

MEDIA RELEASE

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Fort Caspar Museum Names Mascot

Casper, Wyoming – Fort Caspar Museum proudly announces its mascot for youth programs: First Sergeant Fremont Ferret. Staff chose the black-footed ferret for its local and state connections and due to site history, he is in the frontier army. Casper resident and artist Russell Hawley drew five images of the mascot for a variety of uses including a Junior Army Scout Activity Book coming out later this year, youth programs, and advertising materials.

Curator of Education Erin Rose held a contest for all third and fourth grade students in Natrona County to name the mascot. She says, “We wanted to go to the experts for the mascot’s name. Third graders are learning about local history and fourth graders are learning about Wyoming history.” During January and the beginning of February Rose visited with over 1,350 students, sharing information about the black-footed ferret and the frontier army and encouraging them to submit names. 492 students at 18 schools submitted names to the contest. The first place name was submitted by Willard Elementary student Makenna Bennett. On her entry form, fourth grader Makenna wrote that she chose the



name because “Fremont is a history name and that is a good name.” A panel of judges selected the name last week and chose that name due to the local history connections with John C. Fremont.

Director Richard Young comments, “It was a tough decision. There were so many creative and original names submitted.” A few names submitted include James, Agent F., Felix, Frederick, Franklin, Corporal Collins, Amos Custard, Buckskin Jack, Lewis, Meeteetse, Curiosity, Scout, and Rapsac (Casper spelled backwards). One fourth grade student suggested James because of scientist John James Audubon who was the first to write about the black-footed ferret in 1851. Another student suggested Lewis because “Lewis is an explorer and ferrets explore things.”

Rose is very excited about the mascot and the prospect of using it in variety of educational programs at the museum. She says, “It was such a fun project. I had the opportunity to meet with so many teachers and students to share not only our local cultural history but Wyoming’s natural resources as well. I am very appreciative of the students, teachers and schools who participated in this project. It was a great success. Also, I would like to thank the Fort Caspar Museum Association for their support with this project.”

For more information about the mascot or youth programs at Fort Caspar Museum, call 235-8462 or check our website at www.fortcasparwyoming.com.



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