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This guide to Hot Springs County is brought to you by the Thermopolis Independent Record and our valued participating advertisers.

During a visit to Hot Springs County you will want to take in the natural beauty and enjoy all that our community has to offer. Begin your journey with a drive through the stunning geology and scenery of the beautiful Wind River Canyon on a designated scenic by-way.

The Wind River flows through the canyon and you can experience whitewater rafting on Class III and IV rapids. Take a guided fly fishing trip on the Bighorn River or simply float on the river with friends. Thermopolis, Wyoming, nestled among the foothills of the Owl Creek Mountains and beside the Bighorn River, is renowned for its world's largest mineral hot springs. With only 3,000 residents, the small town offers big opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast or the traveling family.

Hot Springs State Park, the most visited state park in Wyoming, offers two mineral spring pools to choose from to either soak or take a wild ride down the slides. Tour the Buffalo Pastures and view the bison herd who roam free in the park.

The Old West comes to life at the Hot Springs County Museum & Cultural Center. Belly up to the original bar where outlaws from the Hole-In-The-Wall gang once sat, including the infamous Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid and soak in the history of our unique area.

The Wyoming Dinosaur Center and Dig Sites provide a great opportunity to discover the prehistoric world. It includes a world class museum, working dig sites, and a complete modern preparation laboratory. A museum gift shop offers fossils, gems, books, educational materials and games, apparel, and a snack counter.

The trails around Thermopolis and the Hot Springs State Park offer vistas of brilliant red hills, geologic formations, the aquamarine pools of mineral water, and distant mountain peaks. Visitors can take in the wildlife as well. Bison, deer, antelope, and soaring eagles can be spotted with regularity.

Twenty-one miles northwest of Thermopolis is the most impressive petroglyphs display in Wyoming. Legend Rock is the work of three prehistoric cultural groups spanning from 500 AD to the 19th Century.

For added family fun the town offers miniature golf, regular golf, a movie theater, and of course, swimming!

The historic downtown boasts several unique shops from health food to antiques to books. There are some great stores on the edge of town as well so get out and explore. There are also a number of quality restaurants and bars to choose from.

Take this handy guide with you as you travel around Hot Springs County. It is full of stories and advertising about all we have to offer.

There is absolutely something for everyone in Thermopolis!

Take the family swimming, sliding in a mineral pool

Two facilities in Hot Springs State Park provide a number of indoor and outdoor attractions for guests.

Hellie's Tepee Pools

Hellie's Tepee Pools offer exhilarating hot water fun and varied attractions. The copper-domed facility can be found between the Big Horn River, Rainbow Terraces and the Wyoming State Bath House.

One regulation 25-yard pool, wading pool and hot tub with jets can be found inside. Outside, visitors will find another mineral water pool and three hot tubs with jets. A sauna and a steam room are both available as well.

The spa features a 162-foot long indoor, all-weather twirling slide, which competes for sliders with the 272-foot long outdoor breath-grabber. From the top of the outdoor slide, visitors will get a beautiful view of most of Hot Springs State Park.

Hellie's is open from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily.

Star Plunge

Nestled against the hill in Hot Springs State Park is the Star Plunge, where anyone can soothe their body and soul – 12 hours a day, 365 days a year – in any season.

Featured attractions include three exciting water slides; indoor and outdoor mineral pools; high dive; basketball hoop; steam cave; Big Spring Water Fountain; baby pool; fountain waterfall and much more.

The "Super Star 500" is one of the world's longest water slides, gushing over 2,400 gallons per minute down a flume that measures over 500 feet. The "Blue Thunder Run" is a 330-foot, all-weather hydro-tube that curves around a 60-foot tower.

The "Li'l Dipper" is a 60-foot, warm mineral slide, just right for little tots and grandparents.

Both the indoor and outdoor pools are heated by warm mineral water from the Big Spring.

The Star is open 9 a.m.-9 p.m. seven days a week.

Social distancing is required at the pools. The locker rooms are open and limited numbers of people are allowed in the hot tubs.

The public is asked not to come to the pools if you are feeling ill.



Jimbo the Supersaurus dwarfs every other dinosaur at the Wyoming Dinosaur Museum. He is as long as three city buses end to end!

