



2026

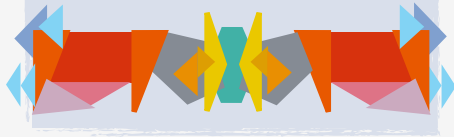
SUMMER CONFERENCE

IN THE GEM CITY OF THE PLAINS



LEARNING / CONNECTION / ENGAGEMENT

WELCOME ATTENDEES



Welcome to the 2026 WAM and WEDA Summer Conference!



As we gather together over the next several days, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible progress we have made together over the past year and the exciting opportunities ahead for Wyoming communities.

At the Wyoming Association of Municipalities, our focus has been simple: turning our strategic plan into action and delivering meaningful results for Wyoming's cities and towns. Together, we successfully defended local control during the legislative session, secured major victories for municipal funding and infrastructure, and defeated legislation that would have limited local decision-making authority. We strengthened our advocacy efforts at the

Capitol, expanded member communications, and increased engagement with legislators, state agencies, and national partners.

Over the past year, we have also proudly welcomed the Wyoming Economic Development Association into the WAM family. Aligning economic development strategies with the needs of our communities is a natural fit and one that will become increasingly important as Wyoming continues redefining what economic development looks like across the state. We believe stronger regional collaboration between municipalities, economic developers, and local leaders will help position Wyoming communities for long-term success.

This year's convention provides a valuable opportunity to bring Wyoming's municipal leaders, economic development professionals, industry partners, and state decision-makers together in one place. With community leaders attending from across the state, the program will focus on many of the critical issues shaping Wyoming's future, including energy development, infrastructure investment, housing, fiscal resilience, workforce challenges, and sustainable community growth. These conversations are essential as our communities continue navigating both new opportunities and complex challenges in a rapidly changing environment.

We also invested heavily in building a stronger and more sustainable organization for the future. WAM launched a new website and enhanced communications strategy, created a Municipal Finance Program and interactive finance dashboard, expanded partnerships and sponsorships, strengthened governance and board engagement, modernized internal policies and staffing structures, and laid the groundwork for expanded education and leadership training opportunities for our members.

Most importantly, we continued showing up for our communities. Whether supporting municipalities facing operational challenges, providing scholarships and training opportunities, assisting with mediation and financial issues, or advocating for infrastructure, housing, EMS, water, and local revenue tools — WAM remained focused on serving our membership every day. The momentum within this organization is real, and it is a direct result of the leadership, engagement, and commitment of our members, board, partners, and staff. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together this past year and even more excited about the opportunities ahead.

Thank you for your continued trust, collaboration, and support. I look forward to spending the week learning, connecting, and building the future of Wyoming communities together.

WAM Executive Director and WEDA Administrator

PRESIDENT

Matt Murdock, Mayor, Pinedale

VICE PRESIDENT

Kim Pexton, Mayor, Douglas

REGION ONE DIRECTORS

Dr. Mark Rinne, Council Member, Cheyenne

Allie Leitza, Council Member, Pine Bluffs

Patrick Collins, Mayor, Cheyenne

REGION TWO DIRECTORS

Shay Lundvall, Mayor, Gillette

Kim Pexton, Mayor, Douglas

Chris Schock, Mayor, Clearmont

REGION THREE DIRECTORS

Ernie Beckley, Mayor, Ten Sleep

Kelly Tamblyn, Council Member, Cody

Tracy Glanz, Clerk/Treasurer, Worland

REGION FOUR DIRECTORS

Joel Highsmith, Mayor, Shoshoni

Tim Hancock, Mayor, Riverton

Kyle Gamroth, Council Member, Casper

REGION FIVE DIRECTORS

Arne Jorgensen, Mayor, Jackson

Bryan Ayres, Mayor, Mountain View

Matt Murdock, Mayor, Pinedale

REGION SIX DIRECTORS

Ellen Freeman, Council Member, Hanna

Steve Sanger, Council Member, Rawlins

Chuck Davis, Mayor, Saratoga

PARTNER ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES

Stu McRae, WYOCMA,

City Administrator, Sheridan

Penny Robbins, WAMCAT,

Clerk/Treasurer, Mountain View

PAST PRESIDENT

Kelly Krakow, Mayor, Albin

WAM STAFF

Ashley Harpstreith, Executive Director
ashley@wyomuni.org

Earla Checchi, Administrative Director
earla@wyomuni.org

Dawson Kluesner, External Affairs Director and
WEDA Coordinator
dawson@wyomuni.org

