Reflections on Collections... and other things...

By Alexandra Deselms, Interim Director & Director of Collections

Even though it started out cool and rainy, this summer has flown by.

We are still in staff transition, so I am behind on what feels like everything, but especially with collections work. Melanie has been helpful in focusing on volunteers and social media so I could focus on job applicants, finalizing programming, fundraising, and building maintenance planning and repair.

In May, I applied to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a matching grant for the roof replacement (and solar panels to improve our awards chances and cut costs to keep our budget focused on staff, collections, programs, and maintenance). Thank you for your patience and support during this difficult time. I have applied for another grant to match funds from the NEH (assuming we receive the grant), and I am in the process of applying for two more this month, with a third due the first of October. We have also created a Building Committee with board members, volunteers, and community members to help us plan for other maintenance needs and repairs over the next few years.

We are so glad for all our volunteers who have worked at the front desk and/or helped in our native plant garden and weeding!

In honor of Lewis “Sonny” Bennion’s induction into the Wyoming Cowboy Hall of Fame, we had a brief temporary exhibit of his art in July. (See photos on page 6.)

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Thank you so much!
We extend heartfelt thanks to those who donated to us on WyoGives on July 12. Together, we raised $42,319 through online donations, matches, and checks!! The funds raised will be split between the roof replacement fund (a match for a National Endowment for the Humanities grant) and the Foundation's endowment. We are working to increase our fundraising capacity and the Foundation endowment to continue to provide excellent events, programs, and opportunities for you our visitors as well as to support the staff and collections care. We will continue to provide updates going forward with other grants received for the roof and new programs.

As we are still participating in the JumpStart Program from the Wyoming Community Foundation for the next few months, our coach Chany provided great tips and tricks to help make WyoGives so successful for us.


Page linked on Museum website also.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

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**Reflections on Collections cont.**

We have been offered some more collections items, but the Collections Committee meeting will need to wait until this fall when I have time to prepare (and to get Elizabeth started!). We did receive all of the collections supplies funded through our second Greenwood Grant, but I have only been able to start preparing the purchased boxes. I had hoped to get a start on that this summer…but now box building and rehousing will have to wait for this fall…or winter.

In my earlier reinventory, I found lots of scrap material and pieces. I am trying to find the related paperwork to know if they are collection or education items to put them before the Collections Committee for deaccession so that we can accept items that can better tell Meeteetse’s story.

As always, if you believe you have an old loan with us and haven’t been contacted in the last few years about it, please contact me. And please take a look at either PastPerfect Online or the Digital Public Library of America to see the new uploaded records for objects and photographs from the collections! We hope to add more soon.
The Meeteetse Museums is auctioning off several items to raise money for both the Museums and the Museum Foundation. Each item will be expressly marked so you can see where your money goes. Bidding will start August 21st and continue until September 4th. All the items will be on display over Labor Day weekend and a staff member will be available to help you bid on any items you would like.

All bidding will take place through BetterWorld. Even if you would like to pay cash or check to the Museums, you must enter a card and bid through the BetterWorld site. If you are the winning bidder, your card won’t be charged provided you speak to a staff member prior to the end of bidding.

If you'd just like to make a donation to the Museums instead of bidding on an object, you can do that through the BetterWorld platform, the Network for Good campaign listed on the Museums' website, or by stopping at the Museums.

More information available here: https://support.betterworld.org/donor-or-participant-questions

Unfortunately, there are currently no plans to introduce new ferrets to the Meeteetse area this year so the ferret release item will not be offered. We hope to see it back in the future!
Welcome Elizabeth Foss as Public Outreach and Engagement Director

Elizabeth joined us on August 8th. She received her Bachelor of Arts in History from Black Hills State University and her Master of Arts in History from the University of Wyoming. She has previously worked for Deadwood History Inc. in South Dakota and Leona Schools in Arizona. Growing up in a small town in Nebraska, she's looking forward to returning to a small town and community. Stop by to say hi!

Our youth worker this summer was Steely Faust, who also worked a couple days a week at the Meeteetse Library. She helped at the front desk as well as being at the Bank Museum so we could have that open on weekends. She will be a freshman at the Meeteetse School and plays volleyball. She plans to become a marine biologist.
After last year's busy summer schedule, we took a step back and just did our usual summer events, with some updates and changes! Including some unplanned rescheduling due to weather and unforeseen circumstances! Our summer programming was made possible in part by the Wyoming Arts Council. We appreciate our speakers and partners: the Shoshone National Forest; the Eastern Shoshone Tribal Historic Preservation Office and Cultural Representative Nathaniel Barney; V the Gypsy Cowbelle; Lynn Sessions; Dr. Lenox Baker; Alan Corey; Larry Oliveria; and Dr. Amy McKinney.

Native Plants Garden Update

With all the rain we had this spring and early summer, the native plant garden thrived! The seeds provided by Park County Weed and Pest that were planted over the fall have sprouted too. We are still learning what plants we ended up with. We hope you’ve been enjoying it if you’ve been in the area. The pollinators greatly enjoy it too!