Wyoming Dinosaur Center

Named one of the world's coolest places for kids

In 2019, TIME Magazine for Kids named the Wyoming Dinosaur Center (WDC) one of the top 50 coolest places in the world.

The WDC provides hands-on geologic and paleontological experiences that are engaging and enjoyable for visitors of all ages.

The world-class facility displays one of the largest and most unique fossil collections in the world and their dig sites have some of the richest fossil-bearing strata in the western United States.

The Wyoming Dinosaur Center is dedicated to preserving and protecting Wyoming's natural history treasures for future generations, ensuring that they are available in a public venue for scientific and educational study and preservation.

WDC field technicians have found and identified over 130 dig sites. Shovels and pickaxes are used to remove soft overburden and break through hard sandstone. Once bone is found, small hand tools are used to pry around the bone and remove it to the museum, where it is cataloged and placed in the lab to be prepared.

A Supersaurus named Jimbo, one of the largest and most complete dinosaurs ever discovered, and a Hesperornithoides miessleri named Lori, who comes in at a small 3 feet long, are surrounded by a range of other dinosaurs. Some of the familiar ones are Allosaurus, Stegosaurus and Diplodocus, and the famous Archeopteryx.

Visitors can view more than 58 skeletons and hundreds of displays.

The museum and gift shop are open 8 a.m.-6 p.m., seven days a week. You can visit the museum, tour dig sites, participate in the Dig for a Day Program, Kids' Dig Program and more. Several options and packages are available.

The WDC is located at 110 Carter Ranch Road in Thermopolis.

For more information, visit their website at wyomingdinosaurcenter.org or call (307) 864-2997 or (800) 455-3466.

Thrilling whitewater trips tame the wild Wind River

The first thing most people think about when they see the blue-green water churn into boiling whitewater rapids for the first time is floating or kayaking through spectacular Wind River Canyon.

That hasn't always been possible, since the canyon is within the boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation.

However, a franchise has been granted by tribal officials to Pete and Darren Calhoun's Wind River Canyon Whitewater to guide raft trips along the mighty Wind River.

The trips have turned into another major attraction for Thermopolis-Hot Springs visitors and residents.

Part of the reason for the popularity of the floats is the calm water which allows you to enjoy the unparalleled beauty of the geological timetable that is Wind River Canyon, mixed with the churning excitement of the rapids.

The names tell the story: 1st Dam Rapids, Black Coal, Sharpnose Chute, Sphincter, Pin Canyon Falls, Screamin' Lizard, Sacajawea Straits and Washakie Falls. The difficulty ratings of the sections of rapids vary from small, Class I rapids to classes III and IV, depending on the river's flow.

There is a full selection of trips: short and long, whitewater or calm, overnight and even some with fishing. Safety is stressed, and the latest in equipment is provided.

The Calhouns are also authorized to issue tribal fishing permits to individuals and have a fly shop to service the general public.

A bonus offering is guided fly fishing trips in the canyon and on the Big Horn River.

Wind River Canyon Whitewater's rafting season lasts roughly from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Catering to special groups is stressed by the Calhouns.

Call 864-9343 or 888-246-9343 for information.

See the original Hole in the Wall Bar

Of all the outlaws that traveled the West, none are more famous than Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, along with their cohorts, the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang.

Their history in Hot Springs County is colorful and visitors to the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center have the opportunity to "belly up to the bar" at the original bar from the Hole-in-the-Wall Saloon.

Crafted in Ireland in the late 1800s from solid cherry wood harvested in New York State, the bar was one of three created for the 1904 World's Fair in Chicago.

After the fair, the bar traveled by stage to Thermopolis to Tom Skinner's bar where the Hole-in-the-Wall Gang drank beer and sipped whiskey alongside locals.

Historians hint that Skinner actually hid money for the gang in his personal safe so they wouldn't be caught by the law with large amounts of cash on them.



Visitors to Merlin’s Hide Out at its location on Richards Street in Thermopolis will find a nice variety of beautiful hides.

Merlin’s Hide Out a ‘must see’ treasure

Many years ago, Native Americans slept curled beneath the deep fur hides of buffalo, wrapping themselves up in them to ward off the bitter cold of a Wyoming winter. Today, their soft, rich texture can add a touch of the Old West to any room.

The art of tanning buffalo robes lives on at Merlin’s Hide Out in Thermopolis.