Charri Lara, Municipal Finance Director
charri@wyomuni.org

Jason Begger, Legislative Counsel
jason@armatureadvocacy.com

Baillie Miller, Member Engagement Coordinator
baillie@wyomuni.org



315 West 27th Street • Cheyenne, WY 82001

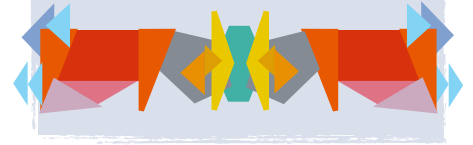
(307) 632-0398

wyomuni.org

UW CONFERENCE CENTER

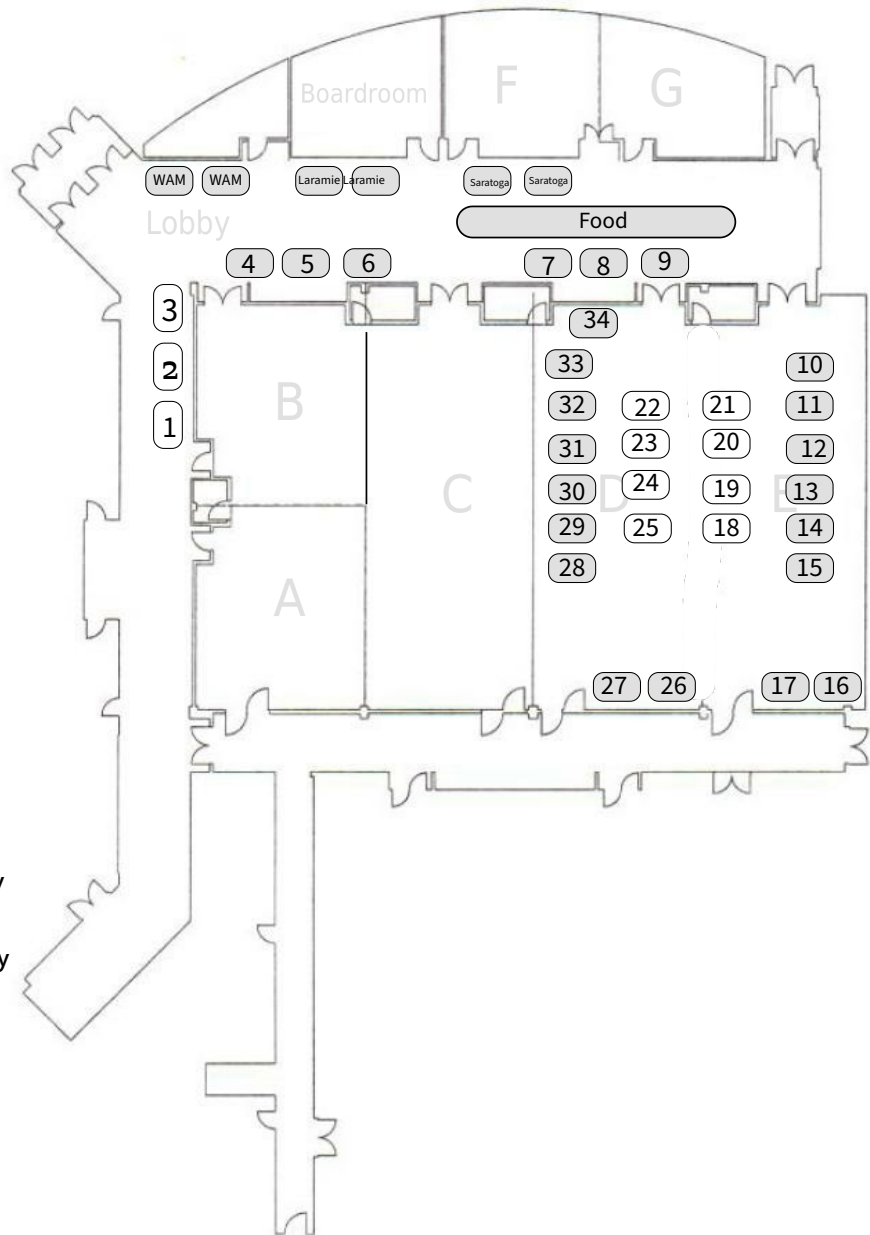
2221 Grand Avenue, Laramie, Wyoming

ROOMS AND VENDOR VILLAGE



Be sure to visit this year's Vendor Village to meet the organizations who support municipalities statewide!

- 1) Wyoming Association of Risk Management
- 2) USDA Rural Development
- 3) WGIF
- 4) WAM-JPIC/BCBS
- 5) Wyoming Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
- 6) Municipal Finance Program
- 7) HDR Engineering
- 8) Wyoming CLASS
- 9) Placer.ai
- 10) CEPI
- 11) Core & Main
- 12) Wyoming Signs
- 13) Nelson Engineering
- 14) Ferguson Waterworks
- 15) SOSystems, Inc.
- 16) Engineering Associates
- 17) National League of Cities (Ice Cream Social)
- 18) National League of Cities (Ice Cream Social)
- 19) Martin/Martin Wyoming, Inc.
- 20) Local Government Liability Pool
- 21) Hooton Tech
- 22) Wyoming Community Development Authority
- 23) Pryor Mountain Engineering, a Stahly Company
- 24) Munibit
- 25) Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality
- 26) Ayres Associates
- 27) Concrete Stabilization Technologies, Inc.
- 28) Wyoming Recreation and Park Association
- 29) Metron
- 30) Northeast Wyoming BOCES
- 31) Jeo Consulting
- 32) Rocky Mountain Power
- 33) Sunrise Engineering
- 34) Holophane



Cover inspired by artist June Glasson's *Laramie* mural at 352 N 3rd St; visit June at juneglasson.com or on Instagram @studio_glasson

All events at UW Conference Center unless otherwise noted

11:00 AM-5:00 PM

Registration

Registration desk is open all day!

11:30 AM-1:30 PM

WAM-JPIC Meeting

SALON F AND G

11:00 AM-12:00 PM

Lunch with Golfers

JACOBY GOLF COURSE, 3501 E. WILLETT DR.

12:00-5:00 PM

Golf Tournament: Sponsored Event

JACOBY GOLF COURSE, 3501 E. WILLETT DR.

Shotgun start at 12:00 PM sharp! Pair up with a municipal leader for golf, prizes, and fun giveaways! Fundraising during the event benefits the WAM Scholarship Fund.

2:30-5:00 PM

WyoTech Tour

Shuttle buses depart from UW Conference Center

3:00-5:00 PM

Vendor Village Opens

6:00-8:00 PM

Welcome Reception

HISTORIC LARAMIE RAILROAD DEPOT, 600 S. 1ST STREET

Welcome by Laramie Mayor Sharon Cumbie

8:00 PM

WAM After Dark: Sponsored Event

1ST STREET PLAZA FIRE PIT

Enjoy a fire pit with hot chocolate, s'mores, and good company! Walk and enjoy downtown Laramie.

WEDNESDAY
JUNE 3



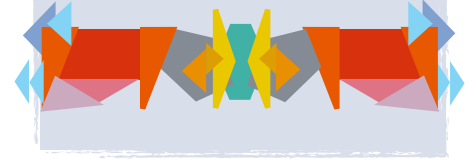
Laramie
WYOMING

DOWNTOWN PARKING INFO!



L-R: Cowgirls by Tara Collier; De Aquí De Allá by Jodie Herrera; Speed Goat and Hollyhock Haven by Travis Ivey

THURSDAY
JUNE 4



6:30 AM

5K Walk/Run: Sponsored Event

PILOT HILL RECREATION AREA, 3799 E. WILLETT DR.

Meet at the Willett Drive Trailhead for an early morning walk/run sponsored by Trihydro. Proceeds benefit the Pilot Hill project; snacks, water, and t-shirts available for participants.

8:00 AM

Registration Open, Coffee, Vendor Village Open

All events at UW Conference Center unless otherwise noted; breakfast on your own

8:00-9:30 AM

Breakout Sessions

Code of Conduct for Local Leaders: State Statutes vs Local Policy

SALON A

with Pinita Maberry-Nave, City Attorney, Rawlins; Stu McRae, City Administrator, Sheridan; and Mayor Matt Murdock, Mayor of Pinedale; moderated by Tim Stubson, WAM General Counsel

WEDA Track: Nuclear Panel—Communicating Local Economic Development Activities

SALON B

with Shay Lundvall, Mayor, City of Gillette; Charlee Anne Boger, Program Manager, Source Materials and Uranium Recovery Facilities, Wyoming DEQ; Chuck Hope, Energy Communities Alliance Chair and Council Member, Oak Ridge, Tennessee; moderated by Sam Kidd, Of Counsel, Holland and Hart LLP

Open Records, Record Retention, COI, and Open Meetings Act

SALON C

with Scott Kolpitcke, Attorney, Copenhaver, Kitchen & Kolpitcke, LLC; Carmen Clayton, Records Management and Supervisor, Wyoming State Archives; Ed Griego, Records and Data Management Specialist, Wyoming State Archives; and Darlena Potter, Ombudsman, State of Wyoming

