



Guardians of the Range

*Dedicated to the Multiple Use of Public Lands
& the American Way of Life*

News for Immediate Release

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Date Issued: Monday, July 20, 2009

Subject: July 25th Declared Old Timer's Day and National Day of the American Cowboy

Hyattville, Wyoming - Governor Freudenthal has declared Saturday, July 25th, 2009, 'Wyoming Old Timer's Day,' and the U.S. Senate signed a resolution declaring the same day 'National Day of the American Cowboy.' The Hyattville Old Timer's Association will observe their 100th annual Old Timer's Day in Hyattville, in conjunction with the Guardians of the Range National Day of the American Cowboy, on July 25th.

"A Hyattville community has reached a milestone --100 years of celebrating the ranching heritage and the people that helped form the foundation for this great community," comments Linda Hamilton, Old Timer's President. "Great milestones like this one are a result of many years of dedication and a strong sense of community pride. We are proud that Governor Freudenthal recognized the importance of this celebration and declared July 25, 2009, as 'Wyoming Old Timer's Day,' and the Guardians of the Range agreed to co-host the celebration with us again this year for the National Day of the American Cowboy. Both organizations would love to have the public join in our special celebration."

The joint celebration kicks off with the Old Timer's Picnic at noon at the Group Shelter in the Medicine Lodge State Archaeological Site, six miles northeast of Hyattville. The Old Timer's will crown a King and Queen and their four attendants, based on those who have been in Wyoming the longest. Picnic attendees should bring a salad or dessert, table service, and lawn chairs.

The Old Timer's ribbons sell at the picnic for \$4 to help defray the costs of the picnic and dance, while all other events are free. The public is invited to attend the celebration, and encouraged to bring lawn chairs.

The free family fun continues at 2pm in downtown Hyattville, with kid's games and events, dummy roping and western coloring contest, critter rides and log branding, street fair and farmer's market, silent auction, live entertainment, and raffles. Bring your branding irons to put your brand on logs to be presented to the Hyattville Community Center. To have a booth in the street fair or farmers market, contact Dee Dryer at 307-469-2292 or Julie Greer at 307-469-2352. Pre-registration is encouraged.

The Cowboy Parade begins at 4:00, with lineup at 3:30, south of Hyattville. Horse-drawn vehicles and horseback riders are encouraged to participate, and preregister by calling Linda Hamilton at 469-2272 or Bill Greer at 307-469-2352. Log onto www.guadiansoftherange.org to obtain an entry form.

Evening events include a worn-out cowboy boot contest at 6pm, with a \$50 gift certificate for new boots awarded to both the cowboy and cowgirl with the most worn-out western boots. The awards ceremony follows, where contest and raffle winners will be awarded, and the Guardians will recognize area ranches owned by the same family for 100 years or more with the Historic Family Ranch Awards. The band, The Rewinders, will heat up the street with a dance beginning at 7:30 p.m..

The Guardians are hosting two raffles – one for a Henry “Golden Boy” .22 rifle engraved with the Guardians logo, a man on horseback, and one for up to \$500 in gift certificates to local participating businesses. Tickets for both raffles are \$5 each or six tickets for \$25, by calling Tori Dietz at 307-347-4026 or Darla Rhodes at 307-921-8633.

Senators Enzi and John Barrasso will be on hand during the festivities, if they are not delayed in meetings in Washington, D.C.

The Hyattville Old Timer's Association is selling commemorative T-shirts in golden yellow with a creative brown logo with a horse, cowboy and cowgirl creating the number '100.' The logo was designed by Bev Jones and her son, Chip Jones, relatives of Todd and Nancy Jones of Hyattville. The T-shirts are available in adult sizes small through extra large for \$12, during the celebration. The shirts can also be ordered by calling Nancy Jones at 307-469-2274.

Hyattville, an old-west-style ranching community at the base of the Big Horn Mountains, was founded in the 1880's and known originally as Paintrock until 1886, when Sam W. Hyatt became its first postmaster. Asa Mercer, author of the highly controversial book *The Banditti of the Plains*, also made Hyattville his home.

In the early 1800's, the Old Timer's Celebration was in Basin, organized by the Big Horn Basin Pioneer Association. The Old Timer's name stemmed from area residents recognizing and honoring the efforts of the old timers in establishing the town of Basin and other surrounding communities. For the past century, the Old Timer's Celebration has been recognized as one of the highlights of the year. In preparation, the Association held a convention each year in Basin on President Lincoln's birthday to plan the event. After a few years, the celebration moved to Booth's Grove east of Hyattville, because the picnic spot was ideal for the large turnout of people.

This joint celebration is sponsored by the Hyattville Old Timer's Association, Guardians of the Range, and Ten Sleep – Hyattville Lion's Club. The Guardians are a non-profit organization dedicated to sound science and community partnership in public land management. They address grazing issues on behalf of permittees on the Shoshone and Bighorn National Forests, the Cody and Worland BLM Resource Management areas, and their surrounding communities.

Linda Hamilton says, "Come one, come all.--you'll not want to miss the 100th Old Timer's Day and National Day of the American Cowboy celebration!"

Details and a schedule of events are available at www.guardiansoftherange.org or www.hyattville.org. For more information, contact Kathleen Jachowski, Executive Director or Guardians of the Range at 307-587-3723, or Linda Hamilton, President of the Old Timer's Association at 307-469-2272.