Tanning hundreds of different hides each year, owner Merlin Heinze takes pride in keeping a personal touch with every piece that passes through his hands.

In 2015, Merlin’s became “Hollywood famous,” as Courtney Hoffman, costume designer for “The Hateful Eight,” requested eight coats for the movie. The coat worn by actor Kurt Russell became known on the set as “The Big Boy,” and director Quentin

Tarantino considers it one of the more iconic parts of the movie.

There are several steps involved in tanning the perfect buffalo robe, and each of those steps are done by hand, personally overseen by Merlin, to create a unique, premium piece that will last for generations.

Harvested in the peak of winter, Merlin’s buffalo robes are thick and luxuriously soft, with natural variations in color indicative of the native plains animal.

In addition to buffalo robes, you will find a wide range of fur and leather items, including fur mittens and hats along with a variety of new creations.

Visit Merlin’s Hide Out on the web at www.merlinshideout.com or for more information about a tour of the facility, call 307-864-3657.

Wind River Canyon

Take a road trip through history and enjoy the view

Just south of Thermopolis sits the rocky maw of Wind River Canyon, where 2,500-foot walls of rock swallow the rolling hills of the Big Horn Basin before releasing travelers into the expansive Indian reservation.

Over a billion years of geology is exposed in the canyon between Thermopolis and Boysen Dam. Informative signs identify much of the geologic history along U.S. Highway 20, the Wind River Canyon Scenic Byway.

The canyon is about 10 miles long, ending four miles south of Thermopolis at the “Wedding of the Waters,” where the fast-flowing, rapids-dominated Wind River becomes the meandering Bighorn River.

Approaching the canyon from the south, you travel over relatively faulting variegated rock units of the Eocene Wind River Formation.

About a mile south of Boysen Dam, severely-faulted Paleozoic rocks roughly reflect a faulted arch.

At the first highway tunnel, the road crosses the Boysen normal fault, with Precambrian crystalline rocks on the north, an up-thrown side in contact with



northward-dipping Cambrian shales.

About 1.6 miles north of that fault, the unconformable contact of the Precambrian crystalline rocks and the overlying sediments of Cambrian age (representing

a time interval of two billion years) is exposed at the level of the highway.

Heading north, the sediments dip about ten degrees toward the north, and a complete section of Paleozoic formations may be observed.

The road emerges from the canyon at the north end, where extensive areas of Triassic red beds line the roadway.

Questions? The chamber has answers

The Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and Visitor’s Center is here to help, so don’t hesitate to stop in.

The office is located at 220 Park St. at the entrance to Hot Springs State Park, just across U.S. Highway 20 from the state park office. In addition to information such as visitor guides, brochures, calendars and maps of local, regional and

statewide attractions, the chamber has maps for ATV roads and scenic drives.

All who live here are the owners of our community and our community is our biggest asset.

The office is open from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., seven days a week.

Visit www.thermopolischamber.org for more information.

Free entrance into Hot Springs State Park

Unlike most other state parks in Wyoming, visitors can enjoy Hot Springs State Park’s state-owned facilities and recreation areas without having to buy an annual or daily-use permit from the state.

However, the park does solicit donations to help

pay expenses and keep the park in shape.

Use of any of the three picnic shelters is free unless they are reserved. Reservation fee is \$50. The park also offers liquor permits at no charge.

The two privately operated pools, Star Plunge and

Tepee Spa, charge a fee for the use of each of their facilities.

There are play parks, walking paths, the terraces, a swinging bridge and more to see in Hot Springs State Park.

Watch for upcoming Vacation Destination Guides.

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Dig for a Day!

30 million years of prehistoric wonders on Warm Springs Ranch

Why is one of the world's best dinosaur museums in Thermopolis, Wyoming? Because this is where the dinosaurs are buried just waiting to be discovered - and we can't dig them without your help.

Excavating and preparing a dinosaur skeleton can take years of hard work to complete. Thankfully, that process never stops at our sites. The Dig for a Day is the Wyoming Dinosaur Center's most popular first-hand experience. With good reason! You can spend a full day working alongside WDC scientists and interns in an active dinosaur site and participate in each step of the paleontological process, as you spend the day exploring 30 million years of prehistoric wonders on the Warm Springs Ranch.