10:00-11:30 AM

Breakout Sessions

The Cowboy Family Taxes vs. Services: An Analysis of the Average Wyoming Family Taxes Paid and Services They Receive

SALON A

with Hank Hoversland, Executive Director, Wyoming Taxpayers Association

WEDA Track: Water Impact on Economic Development

SALON B

with Sarah Bargsten, Water Development Office; Natasha Collins, Conservation Finance Specialist, Natural Infrastructure Initiative, WRI; Joe Scott, Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; Sarah E. Bahrman, Acting Director, Water Division, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 8; moderated by Dr. Jonathan Brant, P.E., University of Wyoming

Surviving the Current Economic Budget and Civic Cents

SALON C

with Christine Emminger, Administrator, Wyoming Grants Management Office; Julie Silbernagel, Clerk/Treasurer, City of Buffalo; Beth Blackwell, Grants Manager, City of Newcastle; moderated by Jenn Wade, Administrative Services Director, City of Laramie

THURSDAY
JUNE 4

11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Lunch and Membership Meeting

SALON C

Grab your lunch and join the WAM Membership Meeting at noon with Ashley Harpstreith, WAM Executive Director; Mayor Matt Murdock, Mayor of Pinedale and WAM President; Dr. Mark Rinne, Cheyenne City Councilman and WAM Legislative Leadership Committee Chairman; and Brad Enzi, CEO and President, Laramie Chamber Business Alliance

1:00-2:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

The AI Frontier: Strategic Directions for Wyoming's Workforce and Community Future

SALON A

with Tom Walsh, Former CEO and Board Member, Technology Enterprises and University of Wyoming College of Business Advisory Board Member

Principle-Based Leadership and Ethics

SALON B

with Dr. Chase Thiel, Rile Chair of Leadership and Senior Associate Dean, University of Wyoming College of Business

WEDA Track: Local Housing Initiatives and Effective Collaborations

SALON C

with Fred Schmechel, Executive Director, Albany County Housing Land Trust; Christopher Volzke, Deputy Executive Director, WCDA; Christine Dieterich, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns; and Laurie Urbigkit, Government Affairs Director, Wyoming REALTORS®; moderated by Brad Enzi, President and CEO, Laramie Chamber Business Alliance

2:30-3:00 PM

Ice Cream Social Sponsored by National League of Cities

VENDOR BOOTHS 17 AND 18

3:00-5:00 PM

Choose Your Own Adventure

Quality of Life Tour

Enjoy a tour of Laramie's outdoor opportunities: Reconnect West Laramie Plan, Spring Creek Trails, Bike Park

Ask an Expert: Member Benefits from National League of Cities

VENDOR BOOTHS 17 AND 18

with Bryan Griffith and Alex Nation, National League of Cities

Ask an Expert: Onsite Ask about Grants and Other Federal Opportunities

NEAR VENDOR VILLAGE

with Christine Emminger, Administrator, Wyoming State Budget Department Grants Management Office

Ask an Expert: WAM Financial Services

VENDOR BOOTH 6

with Charri Lara, Municipal Finance Director, WAM

Annual Awards Banquet

MARIAN H. ROCHELLE GATEWAY CENTER

6:00 PM Social Hour, 7:00 PM Dinner

Address by National League of Cities

President Kevin Kramer



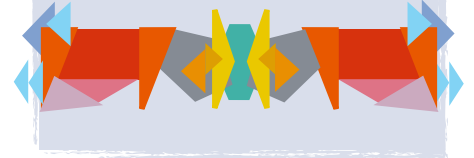
WAM After Dark: Sponsored Event

BACKWARDS DISTILLERY, 2325 GRAND AVE., LARAMIE

Join us from 9:00-11:00 PM for WAM After Dark!

Attendees must provide their own transportation for WAM After Dark at Backwards Distillery

FRIDAY
JUNE 5



6:30-7:45 AM

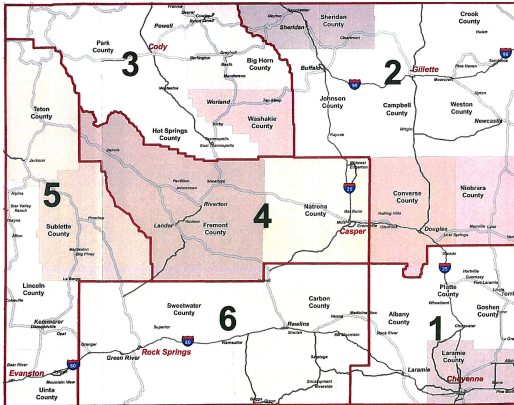
Sunrise Breakfast

THE WILDCATTER, WAR MEMORIAL STADIUM

Enjoy breakfast at the Wildcatter overlooking War Memorial Stadium with University of Wyoming Swimming and Diving Coach Dave Denniston

8:00-9:00 AM

Region Meetings



Each Region will have its own meeting:

- REGION 1: SALON A
- REGION 2: SALON C
- REGION 3: SALON F
- REGION 4: SALON B
- REGION 5: SALON G
- REGION 6: BOARD ROOM

9:15-10:30 AM

Panel Discussion with Wyoming's Gubernatorial Candidates

SALON C

with candidates Eric Barlow, Brent Bien, and Megan Degenfelder; moderated by Mayor Matt Murdock

10:30 AM-12:00 PM

Legislative Panel

SALON C

with Senator Taft Love, Senate District 6; Senator Gary Crum, Senate District 10; and Senator Bo Biteman, Senate District 21; Representative Justin Fornstrom, House District 10; Representative Ken Chestek, House District 13; Representative Trey Sherwood, House District 14; Representative Lee Filer, House District 41; and Representative Rob Geringer, House District 42

12:00 PM

Adjourn

Safe travels!



L-R: Return to Laramie by Stephanie Dodaro and Kamryn Merrill; Waiting Room Spectacles by Favian Hernandez; Antelope by Dan Toro



Sarah E. Bahrman | Acting Water Division Director, EPA – Region 8

Sarah has been with EPA since 2004. Before stepping into the Acting Water Division Director role, she served in various technical and leadership capacities in the Water Programs both in Region 8 and at EPA headquarters. Prior to joining EPA, Sarah worked as an environmental consultant for a firm in Washington, D.C. and Ann Arbor, MI. Sarah earned a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Virginia and an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Michigan. She lives in Denver with her husband, two kids, and dog. Outside of work, she enjoys yoga, music, and all things outdoors.



Sarah Bargsten | Grants Administrator, Wyoming Water Development Office

As the Grants Administrator for the Wyoming Water Development Office, Sarah is the principal representative of the agency to the public, elected officials, and government agencies in matters concerning federal funding that becomes available for water development and conservation projects. She is also a project manager for agricultural and municipal planning studies across the state, including the upcoming master plan for the Kemmerer-Diamondville Joint Powers Board. Her professional background spans the breadth of water resources, including water rights adjudication, environmental cleanups, and water conservation. She earned a Bachelor's degree from UC San Diego in Ecology. During her free time, she enjoys recreating on Wyoming's public lands and discovering new places for paddleboarding.



