

# HERITAGE TIMES

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 1

JUNE 2026



## Our New Members

Jim & Soline Holmes  
Liz & Ray Holmes  
Lisa Anderson  
Tim Sio  
Bob Starr  
Millstone Pizza  
Shelley Musser  
Kit & Rhys Haugen  
Mary Haugen  
UPS Store  
Nathan Bender Family  
Cody Regional Health  
Shearer Family

## Recent Donations

Jack Livingston  
Homestead Museum  
Sox Freeman  
Karen Green  
Todd Valley  
Robert Starr  
Neil LeFave  
Margaret Kinder  
Doris & M.L. Dix  
Robert & Catie Weiglein

**Thank you!**



## A DISPLAY OF FLAGS FOR AMERICA'S 250TH

This summer, communities across the United States are commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. In the summer of 1776, Thomas Jefferson and a committee of four others appointed by the Second Continental Congress, drafted the document that declared the thirteen American colonies to be “free and independent states.” Congress voted for independence on July 2, 1776, and approved the final wording of the Declaration two days later. Most delegates signed the formal copy several weeks afterward on August 2. John Hancock, president of the Second Continental Congress, is believed to have signed first, followed by many of the nation’s most well-known founders, including Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. The City of Cody would be established 120 years later, but once founded, local residents . . .



CHM Volunteer and Board Member, Jenny Zink, spearheaded a community flag display that will include over 500 American flags along Sheridan Avenue from June 14 to June 30.

[Story continued on page 2]

## From our President/Director

Believe it or not, I think spring is finally here! Or, maybe we’re going right into summer! Our off-season seemed to go by very quickly and we’re happy to be open again. We are helping to celebrate America’s 250th by hosting the Field of Honor along Sheridan Avenue from the museum to the Chamber. The flags will be up for Flag Day on June 14th and stay up until June 30th. See Jenny Zink’s column for information about the celebration and how to sign-up for a free American flag. Our garden is coming along slowly but should be in full bloom by Flag Day. The dry winter has slowed its growth. It’s been recognized as a “Pollinator Garden” by the “Pollinator Habitat Certification Program” for this season! It’s a wonderful recognition and our garden committee led by Geri Hockhalter as well as Bobbi Holder who designed it for us, deserve all the credit for this recognition. We have put some “new” objects on display and continue to have a wonderful selection of books, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and souvenirs, etc., for sale in our gift shop area. Do come see us this summer before we close again on September 30th. — Lynn



# AMERICA'S 250TH IN CODY [story continued from page 1]

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... have enthusiastically celebrated the Fourth of July each year with parades, music, family gatherings, and community rodeos. To celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial, beginning June 14 hundreds of American flags will line Sheridan Avenue, stretching from the Cody Heritage Museum to the Park County Courthouse and the grounds of the Cody



Country Chamber of Commerce building. The community flag display was the idea of Cody Heritage Museum volunteer board member Jenny Zink. A native of England, Zink has been an active member of the Cody community since 1991. She and her husband, Larry, were longtime friends and business associates of museum founders Marge and Dick Wilder, through whom they first learned about Cody. In addition to her work with the Cody Heritage Museum, Zink has volunteered with the Cody Music Club, Soroptimist

International of Cody, the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, and the local chapter of the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO). Zink applied for and received a grant through Wyoming 250, which covers the costs of the community flag display and advertising. Our local Walmart donated the service of a truck for flag delivery. Zink is also coordinating a major community volunteer effort to display the 500 flags and provide free flags to local businesses along Sheridan Avenue on behalf of the Cody Heritage Museum.

## Heritage Garden Report

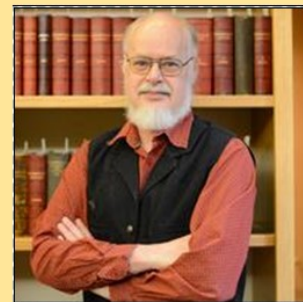


On a beautiful Saturday morning in March, a dozen of our volunteers, board members, and friends of the museum showed up for our annual spring garden cleanup. It's

surprising what the west wind blows down Sheridan Avenue and is caught in our garden! But we cleaned it all up and the garden is ready for a great summer. Please stop by!

—Geri and the Garden Team

In Memory of Nathan Bender  
(Sept 29, 1957—May 16, 2026)



Nathan was a beloved Cody Heritage Museum board member, a lifelong historian, and a past contributor to this newsletter, the *Heritage Times*.



# THURMOND-WILLS COLLECTIONS

In recent years, the Cody Heritage Museum has been fortunate to receive many historic artifacts donated by descendants of the Thurmond family. These items illustrate the culture, work, and daily life of a ranching family in the Cody area more than a century ago. The Thurmond family descends from Elias and Eliza Thurmond and Julius Van Everen, who homesteaded along the North Fork of the Shoshone River near (and partly under) present-day Buffalo Bill Reservoir at the turn of the twentieth century. Currently on display at the museum is a set of steel and leather spurs once worn by Charles Phillip Thurmond (1877–1970) while working on his ranch. Also on display is a Dave Jones pocket



calendar used by Charles' brother, Henry Thurmond, in 1910. Henry recorded the prices of eggs and milk, along with notes about his correspondence, providing a look into everyday ranch life and Henry's daily concerns in 1910. Another artifact on display is Charles Thurmond's guiding certificate, issued by W. H. Brundage, Justice of the Peace for Big Horn County before the



Blacksmith's apron made by Charles Thurmond on the family ranch on the North Fork of the Shoshone River.



These wooden toys were played with by the Thurmond children on their North Fork ranch west of Buffalo Bill Reservoir.

creation of Park County. In 1910, Charles paid \$10 for his guiding license, which is equivalent to roughly \$300 today. This summer's displays also include Charles' folding candle lantern from 1906 with its original leather case. Popular among campers and hunting guides of the time, the lantern featured a wind shield and peaked steel top designed to protect the candle flame. Additional artifacts on display highlight the daily activities of the Thurmond

family. Homemade children's toys, including a stacking toy and a mind puzzler, reflect family life on the ranch. Visitors can also see Charles' horse hobbles,



Leather riding quirt made by John Walter Thurmond and used as a cattle prod by Charles Philip Thurmond during the early 1900s.

wooden stirrups dating to about 1910, and the quirt he used to prod cattle. Beyond ranching, Charles Thurmond pursued a wide range of interests, including photography, then a cutting edge technology. The museum is displaying Charles' Kodak darkroom lantern, dating from approximately 1895–1910. This red kerosene lantern, fitted with yellow and red filters, provided the limited light necessary for developing photographs in a home darkroom. Charles used the lantern in his own darkroom on his North Fork ranch.



Charles Thurmond's kerosene lantern was used for developing photography in his home darkroom.

Thank you to the Thurmond family for these generous donations which help preserve and share the history of early ranching life on the North Fork.

# JOIN THE CODY HERITAGE MUSEUM TODAY!

FILL OUT THIS FORM, CUT ALONG THE DOTTED LINE AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT TO PO BOX 701 CODY WY 82414

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
As you would like it to appear on card

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\$20/year—Senior or Student

\$110/year—Business

\$25/year—Individual

\$200/year—Corporate

\$45/year—Family

\$500/year—Contributing

\$100/year—Friend

\$1000/year—Sustaining

Give the gift of history and knowledge with a membership to the museum!



*Honor loved ones with a customized paver for the Heritage Garden.*



Two lines of text: \$225

Three lines of text: \$235



Cody Heritage Museum

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Director Lynn Houze

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Yesterday's Cody Today . . .  
A bridge from past to present