Arrive at the museum at 8 am to meet your guides, who will be with you for your entire day. They will drive you out on the ranch and back in time to the Late Jurassic Period, 150 million years ago. Your fossil site awaits on The Hill. Over 15,000 dinosaur bones have been found here, from massive long-necked plant-eaters like *Camarasaurus* and *Diplodocus*, to the terrifying carnivore *Allosaurus*. You just might make our next big discovery . . .

Think of your day as "luxury paleontology." The tools and training you need to dig are provided by your guides. Stay in the shade while you work, with plenty of ice water and lunch delivered to you on-site! Work alongside WDC staff and assist in all the parts of dinosaur digging. Every discovery is logged in the WDC's of-

ficial records. Your name will go down in history when you find a dinosaur bone, and you can call the museum at any time to check on the status of your discovery.

After looking for dinosaurs, walk through the Sundance Sea, from a time when Thermopolis was under water and filled with prehistoric sea creatures, like Plesiosaurs and Ichthyosaurs! Look for squid shells and clams along the hillsides, and take some home as a souvenir!

The day concludes with a personal tour of the Wyoming Dinosaur Center. Learn the secrets of the museum, take a look behind the scenes at the newest exhibits, and get a look at the latest "works in progress" in the preparation lab. You can even see the treasures found on other Dig for a Days, including Morris the *Camarasaurus* - a 60 foot long real bone skeleton found just ten minutes from the museum. It's your chance to experience a side of dinosaur science most visitors rarely see.

Digs are offered every day from late May to mid September, weather permitting, so there are plenty of opportunities to join us for a day of dinosaur

discovery.

Come see why the Wyoming Dinosaur Center is the world's best dinosaur experience - visit our website and schedule your very own Dig for a Day!

EXCAVATE

For those of you feeling adventurous, participate in the Dig-for-the-Day or Shovel-Ready programs.

Families and individuals will enjoy a once in a lifetime opportunity to dig up real dinosaur remains.

This unique experience allows visitors to unearth fossils which have been encased in stone for the last 150 million years. The excitement of seeing a bone for the first time creates a memory that will last a lifetime. The program begins June 1 and runs through mid-September, weather permitting.

The Wyoming Dinosaur Center is located at 110 Carter Ranch Road. To get to the museum from the center of town, take Broadway east across the tracks into East Thermopolis. Cross the bridge, then stay to the right and make a sharp left on Warren Street. When you reach the stop sign, turn right and the street will bring you right to the museum.



Dig alongside Wyoming Dinosaur Center staff - a new discovery is made every day!

WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM

Along the north and east town limits of Thermopolis in Hot Springs State Park roams one of the classic vestiges of the Old West — bison. The first bison was introduced in 1916 with a bull from Yellowstone National Park along with cows from Kansas.

The main herd of adult bulls, cows and calves wanders a large range east of the developed area of the state park on the east edge of Thermopolis.

Another satellite herd is located along the north edge of Thermopolis on the west side of U.S. Highway 20. The range is mostly atop T-Hill, overlooking the golf course.

Roads looping through the pasture offer sightseers a close-up look at the herd.

The herd size varies seasonally with newborn calves, pasture conditions and sales to other historic herds.

People viewing the main herd are warned to stay inside their vehicles and not get too close. Remember: The buffalo are wild and dangerous. Please do not approach them.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from Memorial Day to Labor Day, get a close up of the herd by meeting the feed truck at 8 a.m. at Smoky Row Cemetery.

For details, visit the park office at 50 Highway 20 N. or call 864-2176.

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LEGEND ROCK

WHERE HISTORY IS WRITTEN ON THE WALLS

West of Thermopolis lies Legend Rock Petroglyph Site – one of the world’s most impressive displays of petroglyphs.

Hundreds of yards of sandstone cliffs are adorned with rock art, from recognizable thunderbirds and elk to mysterious figures wearing horned headdresses.

Extra security precautions have been added at the site to discourage vandalism. Recently, a land donation was received from Richard Wagner. Working with the Archaeological Conservancy, Wagner’s donation provides further protection of the site.

An archaeological survey showed there are at least 283 glyphs on 92 rock panels. The oldest works date back 10,000 years; the newer ones were carved since the arrival of white men.