Eric Barlow | Senator, Wyoming Senate District 23; Candidate for Wyoming Governor

Eric Barlow was born in Gillette and raised on his family's ranch southwest of town. After graduating from Campbell County High School, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and later earned his veterinary degree from Colorado State University. Eric returned home to practice as a large-animal veterinarian and help run the family ranch. He served six years on the Wyoming Livestock Board before being elected to the Wyoming House of Representatives in 2012. During five terms in the House, he represented southern Campbell and eastern Converse Counties and served as Majority Leader and Speaker of the House. He now serves in the Wyoming Senate, representing District 23. Eric's approach to public service is simple: show up, listen, and do the work. He has focused on practical problem-solving for Wyoming communities, including infrastructure, health care access, water projects, and the core services local governments depend on. Eric and his wife, Kelly, have been married nearly 34 years. They raise cattle, sheep, and yak on the family ranch and are proud parents to Kate and Graham.



Brent Bien | Candidate for Wyoming Governor

Brent Bien was born and raised in Wyoming and earned his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Wyoming. He later completed a Master's degree in National Security and Strategic Studies at the U.S. Naval War College. A retired Marine Corps Colonel, Naval Aviator, and combat veteran, he flew 275 combat missions in the AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopter during operations in the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan. As a commander, he led over 250 air combat raids without losing a single Marine under his command. He also oversaw the construction of a major base supporting more than 20,000 civilians and troops, managing a \$9 billion+ budget and delivering the project under budget and ahead of schedule. Whether facing life-or-death decisions in combat or uniting diverse stakeholders—including multiple military branches, international governments, contractors, and civilians—on massive-scale projects, Brent has consistently demonstrated unwavering leadership and delivered success every time. He is the proud husband of 30 years to Susan Bien, a Navy Nurse, and the father of three grown daughters.



Beth Blackwell | Grants and Loans Specialist, City of Newcastle, Wyoming

Beth Blackwell is the Grants and Loans Specialist for the City of Newcastle, Wyoming, and brings more than 25 years of public service experience supporting Wyoming communities. Her background includes work with the Wyoming Department of Audit, Minerals Division, over a decade as a bank examiner with the Wyoming Division of Banking, and approximately 13 years administering state and federal grant and loan programs through the Office of State Lands and Investments. Beth has extensive experience working with municipalities on infrastructure funding, regulatory compliance, and the distribution of one-time special federal funds. In her current role, she supports Newcastle by helping secure and manage funding that promotes fiscal sustainability and community development.



Bo Biteman | Senator, Wyoming House District 21, Candidate for U.S. Congress

A devoted husband and father, Bo lives with his wife Mercedes and their two daughters Holly and Alyssa in Parkman, Wyoming in northern Sheridan County. Bo has served in the Wyoming legislature since 2017, First elected to the Wyoming House in 2016 and to the State Senate in 2018. Bo has served as President of the Wyoming Senate since 2025 and has built a strong record as a defender of Wyoming's energy industry, agriculture, constitutional rights, and pro-growth economic policies. He is a landman with over 23 years in the oil, gas, and mining industry. This background has given Bo firsthand understanding of the challenges facing Wyoming's energy sector and how government overreach and excessive regulations drive up costs and negatively impact our state and local communities. Bo has also spent 13 years serving on the volunteer fire department in Ranchester.



Charlee Anne Boger | Manager, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, Land Quality Division, Source Material and Uranium Recovery Program

Charlee Anne Boger manages Wyoming's Agreement State program with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. In this role, she leads a specialized team responsible for the regulatory oversight and radioactive materials licensing of the state's uranium recovery and rare earth facilities. With over two decades of experience in the energy sector, Boger has spent the past 10 years specializing in uranium recovery. Her background spans international project development—including early-career work in coal mine methane across the United States and Mongolia—as well as managing former mill sites for the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Legacy Management.



Dr. Jonathan Brant | Professional Engineer; Professor, University of Wyoming

Jonathan Brant is a licensed professional engineer (environmental engineering) and is a tenured full professor in the Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering and Construction Management at the University of Wyoming (UW). At UW, he also serves as the Director of the Center of Excellence in Produced Water Management (CEPWM). He obtained his B.S. in Civil Engineering from the Virginia Military Institute (1998) and his Master's (2000) and Doctoral (2003) degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Nevada, Reno. His research focuses on the development of physicochemical separation processes for water and wastewater applications. Specific research areas include desalination and solids separation using membrane processes, development of nanocomposite membranes, and magnetically enhanced treatment systems. These efforts are targeted towards resource recovery from, and reuse of, complex waters.



Ken Chestek | Representative, Wyoming House District 16

Representative Chestek is a retired University of Wyoming law professor, now serving his second term as the representative from House District 13 (the southeast quadrant of the City of Laramie). He serves on the Joint Judiciary Committee and the Select Water Committee. He has been an advocate for many years, even prior to entering the legislature, for getting money out of politics and allowing the peoples' voices to be heard, instead of being drowned out by wealthy donors and corporate interests. Ken is also an avid runner and nature photographer. He has run a full marathon in all 50 states.



Natasha Collins | Conservation Finance Specialist, Natural Infrastructure Initiative, WRI

Natasha Collins is a Conservation Finance Specialist with World Resources Institute's Natural Infrastructure Initiative. She supports the implementation and scaling of nature-based solutions for water security, human health and well-being, disaster risk mitigation, and ecological resilience. Currently her work focuses on innovative finance and partnerships for restoration work on National Forests and adjacent lands across the United States as well as scaling nature-based solutions in Sub-Saharan Africa. Natasha holds a master's degree in Forest Sciences from Colorado State University and bachelor's degrees in Environmental Studies and International Spanish for Professions from the University of Colorado Boulder.



Gary Crum | Senator, Wyoming Senate District 10

Gary Crum is a Wyoming State Senator for District 10, and accomplished community leader. A retired 44-year banker, he is based in Laramie where he co-founded Wyoming State Bank and served as its CEO for 16 years. A former University of Wyoming Football Standout and Miami Dolphin draft pick, Crum coached a national championship football team at Montana State University. Committed to community service, Crum has dedicated decades to college and youth sports officiating and the Boy Scouts of America. Crum also has chaired many community organizations including Iverson Memorial Hospital, Laramie Business Alliance, Laramie Economic Development Corporation, and many others. Transitioning to the legislature, Crum is an advocate of rural healthcare, Wyoming highways, and its local communities.



