corporation was born when five local farm and ranch families purchased the Wyoming State Championship Chili Recipe and turned it into a “for-profit” business. The corporation was built to help the community of Chugwater.

“Chugwater Chili Corporation started the first ever Chugwater Chili Cook-Off in 1986. Now, the Chugwater Chili Cook-Off is hosted every year on the third Saturday of June, which is the day before Father’s Day. Amateur and professional cooks from throughout our state and nation come to compete with their award-winning recipes. The day is packed with fun and entertainment for your whole family to enjoy. Funds raised from this event go toward helping our local Chugwater community,” the corporation website reads.

The 38th Annual Chugwater Chili Cook-Off and Round up will be held on Saturday, June 15 in Staats Park in Chugwater.

“The cook-off began in 1986 as a way to celebrate the best chili and the best town, together. Now, the cook-off has grown to the largest single-day event in the state. As a registered non-profit organization, all funds raised are invested back into the Chugwater community to help the town continue to flourish. We proudly support our local Economic Development Center and Historical Group, as well as our local schools, volunteer Fire Department, and Community Center,” the cook-off website reads. “In addition, a portion of funds raised go toward a scholarship fund. We hope to see you this year as you join the

see **COOK-OFF** page 7

Scotts Bluff Ag Society salutes
Western Nebraska & Eastern
Wyoming Beef Producers

WE ARE NEBRASKA
Scotts Bluff
COUNTY FAIR

SCOTTS BLUFF CO. FAIRGROUNDS
| MITCHELL, NEBRASKA

137TH ANNUAL SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY FAIR




FAIR DATES

July 27th - August 3rd

Saturday July 27th - Scotts Bluff County Fair Parade

Tuesday July 30th - FFA Alumni Event
- Outlaw Truck and Tractor Pull

Wednesday July 31st
- Wednesday Night Entertainment

Thursday Aug 4th - Arena Cross

Friday Aug 5th - Jerrod Niemann
- 41st Annual Rubber Check Race

Saturday Aug 6th
- 41st Annual Rubber Check Race

**CARNIVAL/FOOD VENDORS/
COMMERCIAL VENDORS**



308-623-1828

www.scottsbluffcountyfairgrounds.com

PLATTE COUNTY

FAIR

JULY 26- AUG 6

“Fair is Ag-citing”



ROUGHSTOCK RODEO



RANCH RODEO



OPEN STEER RIDING







REDNECK RACES



JR. BULL RIDING

**PIG WRESTLING
MUTTON BUSTIN**



**JARED ROGERSON &
THE RODEO WRECK**






visit www.plattecountyfair.org for more information

I can
dance



I can
coach



how can you keep a kid off drugs?

The truth is, a little of your time can make a lifetime of difference. Because kids with something to do are less likely to do drugs. **You can help.** For more information on drug prevention programs in your community, call or visit:

A public service of this newspaper **1 877 KIDS 313**

www.youcanhelpkids.org

Ad
Council.com

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Fairs & Festivals

Cook-Off:

FROM PAGE 5

thousands of individuals that are welcomed into our great community where time moves slower, and



FILE PHOTO

The rodeo drew a packed house and standing room only crowds watched ranch rodeo and bronc busting events.

smiles are bigger.”

During this year’s cook-off, event goers are offered the chance to vote on the People’s Choice award for the best salsa and chili in the state of Wyoming. Prizes are awarded to the top red chili, green chili and salsa cooks and everyone is encouraged to enter, according to the event website.

“The cook-off is a nationally recognized event through the Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI). It is open to anyone with a passion for chili, whether it’s cooking it, tasting it, or celebrating it,” the website reads.

Cooks are required to check in and register from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Saturday.

All chili must be cooked from scratch on site the day of the cook-off, according to the official CASI rule book and all chili must be prepared in the open. There is no electricity provided in the cook’s booth so contestants must provide their own heat source for electricity for cooking.

Red chili is judge by aroma, red color, consistency, taste, and after-taste, the CASI rule book explains.

Highlights for the 2024 cook-off include red chili, green chili, and salsa contests, red chili showmanship, junior division for aspiring cooks 18 and younger, People’s Choice award which is chosen by Chugwater Chili Cook-off attendees and of course prizes.

The cook-off also features a car show with nearly 20 available classes including street rods, hot rods, resto mods, restored, pickups, originals, motorcycles, and works in progress.

“The first 20 entries will receive a free car show plaque. Trophies will be awarded for all first-place winners in each class and in the People’s Choice popular vote. Spaces may be limited. One car per class,” the cook-off events web page said.