To get to Legend Rock, take Highway 120 from Thermopolis toward Meeteetse for 21 miles. Watch for brown and white signs indicating the turnoff at the second Hamilton Dome turnoff (Upper Cottonwood Creek) and drive west about five miles.

At the intersection, continue west on the graveled Cottonwood Creek Road. Then turn left immediately after the second cattle guard. Follow that road to a “Y,” and stay left. Continue down the hill and around a curve to the site.

From May to September, the site is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and a site host will be available at the interpretive center. No key is needed to visit the site during the summer months.

From October through April, visitors must obtain a key from Hot Springs State Park headquarters at 51 Highway 20 North, the Wyoming State Bath House or the Thermopolis-Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce. Keys also are available at the Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center, the Meeteetse Visitor Center and Washakie County Museum.

Most of the petroglyphs are located upstream from the parking area and interpretive center. There is a restroom and interpretive center on site. Visitors are advised to bring their own drinking water, sign the registration book and not to wear sandals, flip-flops or other open-toed shoes.



A visitor photographs three of the hundreds of pieces of prehistoric artwork at the Legend Rock Petroglyph Site northwest of Thermopolis. The site is administered by personnel from Hot Springs State Park.

Nine hole golf course

The Thermopolis Golf Course on Airport Hill north of town offers nine challenging holes in the shadow of red and rocky Round-top Mountain.

The course serves up some unique hazards: deer, yellow-bellied marmots, antelope, rabbits, fox and other animals are routine visitors.

The course features a putting green and driving range, and the pro shop offers a complete line of accessories and equipment. Cart rentals are also available.

Hours are 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. for summer months. Plenty of on-site parking can be found at the course as well. For more information about the course, call the Pro Shop at 864-5294.

WDC home to early bird fossil

Thermopolis is a member of a rare club, including cities like London and Berlin, as it is home to one of the most significant scientific discoveries in history - Archaeopteryx, “the early bird.”

Archaeopteryx is the “Holy Grail” of dinosaur studies, and has been ever since its discovery in 1863. When the first paleontologists saw this tiny creature lying in the rock, they could hardly believe their eyes. An animal with the sharp teeth, curved claws, and bony tail of a reptile that is covered with bird-like feathers? Impossible! It was named *Archaeopteryx* - “ancient wing” - and is the first feathered dinosaur ever found.

Only twelve fossils of this amazing dinosaur have been found in 150 years of searching.

The Thermopolis Specimen is the 10th and one of the most spectacular. This specimen, found in the Solnhofen Limestone in Germany, winged its way across the ocean to the Wyoming Dinosaur

Center in 2006. It has been one of the museum’s signature exhibits ever since.

Paleontologists from every corner of the globe journey to Thermopolis to unlock secrets still entombed in the rock around *Archaeopteryx*. Many clues lie in the rock - if you know where to look. In addition to its fantastic feathers, the Thermopolis Specimen reveals new ideas about the connections between dinosaurs and modern birds. In fact, its left foot reveals its closest dinosaur relative - *Velociraptor*! Both have the same “killing claw” on their second toe.

As more studies are conducted, new and exciting information about this small but incredibly important little creature will be revealed.

But in the meantime, take this exclusive chance to get a closer look at the greatest piece of dinosaur history - the Thermopolis Specimen of *Archaeopteryx*.

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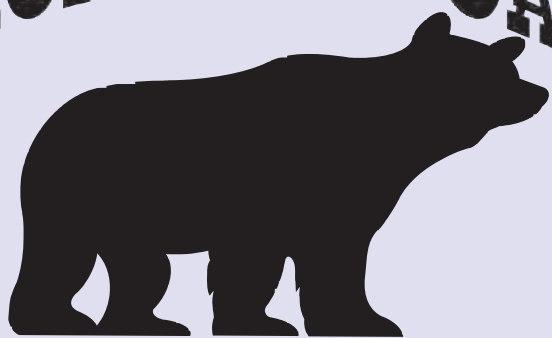
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Secure on the Swinging Bridge in Hot Springs State Park, spectators look for fish and turtles in the river.