Megan Degenfelder | State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Candidate for Governor

Megan Degenfelder was elected Wyoming's State Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2022, becoming one of the youngest statewide officials in Wyoming history and a conservative voice for parents, students, and Wyoming values. Megan is a graduate of the University of Wyoming, earning bachelor's degrees in economics and political science and later earned a master's degree in economics from the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing. After her schooling, Megan spent nearly a decade working in the coal and oil and gas industries. Megan is a lifelong hunter and outdoorswoman. She was part of the first all-women's team at the One Shot Antelope Hunt, has won multiple shooting competitions at the Cheyenne Trap and Skeet Club, and served on the Board of the Wyoming Women's Antelope Hunt. Outside of her work in education, she coaches the University of Wyoming women's rugby team, fosters rescue dogs, volunteers in her church, and is a cancer survivor. Megan and her husband, Dr. Bryan Dugas, live with their three beloved rescue dogs – Loretta Lynn, Patsy, and Dolly.



Christine Dieterich | Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns

Christine Dieterich is the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of the Eastern Bighorns. Since 2015, she has guided the affiliate through significant growth and achievements, including the development of its largest project to date—Weston Village, a 30-home subdivision that will greatly expand access to permanently affordable housing in Sheridan County. Christine serves on the board of the Wyoming Housing Network, is an Ambassador for the Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce, and is a dedicated Rotarian. Most recently, Christine was elected to represent Wyoming and rural communities as a member of the U.S. Council of Habitat for Humanity International. Christine holds a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Wyoming. Residing in Sheridan, Wyoming, she and her family are naturally outdoor enthusiasts—hunting, fishing, and backpacking. Christine is also an avid trail runner and ultra-marathoner.



Christine Emminger | Administrator, Wyoming State Budget Department Grants Management Office

Christine Emminger serves as the Administrator of the Wyoming State Budget Department Grants Management Office, offering technical expertise around pursuing, securing, and managing sources of State, Federal, and Alternative Funding. The program benefits state agencies, local governments and organizations, Tribal governments and organizations, nonprofits, and small businesses along with supporting the Wyoming Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG). She has twelve years of combined public service across nonprofits and state governments including the East Shore Harrisburg YMCA, Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED), and the Wyoming State Budget Department.



Brad Enzi | CEO and President, Laramie Chamber Business Alliance

Brad Enzi is a Wyoming business leader, coach, and strategic thinker focused on solving complex problems and helping communities grow. As CEO and President of the Laramie Chamber Business Alliance, he leads economic development efforts, recruiting new industries like aerospace, defense, and indoor farming by leveraging Laramie's education and workforce strengths. With 15 years of experience in development and public affairs, Brad has worked on projects ranging from energy expansion to housing access, always driven by what's possible. A lifelong coach and planner, he enjoys helping people and organizations push beyond limits. When not working, you'll find him fly fishing or mentoring others.



Lee Filer | Representative, Wyoming House District 44

Representative Filer represents Laramie County.



Justin Fornstrom | Representative, Wyoming House District 10

Representative Justin Fornstrom was born in Falls Church, Virginia, while his father was serving during the Vietnam War. The following year, his family returned to Pine Bluffs, where Justin was raised and later graduated from Pine Bluffs High School in 1990. A University of Wyoming graduate, he returned home to Pine Bluffs in 1995 and began farming with his brother on their fourth-generation family farm. Over the years, their partnership has grown to include several commercial businesses in and around Pine Bluffs. Justin has a long record of local service. After serving 16 years as president of Laramie County Fire District 5, he was elected Mayor of Pine Bluffs in 2021. In November 2025, he was appointed to the Wyoming House of Representatives to fill the term of the late Representative John Eklund. Justin also serves as the Eastern Laramie County representative for Cheyenne LEADS and sits on the Board of Directors for the Wyoming Municipal Power Agency. Justin and his wife, Kara, reside in Pine Bluffs with their daughter, Keefer, who is a senior at Pine Bluffs High School.



Rob Geringer | Representative, Wyoming House District 42

Representative Geringer represents Laramie County.



Bryan Griffith | Program Director for State League Services, National League of Cities

Bryan Griffith serves as Program Director for State League Services as the National League of Cities (NLC), the oldest and largest national organization representing local government. In that role, he supports NLC's connections and partnerships with the nation's 49 state municipal leagues and the more than 19,000 member municipalities they represent to relentlessly advocate for, and protect the interests of, cities, towns and villages by influencing federal policy, strengthening local leadership, and driving innovative solutions. Bryan comes to NLC with a background in local government, having served as Special Assistant to the Mayor of Little Rock, Arkansas, as well as various roles in state policymaking and electoral politics. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law and the University of Arkansas Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences.



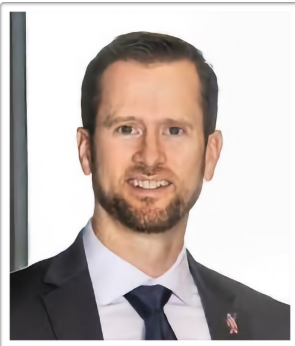
Chuck Hope | City Council Member, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Local businessman Chuck Hope has served on Oak Ridge (Tennessee) City Council since 2011 and is the appointed member by Council to the Energy Communities Alliance (ECA) where he works with Department of Energy (DOE) officials and federal legislators. He is the incoming chair of the ECA Executive Board for 2026. For 43 years, Chuck has owned Chuck's Car Care Center, an automotive repair shop serving Oak Ridge and the surrounding community. He is married to Maryjeane Krusen Hope and they have two sons and two granddaughters.



Hank Hoversland | Executive Director, Wyoming Taxpayers Association

Hank Hoversland was appointed Executive Director of the Wyoming Taxpayers Association in November 2024. Prior to leading the Association, Hoversland served as a fiscal analyst for the Wyoming Legislative Service Office, which is the permanent, non-partisan staff office of the Wyoming Legislature. He also interned for the United States Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources under the leadership of Wyoming's senior United States Senator, John Barrasso. A Casper native who now calls Cheyenne home, Hank earned bachelor's degrees in economics and political science from the University of Wyoming in 2022. He is currently pursuing an Executive MBA with an energy concentration from the University of Wyoming.



Sam Kidd | Of Counsel, Holland & Hart LLP

Sam is an experienced advocate who is outcome oriented and focused on protecting clients' interests in the aerospace, defense, and energy industries. Sam has cultivated a dynamic practice, having served in the US Air Force for more than twenty years, including thirteen years as a Judge Advocate advising decision makers on a broad set of national security issues to include serving as a Deputy Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also served for two years as General Counsel/Chief of Staff for the Section 809 Panel, an independent Department of Defense (DoD) advisory committee tasked with developing defense acquisition reform recommendations for DoD and Congress. Sam draws on his experience to help clients achieve favorable outcomes in Wyoming and Idaho Federal District Courts and Wyoming State Court as well as lobbying the Wyoming State Legislature. As a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy and retired Air Force officer, Sam has experience leading and coaching teams to achieve desired outcomes in high stakes environments.



