

PINEDALE ROUNDUP

COMMENTARY

Masks



LOCAL COMMENTARY
TRENA EIDEN

When it comes to the virus we're enduring, we have decisions to make. Do we call it the Corona, Wuhan, Covid-19, simply Covid, Chinese, just Virus, or like most Wyomingites, "This Crap?" (That's a word substitute). Should we wear a mask, which mask, where should we get it and who do we listen to for mask advice? Masks come in many styles and it's difficult to discern the best. A few manufacturers are selling lacy, nylon numbers that resemble a purchase made at Victoria's Secret – not by me, let's not start a rumor. We're told only N95 is safe, then a different expert says it doesn't matter as long as something is covering our face. A few of us, not gifted with good looks, realize mask-wearing is a real asset.

When all this started, I stole a red, paisley-print bandana from Gar's underwear drawer. I folded and pinned it, and using rubber bands, wrapped it around my ears. It was a handkerchief over my face and the only way it could have been less protective is if Gar would have trotted along beside me with his hand over my mouth. He's wanted to ...

and a pillow. My homemade device wasn't snug enough because while breathing, my glasses fogged over. At one point while grocery shopping, I had to put my hand out like I was legally blind and searching for the dairy section. It muffled my speech to such a degree, I couldn't even understand me, much less expect a clerk to. Basically, Charlie Brown's teacher was out of the classroom. Soon, employees were able to decipher much better, and could go on to become professional interpreters. Bilingual in English and Spanish, they're now fluent in "Mask."

While wearing my mask, I could scrunch up my eyes and people thought I was smiling. I wasn't. I was sneering, but by wrinkling up my covered nose, no one was the wiser. Now, when seeing someone crinkling their eyes, you'll always wonder, "Are they smiling behind that facial covering, or do they hate my guts?" I certainly wouldn't ask.

At one point, our son got us heavy paper masks and the first time we put them on, I recoiled and gagged. Texting our boy, I

gripped. "You could have got us some that didn't smell like the inside of a cow." He comically fired back, "You're lucky you got what you did you unprepared mouth breathers."

I no longer cover my face every time I'm out. Winter is over, the sun is shining, and our goal of not overwhelming hospitals was successful. I will tell you though, I dearly loved wearing a mask, especially the red hankie, which I referred to as my, "Bandito Incognito." I felt a little on the shady side, as though I was prepared to rob a stagecoach and lift baubles from Ruby Jean's handbag. I've never been the kind of person to chase down a team of horses, so stealing from a wagon would be a stretch, though probably not as far as the actual "chasing" part.

One benefit of wearing a face covering is people don't expect you to talk to them as much and that's a real win. The hardest part is, as soon as you put a mask on, your nose itches, but we aren't, on threat of death, to touch our face while in public ... or our butt I'm told, but that's a really old rule. A

recent investigation concluded that a good option to guard against typical size viruses and bacteria, 0.3-1.0 microns, is to utilize vacuum bags. If Gar was feeling particularly brave, he'd affirm, "She might as well. She doesn't use them for the vacuum."

Last spring, I carried a wicker hamper into the small RV laundry facility, sorted two loads, saw there was only one washer available, so filled it and put the remaining clothing back in the hamper. As I was placing it onto the car seat, a gentleman who was going in as I was coming out, called to me, "Is this yours?" Turning, I saw he was holding one corner of my washable feminine item I'd obviously dropped. Being bright colored and similar in shape to a mask, I'm certain that's what he thought it was. My gut tightened, and fighting to suppress a guffaw, I thanked him, but let him believe what he thought he knew to be true. Believe it or not, truth is stranger than fiction. I'm like a Ripley's exhibit ... me and the two-headed calf.

Trena Eiden trenaid@hotmail.com

MY WYOMING

Cowboy State crammed full of odd sites, curious sights

By Bill Sniffin

Want to go see something odd and different? Well, you live in the right place.

Wyoming is such an interesting place. Even if you ignore Yellowstone, Grand Teton Park and Devils Tower Monument, the state is jammed with interesting sites to visit and sights to see.

These places are both natural and man-made.

Today during when you want to stay outside, these are some sites and sights to see.

Here is a partial list of some to be among the most interesting:

The oldest house in the world is located 5 miles from Medicine Bow. It is the famous "dinosaur house," made out of 100-million-year-old fossil bones from nearby Como Bluff. Many of the great dinosaur fossils on display around the world came from that area in the 1890s.