Bighorn River: Where fishing abounds

Do the math: Thirteen miles of river multiplied by 10 access sites times three varieties of trout equals endless possibilities for anglers fishing the Bighorn River. Along the Thermopolis portion of the river , anglers often reel in brown, rainbow and cutthroat

trout and ling. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has 13 miles of stream easements with 10 fishing access sites along the Bighorn River near Thermopolis. There are nine additional public access areas between Worland

and Bighorn Lake at the north end of the Big Horn Basin. The northern portion of the Bighorn River is dominated by sauger, walleye, channel catfish and brown trout. Public access maps can be found at: <http://gf.state.wy.us>.

Boysen State Park offers recreation opportunities galore

Spectacular and spacious, Boysen Reservoir and Boysen State Park are located less than 20 minutes south of Thermopolis. The state operates Boysen State Park, maintaining campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, docks and restrooms, and leases out a marina. Recreational uses include fishing, boating, sports-sailing and water-

skiing. There is a public swimming beach near the northeast entrance to the widespread park. An earth-filled, 1,100-foot long, 230-foot high dam created the lake at the south edge of Wind River Canyon in 1951. Behind the dam are the blue-green waters of Boysen Reservoir. Boysen Dam is just above the tunnels on U.S. Highway 20, the Wind River Can-

yon Scenic Byway. Below the dam along the Wind River are two shaded campgrounds, which feature individual and group units. On the east side of Boysen Reservoir is the popular Tough Creek campground. There are summer and winter events at Boysen, including a winter carnival ice fishing derby. Those who are only going to Boysen Marina may

enter the park without charge. Fees to use other areas are paid at log booths near the main east and west entrances, or at toll sites on other roads. A small fee is charged for resident and non-resident day passes. Great fishing can also be found at Boysen Reservoir. Record-setting Yellow Perch and Walleye lurk just below the surface.

Swinging Bridge spans river gorge

Do you feel daring? Want the best possible view of the Rainbow Terraces and wildlife in the Bighorn River? Cross the Swinging Bridge in Hot Springs State Park. The Wyoming landmark has thrilled tens of thousands with its unique view of the blue-green river, terraces, fish, waterfowl, turtles, buffalo, deer and even trains. The first bridge spanned the river in 1916. While the earlier bridges had their dangers, there has never been a reported accident on

the current bridge. North Dakota National Guard engineering units built it. The bridge was originally used to cross the river from a hospital near the highway to the terraces, Big Spring and swimming and soaking facilities. It may be reached via special walkways across the cooling ponds and is actually the start of the Riverside Walkway that meanders through the park to just below the Dinosaur Center. Extinct geyser cones are visible on the west side of the bridge.

Amazing hunting and fishing display

Days Inn's restaurant is called the Safari Club, and after just one step inside the Park Street facility, there's no question as to why. The walls are a variable Noah's Ark of wildlife. And not all the mounted game once walked, flew or swam. Many of the mounts are duplicates - crafted from measurements and photos

of tranquilized animals. There is also an impressive photo display of adventures that took place around the world. The Day's Inn Safari Club is located just inside Hot Springs State Park at 115 E. Park Street. For more information, call (307) 864-3131,



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Unique Hot Springs County Museum packed with thousands of memories

The Hot Springs County Museum and Cultural Center is packed with so much to see that people return again and again. The stunning facility is located just one block west of the traffic light in Thermopolis.

ON THE first floor, antiques, artifacts and period costumes depict typical scenes from days gone by. Feast your eyes on a luxurious display of furs, including Persian lamb, fox and horsehide, worn by pioneers.

There is a sightseeing wagon, which was used in Yellowstone National Park around the turn of the century, and a smaller buggy from the early 1900s. Perhaps the most illustrious piece is the historic cherrywood bar from the Hole-in-the-Wall Saloon.

The bar is especially interesting since Butch Cassidy and, more than likely, the Sundance Kid were patrons at the Hole-in-the-Wall Saloon.

DOWNSTAIRS, you'll find a rough-hewn log cabin and a wildlife display, along with a simulated frontier town connected by rustic plank sidewalks.

The Native American displays are

considered some of the best by visitors to the museum. They include artfully-displayed arrowheads, tools, pottery and headdresses.

HISTORIC exhibits continue across the street from the main building.

You will literally step into the past as you enter the Middleton School house from Owl Creek and the one room "Depression" house furnished to resemble a typical Thermopolis dwelling inhabited by poor families in the 1930s. View farm machinery, ranch tools, a sheep wagon and a wool sacking chute in the agriculture building.