Scott Kolpitke | Attorney, Copenhaver, Kitchen & Kolpitke, LLC

Scott graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law in 1996 and passed the Wyoming and Colorado bar exams that year. After practicing in Laramie for two years, Scott moved to Powell in 1998 and started working for the firm of Copenhaver, Kitchen & Kolpitke. Scott represents and advises cities, towns, school districts, hospital districts and people throughout Wyoming. He has successfully defended his clients in employment disputes before the EEOC, the Wyoming Labor Standards Division and other state and federal agencies. He regularly gives presentations to city councils, school boards, and other organizations on issues related to municipal law, school law, employment law, open meetings, public records and government ethics. Scott serves as an appointed member of the Wyoming State Bar's Character and Fitness Committee and the Board of Commissioners. He also serves on the board of directors for the Moyer Foundation.



Kevin Kramer | President, National League of Cities

Kevin Kramer is the President of the National League of Cities and is a Councilman of Louisville, Kentucky. He has dedicated over 25 years to education at Mercy Academy of Louisville, with additional teaching roles specializing in social studies and religion. Beyond education, he has held several management positions with Wyandot Snack Foods. Elected to the inaugural Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Council in November 2002, Kramer served as Metro Council President in 2006. He currently chairs the Minority Caucus, is the vice chair of the Budget Committee, and serves on the Government Oversight/Audit and Appointments Committee. In 2024, Kramer was appointed Chair of the NLC Information Technology and Communications Committee and is a member of the Steering Committee for the Board of Directors. A proud graduate of St. Xavier High School, Councilman Kramer holds a Bachelor of Arts in history from Bellarmine University and a Master's in Education from the University of Louisville. He and his wife, Julie, have been married for over 40 years and have two adult children.



Charri Lara | Municipal Finance Director, WAM

Charri Lara joined WAM in January 2026, where she helps support the Municipal Finance Program offered to towns and cities across Wyoming. She grew up in Lander and is a graduate of Lander Valley High School. She recently retired from the City of Lander after 19 years of service as City Treasurer. Prior to her municipal career, she spent 20 years working in public accounting. Charri holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in accounting and proudly considers herself a true numbers nerd. She holds advanced certifications from the Association of Public Treasurers as an Advanced Certified Public Funds Investment Manager and an Advanced Certified Public Funds Administrator. Throughout her career in public service, Charri has served on numerous boards and committees, including WAM, WAMCAT, the Association of Public Treasurers, the Lander Housing Authority, and LIFT.



Taft Love | Senator, Wyoming Senate District 6

Senator Love represents Platte County and parts of Laramie County.



Shay Lundvall | Mayor, Gillette

Mayor Shay Lundvall was born and raised in Gillette. He graduated college with a degree in Landscape Design and Business Administration from South Dakota State University. Shay met his wife, Lindsey, in college and after graduation, moved back to Gillette where he and Lindsey now reside with their son Breckin and daughter Skylin. Lindsey is a School Counselor at Buffalo Ridge Elementary School. Shay has worked in multiple industries and understands the unique challenges Gillette and Campbell County have. In his free time, he enjoys weight training, outdoor activities, and spending time with his family. He was first elected to the City Council in 2016, and reelected in 2020.



Pinita Maberry-Nave | City Attorney, City of Rawlins

Pinita Maberry-Nave is the City Attorney for the City of Rawlins, where she advises the City Council and all municipal departments on a wide range of legal matters, including governance, contracts, public safety, land use, and infrastructure. She also serves as the City's Prosecuting Attorney. She received her J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law and has experience in FDA food law and corporate governance, private practice focusing on plaintiff's personal injury litigation, and as a staff attorney with the Second Judicial District Court in Carbon County. Known for a steady, collaborative approach, she focuses on building strong internal partnerships while advancing the City's legal and operational goals.



Stu McRae | City Administrator, Sheridan

Stuart “Stu” McRae has served as the City of Sheridan City Administrator since June 2020. He grew up two hours north of Sheridan in Billings, MT and was commissioned in the Army through the Montana State University-Billings ROTC program in 1987, serving 30 years in various assignments spanning Europe, Asia, and the U.S. He holds a bachelor’s in mathematics from Montana State University–Billings and a master’s in Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College. His Army career included extensive experience in intelligence, logistics, aviation, and installation (city) management. He served three years as Garrison Commander (equivalent of City Administrator) for Fort Rucker, Alabama, and another two years as the Deputy Regional Director for Installation Management Command-Pacific, supervising 13 Army garrisons (cities) across the Pacific. He is driven by a passion for making a positive difference in other people’s lives and enjoys talking with tomorrow’s leaders—learning from them and, hopefully, imparting a little wisdom along the way.



Matt Murdock | Mayor, Pinedale and WAM President

Matt Murdock is the Mayor of Pinedale and President of the Wyoming Association of Municipalities. He was first elected to the Pinedale Town Council in 2013 and has served as Mayor since 2018. Matt and his wife, Sarah, are raising their three children in Pinedale, where his family homesteaded in the early 1900s.



Alex Nation | Senior Regional Specialist, National League of Cities

Alex Nation serves as Senior Regional Specialist for the National League of Cities (NLC), where he also oversees the University Communities Council. He serves on the Membership Services and Engagement team, a go-to national resource for supporting cities, towns, and villages to access programs, resources, and networking opportunities. In this role, Alex facilitates connections with local elected leaders from communities across the country, understanding their unique challenges and promoting best practices. Alex comes to NLC with eight years of public service in the City of Indianapolis’ Mayor’s Office, where he served as the Manager of Constituent Services. He is a graduate of Indiana University Bloomington’s College of Arts and Sciences with a degree in Political Science.



Dr. Mark Rinne | Council Member, Cheyenne and WAM Board Member

Dr. Mark D. Rinne, DDS, is a long-time general dentist and public servant in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Originally from Lincoln, Nebraska, he earned his dental degree from the University of Nebraska College of Dentistry and has provided comprehensive care in Cheyenne for over 30 years. In addition to his dental practice, Dr. Rinne has served on the Cheyenne City Council for over a quarter of a century. As of 2025, he is the Council’s longest-tenured member and current President. Dr. Rinne is the Council’s Liaison to the Board of Public Utilities, Cheyenne Airport Board, and the Laramie County Economic Joint Powers Board. Dr. Rinne was named the Greater Cheyenne Chamber of Commerce’s 2022 Person of the Year. He is a private pilot, fencing instructor, and active community member, alongside his wife, Rose Ann, and five children.



Fred Schmechel | Executive Director, Albany County Housing and Land Trust

ACHLT Executive Director Fred Schmechel is an entrepreneur and economic development professional dedicated to building innovation-driven, community-centered ecosystems in Wyoming. As founder of Artilect and Artifex, and former leader of IMPACT 307, where he supported 150+ startups, he has helped to shape the state's entrepreneurial and creative landscape. A co-founder of the Albany County Housing and Land Trust, Fred also brings his vision to public service as chair of the Laramie Urban Renewal Agency, guided always by a mission to empower people and communities to shape their own futures.