Thank you to those who have helped with weeding and maintenance this spring and summer including Michael Oliver, Lynn Sessions, Lilli Turnell, Mary Jane Luther, Pam Johnston, and Betsy Burns!
Sunny Bennion Art Show
July 13-21, 2023

Pitchfork and Legend Rock Tours
UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG  
**August 19:** STAR PARTY CANCELLED  
Stay tuned for information about sharing Alan Corey's livestream in October for International Observe the Moon Night!  
Hopefully next year will work out better for our Star Party!  
**August 26:** Join the Meeteetse Museums in the afternoon at 2 pm to hear a presentation by Dr. Amy McKinney for Women's Equality Day. Dr. McKinney will be presenting on Buffalo Calf Road Woman and the Northern Cheyenne Warrior Women.  
*Members can Zoom in - watch for the emailed link.*

SEPT  
**September 1 - 4:** Join us for Labor Day at the Meeteetse Museums! The Museums will be open from 10 am - 5 pm on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, and will be open 10 am - 3 pm on Sunday. The Bank Museum will be open from about 10 am - 1 pm on Monday and may be open on Saturday as well. Special events include the Chatelaine Quilt Show and our annual Labor Day auction. Teachers may enjoy seeing one of the Bison Education Trunks set up.  
**September 5:** CLOSED to recover from Labor Day  
**September 22-23:** Ferret Days - This event is still in the planning stages so stay tuned for updates in email and on social media.  
**September 26 - 30:** CLOSED for Staff to attend the MPMA Conference in Texas. Conferences help staff stay up-to-date on new trends and technology, network with other professionals for ideas, and rejuvenate ourselves to stay passionate about museums.  
**October 21:** International Observe the Moon Night - Stay tuned!

OCT  
**November 23 - 25:** CLOSED for Staff to enjoy the Thanksgiving holidays with their families. You may see us in the Cody Christmas Parade again this year though!

DEC  
**December 9th:** Christmas in Meeteetse. Stay tuned for special events and programming!  
The December newsletter will announce the closure date for the end of the year.

Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook as we may add other programs as opportunities are found.

DATE TBD

Stone Tool Knapping Workshop - Join Dr. Lawrence Todd for a hands-on workshop as you learn how to knap stone tools. The workshop will be held by the Bank Museum. Please bring water and sunscreen as it may be hot.  
The date and time will be announced as Dr. Todd finishes his summer fieldwork and finalizes plans for fall.
Conference Report

In May, Alex attended the American Alliance of Museums Annual Conference and MuseumExpo in Denver, CO (in place of the annual state CWAM Conference). Fellow Wyomimgites in attendance included staff from the Washakie Museum, Wyoming Frontier Prison Museum, Wyoming State Museum, UW Art Museum, and the Campbell County Rockpile Museum. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for many of us, as most AAM conferences are too far or too expensive for many small and rural museums. There were great workshops and sessions on grants, technology, energy efficiency and cost-cutting, exploring challenging histories, and more. There were great venders too -- including Large Document Solutions, from whom we will be purchasing the scanner for our IMLS grant. (See page 10.)

Membership Program

Highlights

In its third year, the Meeteetse Museums Membership program has grown to over 45 members! With the success of last year’s membership levels, we are keeping the levels the same for this year. Funds raised will continue to support bison traveling trunks, the native plant garden, collections care, conference travel for staff, and as needed projects.

WIN THIS PRINT - LAST CHANCE

From June to August, anyone who joins the Membership program at any level will be entered to win this photograph of Meeteetse’s Labor Day celebrations from Daniel Jakli, photographer and anthropology researcher from Germany in Meeteetse. Existing members can upgrade to a Lifetime membership or gift a membership during this period to be entered to win this print as well. Lifetime Members will get 10 entries while all other membership levels will get one entry.
## Household Memberships

### Individual

- **$100**
  - 10% discount at museum gift store
  - **25 colorized photos annually**
  - 2 exclusive programs a year
  - First access to online content
  - Members newsletter
  - Advance registration to limited # programming

### Family

- **$150**
  - 10% discount at museum gift store
  - **35 colorized photos annually**
  - 2 exclusive programs a year
  - First access to online content
  - Members newsletter
  - Advance registration to limited # programming

### Lifetime Memberships

#### Double Dee Membership

- **$1,000**
  - Family Membership Perks plus:
    - Guided tour with 24 hours’ notice
    - Recognition on Museum Donor Wall
    - Lifetime Members Gift

#### Kirwin Membership

- **$2,500**
  - Family Membership Perks plus:
    - Guided tour with 24 hours’ notice
    - Recognition on Museum Donor Wall
    - Lifetime Members Gift
    - Annual social event with Museum Board

## Business Memberships

### Barbaro Level

- **$300**
  - 10% discount at the museum gift store for your employees
  - **Access to exclusive programs and online content**
  - Advertisement in the members newsletter
  - Logo on the Museums’ front window
  - Reach of 6,000 people annually

### Big Joe Level

- **$500**
  - Barbaro Membership Level Perks plus:
    - Advertisement in all museum newsletters
  - Reach of 7,500 people annually

### Little Wahb Level

- **$700**
  - Big Joe Level Perks plus:
    - Advertisement on Museums’ annual season of “Meeteetse Stories” and all YouTube videos produced within the membership period
  - Reach of 10,000 people annually
MEETEETSE MUSEUMS FUNDRAISER
JUNE 1 - SEPTEMBER 4

Donate your quarters!

It takes 63,360 quarters to equal one mile!

MILE OF QUARTERS

Proceeds go to fixing the roof!

Don't forget our Miles of Quarters fundraiser is going on! Now through Labor Day, stop in and bring your quarters (or any other coins!) to help see if we can make a mile! So far, we're not even a quarter of the way! Let's see how far we can get!

We are pleased to announce that we have been awarded an IMLS Inspire! Grants for Small Museums grant to purchase an oversize book scanner to digitize the Belden scrapbooks, bank ledgers, and other bound material! The scanner will be purchased and arrive over the next few months. An intern will be arranged for spring / summer 2024 to increase digitization efforts. We will be sharing the scanner's capabilities with other museums in the Bighorn Basin, including the Park County Archives, the Homesteader Museum, and the Washakie Museum.

Board Member Jim Allen has resigned due to scheduling conflicts and personal reasons. We have begun receiving letters of interest and hope to appoint someone to fill Jim's term at the next meeting. Thank you Jim for your dedicated service!