

WBR ARTICLE

Some of the good, the bad of Wyoming

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Over the past year, the *Business Report* has published information about Wyoming's highs and lows on a variety of topics. To close out 2011, we have compiled a list of a few more areas for which we can be proud — or not.

The 53rd Annual Eastern Shoshone Indian Days Powwow, scheduled June 21-24, 2012, has been rated as one of the Top 100 events in North America by the American Bus Association.

The association says the listing indicates that Eastern Shoshone Indian Days offers excellent entertainment value to both tour groups and individual travelers from around the world.

Barclays Capital municipal index, which tracks prices and interest income, shows that Wyoming has a 12.7 percent return, putting it at the top. The state has six bonds with an average maturity of 26.1 years.

The Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody has been named by the National Tour Association as one of the United States' favorite museums, winning a bronze award and tying with the American Museum of Natural History in New York. The BBHC has a varied collection of western art, firearms and natural history. The museum currently is remodeling its exhibits for its namesake, Buffalo Bill.

According to an Associated Press analysis, state governments across the U.S. cut more than 80,000 jobs since the beginning of the recession because of decreasing tax revenues.

The study found that states with smaller populations had the highest number of state workers per 1,000 residents, with Wyoming ranked fourth with 16.7, preceded by Alaska (39.4), Delaware (18.7) and Connecticut (17.6).

Recent U.S. census numbers show that rural Wyoming is low on residents in the 20-40-year age group. "Age Distribution on the Great Plains" notes that this trend is not uncommon, and that it's prevalent around the region.

Rated 29th in growth rate, the state's energy-reliant economy attracts workers skilled in that industry. However, those workers are now moving to North Dakota, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania where energy exploration is more active.

Wyoming, along with West Virginia, New York, Virginia and Hawaii, received a failing grade in the 2011 State Report Cards for Workers' Comp, according to the Work Loss Data Institute.

Utah performed the best of all the states for 2009 and Arkansas and Minnesota came in a close second and third. All three states received a grade of A+ based on an average of their 2009 scores, based on: incidence rates, cases missing work, median disability durations, delayed recovery rate and key condition: low back strain.

While Cheyenne holds the No. 1 spot as the U.S. city with the cleanest air, in terms of particle pollution, during this past year, pollution in Pinedale was touted as being as bad as that in big cities, such as Los Angeles.

Other online information notes that China has the world highest number of deaths attributed to air pollution. According to the World Health Organization, almost 700,000 Chinese citizens die annually from the effects of air pollution — that's like losing everybody in Wyoming every year.