Near my hometown of Lander is the famous Sinks of the Popo Agie River. The river goes into the side of the canyon and reappears a quarter mile downstream. More water comes out than goes in, which indicates there are many other sinks in the surrounding area. A state park surrounds this amazing site.

Periodic Spring near Afton is another of these remarkable water sites. Hot springs in Thermopolis, Saratoga, Jackson, Dubois and Fort Washakie are oddities, in their own rights. Between Cheyenne and Laramie is the Ames Monument, celebrating two brothers who were instrumental in building the transcontinental railroad. The monument, a huge pyramid, is built near the highest point of the railroad line. It is 60 feet high and 60 feet square. It is easily accessible.

In the same area along Interstate 80 is

the towering statue of President Lincoln. It signifies the highest point of the Lincoln Highway, which was the first transcontinental road in the USA.

Fossil Butte is a national historic site near Kemmerer. There you can see ancient fish fossils that are millions of years old.

There is a new state park north of Cheyenne that is an old nuclear missile base. A relic of the Cold War.

The interpretative center between Cody and Powell is for the internment camp where US citizens of Japanese heritage were locked up during World War II.

Between Greybull and Shell is the amazing Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite. Real tracks of dinosaurs found there have been preserved for millions of years.

The Vore Buffalo Jump near Sundance along Interstate 90 is well worth the trip.

A few of the wonderful forts to see in Wyoming include Fort Laramie, Fort Washakie, Fort Bridger and Fort Caspar.

The Big Horn Medicine Wheel is a national historic landmark and well worth visiting high in the mountains above Lovell and Sheridan.

There are also various rock arrows around the state that seem to point to the Medicine Wheel, including ones near Jeffrey City, Greybull and Meeteetse.

Two places that seem to defy gravity are Gravity Hill on the Casper Mountain Road and the highway through Wind River Canyon between Shoshoni and Thermopolis. Gravity Hill makes you think the ground is level but if you stop your car in the area, it will roll forward. In Wind River Canyon, you swear the river is flowing uphill as it flows north

because the massive canyon walls are tilted at odd angles.

Just north of Rock Springs is the amazing Boar's Tusk, which juts out of the desert floor. You can see it from 40 miles away.

Around it are the equally amazing Killpecker Sand Dunes. If you have not seen these, you need to. There is also a spectacular petroglyph site there. You can also find hand holes carved into the soft rock where Native American women gripped while birthing their babies centuries ago.

Several amazing sites in Wyoming are not very accessible.

To see these, you better be rich or fit. I doubt if I will be able to see them in my lifetime, but I hope that you may.

Looking for evidence of space aliens? There are huge rocks balanced on three little

rocks in at least eight places deep in the Wind River Mountains. I have seen photos of them and they are called "Dolmens." It would take a very big forklift to create these oddities. And the fact there are least eight that are similar rules out accidental creation by glaciers. Again, you need a guide to find them.

In the mountains around Thermopolis there is an odd round formation, which does not look naturally created by Mother Nature. Leading up to it is an old rock ladder, which has the appearance of being man-made, although it is eroded and very old. I have seen photos of it and it looks plausible to me.

This is just a small smattering of Wyoming's sights and sites. People can send other oddities to bsniffin@wyoming.com. I intend to compile more in the near future. We have only scratched the surface here.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Well looks like another push right on without anyone voting or having any say in a \$6-million ball field. Thanks Mayor Matt – just keep spending the taxpayers' money that we the people pay for you and your big plans. (Editor: mayor will say he got a grant but the taxpayers will still have to pay taxes.) It's on school land. I have never seen anything like this. I say if something like this goes on and it takes taxpayers' money away, it should be put up for a vote, not just take it and run. Mr. Editor, someone best stop this mayor on his runaway train. I don't care if I step on anyone's toes but, come on, a ball field,

hospital and what's next? – a big airport. Editor, this county doesn't have the income they had for all this. The county commission needs to get a hold on things or the good old taxpayers will get it all dumped in their laps.


Am I not right? We are getting the shaft here and it needs to stop. Editor, I see a lot going on and in the town of Pinedale, the town controls planning and zoning and yes you mayor, stop your squeaky ways. Thank you editor. Anyone care to say something. Don't be like sitting ducks and just let it float by. Thanks editor again for free speech.

Tyler Wilson, Boulder

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