The Meeteetse Museum Foundation Awards Funds for Electronics and Collections Computer

The Meeteetse Museum Foundation has approved the Meeteetse Museum District’s request for upgrades to two of its exhibits, plus replacement of a defective laptop computer. The total funding amount of $2,488.97 will go towards the purchase of three smart televisions that will be able to play interpretive videos from flash drives, instead of built-in DVD players. The current DVD players are worn out and are unable to play the videos of the popular “ferret dance,” the films of Charles Belden, and the interviews of Dennie Hammer and John Hogg. Staff will migrate the videos to flash drives once the new smart TVs are installed. The Meeteetse Museum District Board and staff thank the Foundation for its generous support!

JULY 19 CONCERT TO FEATURE DAVID ROMTVEDT GROUP /GYPSY COWBELLE

Former Wyoming Poet Laureate and musician David Romtvedt will perform with various band members at the Meeteetse Museums on July 19. Romtvedt and his group will play an assortment of music from around the world, including tunes associated with the Basque, Irish, Spanish, and others. Romtvedt will also talk about the individual pieces, the musical cultures that created them, and the various instruments they employ. His emphasis, however, will be on the music of the Basques, the peoples who played a very significant role in Wyoming’s ranching and sheep industries. The Basques were also important to the ranches around Meeteetse and have left an important mark on its history. Opening for Romtvedt will be a Meeteetse favorite, “Miss V, the Gypsy Cowbelle!” Miss V, will perform a number of her original songs, some on homemade instruments, and a variety of pioneer and western tunes with which her audience will be familiar. Miss V will also be performing as “Amelia Earhart” during the historic Double Dee Ranch Tour on July 21! So come on out Friday, July 19, for the concert where there will be delicious western food available for purchase! It all starts at 6 pm. Please bring a lawn chair if you can, as seating is limited. Admission is free!

The Museums Welcome New Staff Member

The Meeteetse Museum District welcomes Amy Phillips, a graduate of the University of Wyoming Anthropology Department, as the newest member of our museum team! As Education and Programs Manager for the Meeteetse Museums, Amy will enhance our outreach program, coordinate events, lead workshops and clinics, improve our visitors’ experiences, and ensure that exhibits and programming meets our educational objectives. She will also manage the education collections and collaborate with fellow staff on various other projects. Before arriving in early April, Amy is completing an internship at the State Museum in Cheyenne. She has recently served as Archives Aide at the American Heritage Center and volunteered as a Lab Assistant under UW’s Dr. Todd Surovell. In her spare time, Amy enjoys fly fishing! She recently served as Secretary and Vice President of “Fish N’ Chicks,” a club of female fly fishing enthusiasts. We hope to incorporate some of her fishing skills into exciting programming for our summer tourists and local folks. Obviously, she is a great addition to the museum staff!
We have enjoyed having our cooperative exhibit with the Forest Service and Dr. Todd on threats to archaeology, but the time had come to take it down to bring in new exhibits. The loaned objects from the Forest Service and Dr. Todd were taken down first, examined for any change in condition, photographed, and placed in their containers for return. The exhibit panels came down later, although we are still working to find a place for the interactive arrowhead magnetic panel for visitors to continue to enjoy. Our plan for this space is to (finally) bring in the jail cell currently sitting under tarps outside and create a “Law Enforcement and Outlaws in Meeteetse” exhibit. With current funding difficulties and other exhibits with priority, it may be a while before this one is ready to go, but we are still looking forward to it.

Our dedicated volunteer Pam Johnston and I continue to catalog accessions (new and old) and old loans that have been renewed. We have had a great number of collection items come in during the past couple years and during times without a Collections Manager, and so we have had to push back another Collections Committee meeting until more of the accessions have been cataloged and we know what room and needs we have. Pam and I did not get around to cleaning and inventorying the sheep wagons last summer, so that will be a spring and summer project for us when the weather cooperates.

This past summer, we did move the Forest Service Firebox in from outside and cleaned it up over the fall. In December, we moved it into its new home in the Forest Service cabin. We are now in the process of revitalizing the firebox exhibit that had been displayed outside: updating it, rearranging the objects, and adding more information and interpretation.

We are continuing to move forward on our new grizzly bear exhibit, “Big Joe.” Designs and plans are in progress with Ray Hatfield of Nature’s Design. With relevant information on the individual bear provided to us by Wyoming Game and Fish, we are also working on the text for our exhibit panels. Although the focus of our new employee, Amy, will be on education and programs, we are looking forward to having her help on collections cataloging when she is able, so the museum will have a better knowledge of our collections.

