

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Rick Young

235-8462

ryoung@cityofcasperwy.com

“Building a Future for Casper’s Past” Anniversary Campaign for Fort Caspar Museum Expansion Project

The Fort Caspar Museum Expansion Project will add almost 5,000 square feet to the existing Museum building, creating spaces for new permanent and changing exhibits as well as year-round educational programming. This Expansion Project represents a significant milestone in the history of the Museum and for central Wyoming. Through a community-wide strategic planning process in 2000, this Expansion Project was identified as a critical goal for Fort Caspar Museum, which was founded by Casper citizens in 1936 to preserve and interpret our central Wyoming history.

The new exhibit gallery will be used to explore our region’s history through stories about agriculture, the oil and gas industry, and community development. The existing exhibit gallery will be divided into two spaces, one for interpreting the site’s trail and frontier army history and the other for changing exhibits. These exhibit themes were identified by a community-based Exhibit Master Planning Team as essential to sharing our central Wyoming history with Museum visitors.

The multi-use room and education room will offer brand new spaces for school and public programming and will also be available to community organizations as rental spaces. Additional collections storage space will enable the Museum to begin actively collecting artifacts, photographs, and archival materials again as well as ensure continued preservation of these materials through adequate storage and temperature conditions.

Groundbreaking for the Expansion Project is scheduled for fall 2006 with an anticipated grand opening in fall 2007. The total project budget is \$1,600,000, and the Museum has secured 72% of these funds. The City of Casper has committed \$1 million of its One Percent #12 funds to the Museum expansion, which will be used exclusively for construction. The remaining funds are needed for exhibit design and installation as well as interior equipment and furnishings. The Museum has already been awarded a \$150,000 grant from the Natrona County Joint Powers Recreation District Board for this purpose.

To raise the remaining funds, the Fort Caspar Museum Association has launched the *Anniversary Campaign*, named in celebration of the Museum’s 70th anniversary this year. The *Anniversary Campaign* offers a number of partnership and named gift opportunities to help support this vital project. To learn more about this exciting opportunity to get involved in our local history, visit the Museum or its website www.fortcasparwyoming.com or call Museum Manager Rick Young at 235-8462.

Fort Caspar Museum is our community history museum and now is the time to ensure that it continues to educate visitors, both locals and tourists, about our history for generations to come. Through this Expansion Project, Fort Caspar Museum is **“Building a Future for Casper’s Past.”**

End