Joe Scott | Natural Resources Manager, Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

Joe Scott serves as the Natural Resources Manager at the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. He has worked for the Commission for 10 years covering a wide range of duties. He is responsible for managing Underground Injection Control, produced water recycling, compliance and enforcement, spills, and sage-grouse and migration corridor executive order implementation. He is also heavily involved in policy decisions and rule making, tracking state and national legislation and litigation, and interagency coordination with state and federal agencies. Prior to working at the Commission Joe spent 10 years in environmental consulting at Intertech E&E, LLC/Apex Environmental and Tetra Tech working a variety of environmental tasks for multiple industries. He earned his Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Public Policy from Harvard University.



Trey Sherwood | Representative, Wyoming House District 14

Representative Trey Sherwood is in her third term in the Wyoming House and serves on the Joint Appropriations Committee where she has worked to provide sustainable funding to local governments, the university, community colleges and Wyoming Business Council. In her "day job" as an economic developer for downtown Laramie, she works with the City, arts organizations, housing advocates, and small businesses to build a vibrant community. Trey has a master's degree in public history and is a graduate of Leadership Wyoming. In her free time (?) she enjoys running agility with her dogs.



Darlena Potter | Wyoming Public Records Ombudsman, State of Wyoming

Darlena Potter serves as the Wyoming Public Records Ombudsman, appointed by Governor Mark Gordon in 2021. The position was established in 2019 to assist Wyoming citizens when public records requests are delayed, denied, or ignored, serving both the public and local entities primarily through mediation. Notably, the role was designed to be held by a non-attorney to ensure that complaints are reviewed by a neutral citizen dedicated to fairness for all parties. Ms. Potter's background in public service began in Senator Enzi's Washington, D.C. office; she later returned to Wyoming and worked as a legal secretary and paralegal for Bruce Moats, a long-time advocate for transparency in public records and open meetings. In 2003, she joined the State of Wyoming to continue her career in public service. A native of Riverton, Wyoming, Ms. Potter holds a B.A. in the Administration of Justice and a Master of Public Administration with an emphasis in Government and Policy.



Julie Silbernagel | City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Buffalo

Julie Silbernagel has served as the City Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Buffalo, Wyoming, since 2005. She holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Wyoming and a B.S. in Accounting from Regis University with undergraduate studies at Pepperdine University. A Certified Public Accountant, Julie has demonstrated leadership in her field as Past President of the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada, as well as the Wyoming Association of Municipal Clerks and Treasurers. With a deep commitment to public service and financial stewardship, she brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her community. Outside of work, Julie enjoys a wide range of hobbies, including playing the piano, cooking, gardening, hiking, and reading. She especially loves exploring the mountains on four-wheelers and snowmobiles, embracing the outdoor lifestyle Wyoming offers.



Tim Stubson | WAM General Counsel

Tim Stubson is a Partner in the Casper office of Crowley Fleck and a member of the Commercial and Natural Resources Litigation Practice Group. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation in a variety of fields, including oil and gas, healthcare, construction, banking, and real estate. He is frequently in trial and has significant experience handling appeals before the Wyoming Supreme Court. After receiving his J.D. from the University of Wyoming School of Law, Tim served as a law clerk for U.S. District Judge William F. Downes in the District of Wyoming. Tim is a Wyoming native and served as a member of the Wyoming House of Representatives from 2008-2016, including a term as House Majority Whip and a term as Speaker Pro Tempore. Tim currently serves on the Permanent Rules Advisory Committee of the Wyoming Judicial Branch, where he assists in proposing and enacting rules pertaining to practice before the Wyoming Supreme Court and the Wyoming Chancery Court. Tim and his wife, Susan, have two sons and spend their free time enjoying Wyoming's wild spaces.



Dr. Chase Thiel | Rile Chair of Leadership and Associate Dean, University of Wyoming

Dr. Thiel is a principle-based, systems-minded leader who finds deep satisfaction in working with faculty, staff, and students to help them realize their collective potential through deeper purpose. He is proud to have founded the Center for Principle-Based Leadership and Ethics; launched experiential programs for new stakeholder groups through the Leadership Academy and Cowboy Leadership Experience; led modernization efforts for the College of Business' performance management and tenure and promotion systems; and helped cultivate a culture of belonging over his administrative roles at the University of Wyoming. As a management scholar, Dr. Thiel examines the ethical and broader social challenges facing organizations, with a focus on producing applied research that readily translates into practice. His work has been published in leading empirical journals, and he is especially proud of his practitioner-focused contributions to Harvard Business Review, as well as the broader media engagement surrounding his research. Most importantly, he is the joyful—and occasionally tired—father of four children.



Laurie Urbigit | Government Affairs Director, Wyoming REALTORS®

Laurie is the Government Affairs Director for the Wyoming REALTORS. She is a licensed real estate broker, and has served at the local, state and national level. She was Wyoming REALTORS President in 2000, Regional Vice President in 2003, and served on the National Leadership team as a liaison in 2006. She has chaired a variety of committees at the national level. She has presented NAR's Smart Growth for the 21st Century class in several states and has facilitated Candidate Campaign schools and town halls exploring solutions to entry level and workforce housing. Laurie is currently living in Casper, or at the family farm outside of Cody.



Chris Volzke | Deputy Executive Director, Wyoming Community Development Authority

Christopher Volzke serves as Deputy Executive Director of the Wyoming Community Development Authority, where he oversees internal operations, program development, and strategic planning for Wyoming housing policy. With roots in a fifth-generation farming and ranching family, he has dedicated his career to housing and rural community development. Volzke also represents Wyoming on the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) Des Moines Advisory Council and serves as Planning and Zoning Board Vice Chair for the City of Mills, WY. Prior to joining the Authority, Volzke served as Vice President and Mortgage Servicing Operations Manager for CorTrust Bank and held roles with Wells Fargo Bank in servicing, loan adjustment, and project implementation. He holds a bachelor's degree from Southwest Minnesota State University and an MBA from the University of South Dakota.



Jenn Wade | Finance and Administrative Services Director, City of Laramie

Jennifer Wade has the privilege of serving as the Finance and Administrative Services Director for the City of Laramie. As a CPA, she has spent her entire career working for governmental and not-for-profit organizations. She enjoys working through the challenges faced by local governments in Wyoming and appreciates the diversity and complexity of municipal operations. Even after many years employed in service of local government, Jenn still frequently nerds out about all the cool things that cities and towns do for their communities, often in invisible ways and always with a limited amount of resources. Jenn has spent the last five years leading a great team toward successfully implementing a multi-phase ERP project. When she isn't at work, you'll find her spending time with friends and family that she loves (like her husband of 26 years, Michael, or amazing UW trustee scholar daughter, Lauren), digging in the dirt, walking her two black pugs, or doing a variety of physical activities like yoga and biking. She is a licensed auricular acupuncturist, a Wyoming Acurecovery board member, and is part of a team that provides free stress relief clinics to the Laramie community.