The event hosts a jalapeno and pie-eating contests, shopping and food and product vendors. Complimentary wagon rides are available from the parking areas and there will be a children’s area complete with new games and activities, according to the cook-off website.

A cake walk and poker tournament are also scheduled for the day and live entertainment from Sterling Drake, Brennan Scott Greene and the Cowboy Killers.

The cook-off and roundup after party concert and dance entertainment will be Kenny Feidler and the Cowboy Killers.

The cook-off also features a ranch rodeo and mutton bustin’.

“These are real cowboys and cowgirls from ranches all over the area competing against each other for the cash prize. The events are typical tasks performed on a ranch and they work as a team of four to complete while being timed,” the website explained.

“Your support of our event since 1986 benefits our community, including local nonprofit groups like the Prairie View Community School Student Organizations (FFA and FBLA), Chugwater Volunteer Fire Department, Chugwater Historical Unity Group, Chugwater Housing and Economic Development, and the Chugwater Community Center,” the cook-off website explained.

Tickets are available for \$20 day pass with rodeo, \$30 day pass with rodeo and after party concert with Kenny Feidler and the Cowboy Killers, \$10 just after party concert with Kenny Feidler and the Cowboy Killers. Kids 12 and under are free.

Tickets are available online or day of the cook-off and roundup at the ticket booths.

Hotel reservations can be made at the Buffalo Lodge and day camping is available.

For more information please visit <https://chugwaterchilicookoff.org>.



NIOBRARA COUNTY FAIR

4080 US HWY 20
PO BOX 210-LUSK, WY 82225
307-334-3534
NIOBRARACOUNTY@UWYO.EDU

2024

FRIDAY-JULY 26

7:00PM **EASTERN WY RANCH RODEO**
RULES @ 6:00 PM
(ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST ATTEND)
CALCUTTA @ 6:30 PM

SATURDAY-JULY 27

7:00AM **NIOBRARA COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL
COLOR WALK-RUN**

SUNDAY-JULY 28

9:00AM **GYMKHANA**
(PRE-ENTRIES DUE BY JULY 24 BY
5:00 PM)

MONDAY-JULY 29

6:30AM-8:00AM **FREE BREAKFAST**
SPONSORS: LUSK ROCS
8:00AM **YOUTH HORSE SHOW**
5:00PM **RECEPTION FOR STYLE REVIEW**
6:00PM **STYLE REVIEW**

TUESDAY-JULY 30

1:00PM **4-H LIVESTOCK JUDGING
CONTEST**
3:00PM **YOUTH POULTRY/RABBIT SHOW**
5:00PM **FREE BBQ**
SPONSORS:
BLOOMERS & HICKORY CREEK
CATERING
6:00PM **CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT**
REGISTRATION @ 5:00
(BY PAVILION)
6:30PM **BARN IN THE USA MULLET AND
MUSTACHE CONTEST**
(LEGEND STAGE)



WEDNESDAY-JULY 31

6:30AM-8:00AM **FREE BREAKFAST**
SPONSORS: NIOBRARA COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS FOUNDATION
9:00AM **YOUTH GOAT SHOW
FOLLOWED BY YOUTH SHEEP
SHOW**
5:00PM **RON LUND MEMORIAL
FREE BBQ**
SPONSORS: HARMONY LODGE 24,
GENE AND CLAUDIA BARTOW
6:30PM **YOUTH SWINE SHOW**

THURSDAY-AUGUST 1

6:30AM **FREE BREAKFAST**
SPONSORS: RANCHERS FEED &
SUPPLY, & HUBBARD FEEDS, INC.
9:00AM **YOUTH BEEF SHOW**
5:00PM **JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SALE
FREE BBQ**
SPONSORS: CLARK & ASSOCIATES,
INSURANCE CORNER, RANCHERS
FEED & SUPPLY
6:30PM **JUNIOR LIVESTOCK SALE
YOUTH FAIR DANCE**
(FOLLOWING SALE IN PAVILION)

FRIDAY-AUGUST 2

8:00AM **YOUTH DOG SHOW**
10:00AM **YOUTH ROUND ROBIN CONTEST**
1:00PM **PET SHOW**
5:00PM **FREE BBQ**
SPONSORS: NEA, CATTLEWOMEN &
ANGRY IRISHMAN
7:00PM **AG OLYMPICS**
(RULES MTG @ 6:00 PM)

