

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Fort Caspar Museum to host Summer Lecture Series

Casper, WY — Fort Caspar Museum is pleased to announce a seven-week summer lecture series on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm from June 8th to July 20th. Presentations are free of charge and will take place in the Multi-Use Room at Fort Caspar Museum. Each presentation will focus on a different “impression on Wyoming” from past to present and from east to west.

Candy Moulton’s presentation on June 8th, “Wyoming Trail Journeys: Historic and Contemporary” will highlight traveler accounts as she places in context the Oregon, California, Overland and Cherokee trails. Moulton will also incorporate the travels of explorer John C. Fremont in central Wyoming. She will make connections between people, land, and events in Wyoming history. Candy Moulton is a consultant and an Executive Producer for Boston Productions, Inc. She lives in Encampment, Wyoming. She has published over a dozen books on western history including *Forts, Fights & Frontier Sites: Wyoming Historic Locations*; *Steamboat: Legendary Bucking Horse*; *Wagon Wheels: a Contemporary Journey on the Oregon Trail* and *Roadside History of Wyoming*. She wrote and produced *In Pursuit of a Dream*, a documentary film for the Oregon-California Trails Association. Moulton will be available to sign books after the presentation.

On June 15th, John Monnett will lecture on “Red Cloud’s War”. Monnett will focus on the Native American experience and viewpoints during the Battle of Where A Hundred Soldiers Were Killed (or Hundred in the Hand) near Fort Phil Kearny. The Fetterman Fight, as it is also known, has fostered myth and speculation because none of the soldiers lived to tell what happened. Monnett will place this military history event in the context of Western history. John

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Monnett is a Professor of Native American History at Metropolitan State College of Denver. Monnett's book, *Where a Hundred Soldiers Were Killed: The Struggle for the Powder River Country in 1866 and the Making of the Fetterman Myth*, was published in 2010 by the University of New Mexico Press. A book signing will follow the presentation.

The featured presentation on June 22nd is "Give Them What They Want: The Selling of Wyoming's Image" by Rick Ewig. He will discuss the use of the "Wild West" image by Wyoming communities to draw tourists. Ewig will pose the following questions: Why do tourists expect to see horses, board sidewalks, hitching rails and residents in cowboy dress? What are the positive and negative aspects of giving tourists what they expect to see? Ewig is the Associate Director of the American Heritage Center, a manuscript repository at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

On June 29th, Sara Wiles will present "Arapaho Journeys: Photographs and Stories from the Wind River Reservation." She has lived and worked on the Wind River Indian Reservation for thirty-seven years. Wiles will highlight how photography and photographs have been integrated into the Northern Arapaho community and she will compare photographs by Edward Curtis in 1910 and Joseph Dixon in 1914 with her own from 1975. Sara Wiles resides in Lander. She has been featured in *Main Street Wyoming* produced by Wyoming Public Television. Wiles' work was published in 2011 by the University of Oklahoma Press as *Arapaho Journeys: Photographs and Stories from the Wind River Reservation*. She currently has photographic exhibits at the Pioneer Museum in Lander and the Buffalo Bill Historical Center in Cody. Wiles will be available to sign books following the presentation.

Todd Surovell's lecture on July 6th, "(Un)usual Suspects" will question the theory that humans caused the extinction of Wyoming's mammoths. He will argue that only the overkill hypothesis, the idea that Pleistocene extinctions were driven by human predation of Ice Age mammals, can explain the North American extinction event and similar events worldwide. Humans first arrived in North America approximately 14,000 years ago, and shortly thereafter, the continent lost more than 30 genera of Pleistocene megafauna including mammoths, mastodons, camels, horses, and ground sloths. Fossil remains of many of these species have been found in Wyoming. Debate continues as to the cause(s) of the extinctions with the usual suspects being human hunting, climate change, disease, and extraterrestrial impact. The central Wyoming area has many mammoth sites that provide a tangible and human connection to Surovell's

lecture. Todd Surovell is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wyoming. Surovell's expertise is in the areas of archaeology, geo-archaeology, lithic technology, hunter-gatherer ecology and Quaternary studies.

On July 13th, Erik Molvar will present a lecture about "Energy Development in Wyoming: Past, Present and Future" with a focus on fossil fuels, uranium, and renewable resources and what it means for Wyoming's landscapes and wildlife. Wyoming is the largest net energy exporter of any state in the United States, producing 3% of the world's fossil fuels at present and playing an increasingly important role in wind energy development. This presentation ties to a new permanent exhibit on Wyoming's natural resources at Fort Caspar Museum. He will answer the following questions: How have energy resources influenced Wyoming economically, socially, and culturally in the past and present? What do these resources mean for the future of Wyoming, the people and the land, and wildlife? Erik Molvar is a wildlife biologist and directs the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance in Laramie. Molvar is the author of *Wyoming's Red Desert Landscapes: A Photographic Journey* and he will be available to sign books after the lecture.

The July 20th lecture features John Davis for the "Johnson County War." Davis will share a new interpretation of this infamous event in Wyoming history utilizing primary sources such as land and census records, newspapers and trial transcripts. His interpretation highlights the perspective of Johnson County residents. Davis is an attorney in Worland and has published four books including *Wyoming Range War: The Infamous Invasion of Johnson County*.

These programs are funded in part by the Fort Caspar Museum Association and the Wyoming Humanities Council. For more information contact Erin Rose at 235-8462 or check the Fort Caspar Museum website, www.fortcasparwyoming.com. Fort Caspar Museum is located at 4001 Fort Caspar Road, Casper, WY 82604.



CITY OF CASPER LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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