THE PETROLEUM building has exhibits about the oil industry in Hot Springs County, while outside are derricks, a cable tool rig and a pumping unit from the giant Hamilton Dome oil field. The full-size Burlington Northern caboose is sure to catch your eye.

Allow plenty of time to get the most out of this top-notch museum. Hours are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday, May through September.

Bighorn sheep roam WR canyon

Several rapidly-growing herds of bighorn sheep continue to roam the ridges and peaks of majestic Wind River Canyon.

The magnificent animals were returned to their historic range by a successful transplant effort involving state and federal wildlife officials, the Wind River Indian Reservation and the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad.

Midway through the canyon, parking at Windy Point and other turnouts, use binoculars to spot the bighorns on top of the mountain to the west.

As you drive between the tunnels and Boysen Dam, be especially careful not to hit one of the bighorns that occasionally cross U.S. Highway 20 (the Wind River Canyon Scenic Byway) from their range at the south end of the canyon.

Occasionally the bighorns are spotted along the shore by Boysen Lake boaters.



Bighorn sheep graze among the vegetation and jagged cliffs of both sides of Wind River Canyon. Be especially careful on U.S. Highway 20 near Boysen Dam.

Free River Bend Bark Park available

This pet exercise area is located near the entrance of Hot Springs State Park. It is on the north side of the road between the Burlington Northern Railroad underpass and the Big Horn River.

If you have been travel-

ling and want your dog to stretch its legs here is the prime spot, with a fenced in area and exercise equipment specifically designed for animals. Like any pet park it is the owners' responsibility to control their pets and

clean up after them; bags are available. Picnic tables are also in the area for everyone to enjoy.

This facility was made possible by the Mustangs 4-H Club and Hot Springs State Park.



This historic building was built in 1917 and is one of the few buildings in the nation with the "whirling logs" symbol.

The swastika-cowboy good luck

There is no decoration on a piece of cowboy gear that attracts more attention than the swastika, and with good reason. The symbol is widely misunderstood and shunned by the uninformed.

The symbol has roots back to ancient times. Greeks used it as a symbol of prosperity on coins. In Scandinavia it was well-known as "Thor's Hammer," and is widely used today as a religious symbol of Hindus and Buddhists. At one time or another it was used by most ancient cultures.

In North America the Pueblo and Navajo tribes of the Southwest have used the symbol for centuries. It was commonly used to decorate baskets, pottery, jewelry and rugs. The Indians called the symbol "whirling logs," and considered the shape to bring good fortune. The design was widely recognized by the westerners as Indian "Good Luck."

The whirling log or swastika design was quickly adopted by the white settlers in the Southwest and soon spread across the Old West. The common wisdom was that if the whirling log design brought good luck to the Indians then it certainly couldn't hurt the white man. Many companies incorporated the bold graphic as part of their trademarks. The famous Miller Brothers

of 101 Ranch fame used the swastika as part of their letterhead as an element on many Wild West Show posters.

Cowboys were notorious gamblers, so it is not a surprise that they would be interested in as much luck as they could get. Their gear was typically decorated with the traditional shapes of good fortune that included four-leaf clovers, horseshoes and swastikas.

The swastika was also very popular decoration with companies catering to the "dude" trade. Manufacturers used the symbol to create bandanas, blankets, poker chips, postcards, bathrobes, hat pins, bar ware and scores of other functional items. Cowboys and prison inmates fashioned handmade gear including hitched horsehair bridles and hat bands, chaps, spurs and other equipment with the swastika. Wild West show

performers, especially women, used the swastika to decorate riding skirts and vests through the early part of the century.

The swastika had a reversal of image with the rise of the Nazi party and the onset of World War II. The National Socialist Party adopted the swastika as its symbol in 1920 and by the mid 1930s it was synonymous with Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich.

With the beginning of WWII, cowboys set out to alter, disfigure and even destroy much of their gear that carried the swastika. Collectors often find saddles with the symbol crossed out with a pocket knife or screwdriver. Chaps with the design will sometimes have part of the swastika removed, leaving only the cross intact. Much of the gear was actually destroyed, making Western swastika items not only rare but scarce.

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The canyon, named after the Wind River, lies north of Boysen Reservoir and is located on part of the Wind River Indian Reservation (home of the Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes).

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