Tom Walsh | Business Executive and University of Wyoming College of Business Advisory Board Member

Tom Walsh has led numerous global technology and data enterprises and has excelled in fast-paced environments which demand change. Throughout Tom's 38+ years of experience he has transformed multiple global growth businesses leveraging organizational culture change initiatives, customer segmentation and Go-To-Market optimizations, and tangible Ai/ML product deployments. Tom has led businesses and teams which have operated in North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Currently Tom serves as chairperson and independent board member to multiple global technology companies and advisor to several global private equity firms focusing on technology sectors. Additionally, Tom serves on the University of Wyoming's Foundation Board as well as UW's College of Business and the Center for Professional Selling Boards. A graduate of UW ('87) he has also studied at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, and the IE Business School, Madrid, Spain. Tom has two adult children and now lives in Fort Collins, CO with his wife.



L-R: Downtown Clinic by Dan Toro; Gill Street Collaborative; Rolling in the Sun by Adam Skansen; Wildflowers of Wyoming by Dan Toro



Coach Dave Denniston Head Swimming and Diving Coach, University of Wyoming

Dave Denniston grew up in a small town called Wright in Wyoming before moving to Colorado in 1994. While in Wyoming, Dave developed a love and passion for the sport of swimming. Swimming for the Greenwood Tiger Sharks under Jorge Fernandez, Dave almost immediately started dropping time in his specialty events the 100 Breaststroke and 200 IM. In 1995 Dave just missed the Colorado High School State record in the 100 Breaststroke. The next year Dave was chosen by USA Swimming to represent the National Junior Team in Paris, France, foregoing the Colorado High School State Championships. His senior year of high school, Dave was recruited by several colleges but ultimately chose Auburn University. At the 1997 state high school meet, Dave broke the 100 Breaststroke and 200 IM State record. His record time, 54.69, in the 100

breaststroke stood for over 15 years. Dave went on to be the 18 and under National Champion in the 100 meter breaststroke that same year.

In 1999, Dave was an NCAA Champion in the 200 yard breaststroke, helping Auburn win their second title ever in swimming. While Dave never made the Olympic team, he did final at Olympic Trials in 2000 and 2004 in the 100 and 200 meter breaststroke events. In 2000, he broke the American Record in the 50 Meter breaststroke going out in the 100. At the 2002 Short Course World Championships in Moscow Russia, Dave earned a silver medal in the 50 and 200 meter breaststroke events. One of the highlights of his career came in 400 medley relay, where he again swam breaststroke with teammates Aaron Piersol, Peter Marshall and Jason Lezak, to take gold and break the World Record.

After breaking his back in a sledding accident in 2005, Dave returned to the water to try and compete as a Paralympian. In 2008, Dave swam fast enough to be named to the United States Paralympic Team and was nominated Captain. In 2007 the NCAA honored Dave with the NCAA Inspiration Award. Dave then received the Christopher Reeves Award from Craig Hospital in 2008. And in 2017, Dave was inducted into the Colorado Swimming Hall of Fame.

After the sudden passing of his coach, Jimi Flowers, in 2009, Dave started coaching the Paralympic Resident Program at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs. In 2012, the swimmers he coached earned 21 of the 41 total medals for the USA at the London Paralympic Games. Dave was named the 2011 National Paralympic Coach of the Year for all Sports.

In 2012, USA Swimming honored Dave with the Paralympic Coach of the Year Award named after his late coach, "James (Jimi) Raymond Flowers Coach of the Year Award." Dave now coaches at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. In 2018, the Cowboys won their first conference title in over 50 years.



Pistol Pete at the Laramie Regional Airport by Zak Pullen; Pistol Pete at the Ruffed Up Duck, artist unattributed



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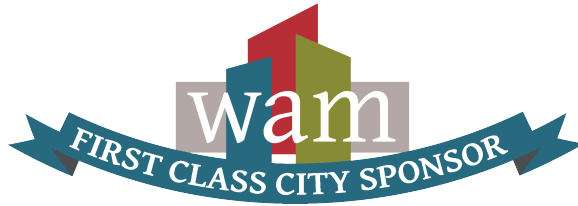
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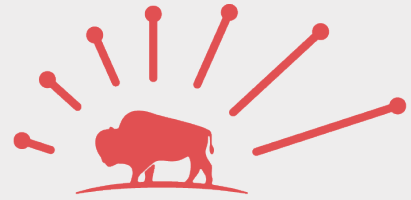
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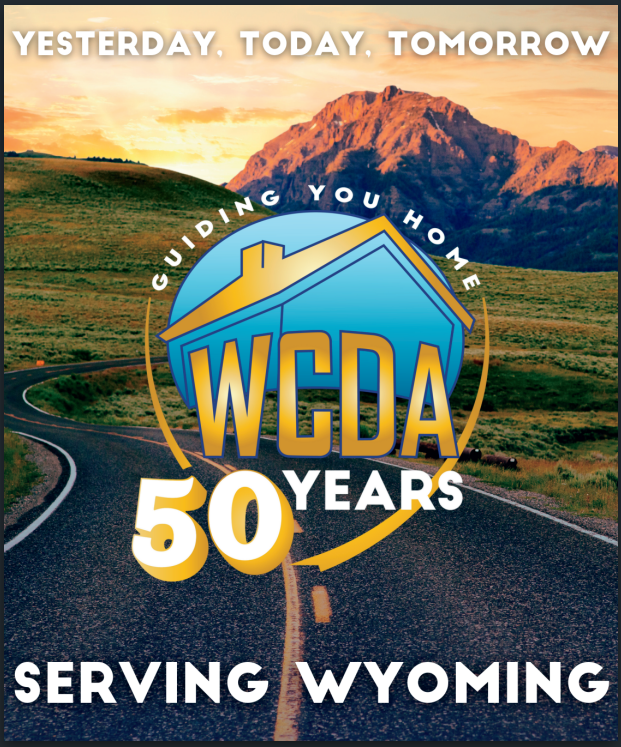
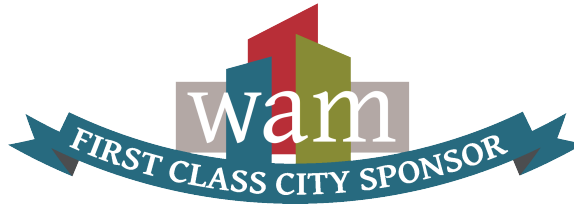


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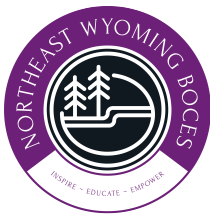
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