**HISTORIC RE-ENACTORS, GOLD PANNING, ECOLOGY TOUR PLANNED FOR 2019 KIRWIN EVENT!**

The Ghost Town of Kirwin Tour keeps growing! In addition to the regular presentations on Kirwin history, geology, and mining, the August 10 event will again include a free “River Ecology Tour” by Forest Service Ecologist Kassy Skeen, which will cover both plant and animal life along the Wood River at Kirwin. Bring a magnifying glass to get an up-close view of the flowers, animal tracks, and other life along this pristine river! And there will be even more re-enactors portraying various characters from Kirwin’s past (such as Mrs. Brunelle, the lady killed in the 1907 avalanche). Finally, we have added a gold panning demonstration and hands-on activity by Casey Edwards of the Cody 59ers Rock Club! Try your luck and see how it was done in the old days before expensive equipment! We will have pans available, but bring your own if you want! Also enjoy a walk to Amelia Earhart’s proposed cabin site and tour some of the historic buildings in Kirwin!
Making Room for “Big Joe”

Many of you have asked about “Big Joe, the Grizzly” and when he will arrive at the Meeteetse Museums. Well, he is currently being prepared by taxidermy artist Ray Hatfield of Nature’s Design. Ray will also be designing, constructing, and installing the exhibit base for this big bear! In the meantime, the staff will be busy making and installing the exhibit backdrops, interpretive panels, and other features associated with this display. Let’s just say a drone, live footage, electronics, and interactives will be part of it all. Space is at a premium, so we thank Lili Turnell for agreeing to provide much-needed room in the Belden Museum for this exhibit! If all goes well, the opening for “Big Joe” should occur in late May or early June. Finally, donations alone are paying for this exhibit! So if you would like to contribute, please call the Meeteetse Museum at 307-868-2423 or email us at director@meeteetsemuseums.org!

2019 Spring and Summer Calendar

July 19
Outdoor Concert featuring David Romtvedt plus “Miss V, the Gypsy Cowbelle,” 6 – 8:30 pm
Former Wyoming Poet Laureate David Romtvedt and his group will perform Basque and other world music while telling the history of the songs and about the instruments used. Opening for Romtvedt is the Gypsy Cowbelle, who performs her original pioneer music plus some western favorites. Western-style food will be available for purchase! Bring a lawn chair if available. Free event!

July 21
Double Dee Ranch/Amelia Earhart Tour, 10:30 am
This tour of the historic Double Dee Guest Ranch provides visitors with an up close exploration of the historic guest ranch started by Carl Dunrud. The event includes an appearance by “Amelia Earhart” (who stayed at the ranch in 1934), as well as a musical performance by “Miss V, the Gypsy Cowbelle!” The tour leaves the museum at 9:00 am and begins on site at 10:30. Free.

July 27
Tour of the Historic Pitchfork Ranch, 10 am
This tour will be led by Lenox Baker, Pitchfork Ranch owner, and Greg Luce, who restored the historic Otto Franc property. The event includes a tour of some of the ranch’s historic structures and sites! The tour leaves from the museum at 9:30 a.m. Free.

August 10
Ghost Town of Kirwin Tour, 10:30 am
This tour of the legendary ghost mining town of Kirwin includes a self-guided tour of the structures, historic reenactors, a brand new gold panning demonstration and hands-on activity, plus a “River Ecosystem Tour” led by Forest Service Ecologist Kassy Skeen! High clearance vehicles are required. Limited car-pooling is available, but NOT guaranteed. The tour leaves the museum at 8:30 am and begins on site at 10:30 am. Free.

Additional events may be added throughout the summer, so check our website often at www.meeteetsemuseums.org. Or call 307-868-2423 for updates and information!

Joe Thomas and “Big Joe.” Image courtesy of Joe Thomas.
Local Postal Customer
Meeteetse, Wyoming 82433

Please consider us in your giving plans.

Monetary gifts to the Meeteetse Museums are always appreciated and much-needed. Also, please consider:

A gift to the Meeteetse Museum Foundation Endowment Fund, which will help us ensure sustainability into the future.

Gifts to the Foundation can be addressed to the Meeteetse Museum Foundation, PO Box 183, Meeteetse, WY 82433. For additional information on giving options, please call 307-868-2423. Your gifts are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Thank you.

Contact Us!

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Hours
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Tue—Sat 10—4
May 1—Sep 30
Tue—Sat 10—5
Oct 1—Dec 22
Tues—Sat 10—4
Closed January

We are located at:
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We’re on the web:
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