

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## **Fort Caspar Museum to host a Summer Lecture Series in June and July**

Casper, Wyoming – Fort Caspar Museum is pleased to announce a six-week summer lecture series on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm from June 16<sup>th</sup> to July 21<sup>st</sup>. 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.

Chavawn Kelley of the Western Research Institute in Laramie will present a lecture titled “Alfred Jacob Miller and the 1837 Rendezvous” on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Historians consider Miller the master recorder of the mountain man and fur trade era because his portraits and landscapes are the only pictorial record from the 1830s of the fur trade in the Rocky Mountains. Kelley will discuss Miller’s attendance at the 1837 rendezvous and role as a recorder of national and state history.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Jeff Barnes will lecture on the “Forts of Wyoming” and a book-signing will follow. He will explore the history and role of ten early military posts in this state. The U.S. Army built forts for a variety of reasons, from differing materials, of varying sizes, and of multiple troop strengths. While some forts were more active than others or open longer, many of these forts played a pivotal role in the Indian Wars. Barnes will not only discuss the role of these forts in their historical context, using maps, and illustrations, but also current preservation and interpretation at these sites. Barnes resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

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Cool off on June 30<sup>th</sup> during a presentation about the Blizzard of 1949. Jim Ehrenberger of Cheyenne will discuss the blizzard of the century that created an enduring impression for those that experienced the storm. The two-month natural disaster impacted all facets of life in Wyoming from transportation to livestock. Ehrenberger lived through this winter in Wyoming and began researching the event in the mid-1950s. He has lectured on this topic for the past twenty years. Ehrenberger is a charter member of the Wyoming State Historical Society.

“Heart Mountain War Relocation Center: Remembering the Untold Story,” a presentation by LaDonna Zall of Powell, WY will be featured on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Heart Mountain was one of ten Japanese-American internment camps during World War II. From 1942-1945, it was Wyoming’s third largest city. During this time, approximately 11,000 people lived behind the barbed wire. Zall will explore the historical and political context of this site along with stories and experiences of those living there. She is a board member for the Heart Mountain, Wyoming Foundation, a non-profit organization in the process of establishing an Interpretive Learning Center on the site.

Les Bennington will present a lecture, “The Pony Express: 150 Years of History and Commemoration” on July 14<sup>th</sup>. 2010 is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Pony Express. Fort Caspar Museum is the site of Louis Guinard’s trading post, which was a relay station along the Pony Express route. Bennington will also discuss commemoration history of the Pony Express and the Annual Re-Ride from St. Joseph, MO to Sacramento, CA. Bennington of Glenrock, WY is the President of the National Pony Express Association. During this time, Fort Caspar Museum is hosting a temporary exhibit about the commemoration of the Pony Express.

Dr. Danny Walker’s July 21<sup>st</sup> presentation highlights recent archaeological work at the site of the Battle of Red Buttes. This military event took place just five miles from the Battle of Platte Bridge (near present-day Casper, WY) on July 26, 1865. During the Battle of Red Buttes, over twenty men were killed. Archaeological and historical research since the 1920s has failed to reveal the exact location of the battle. Walker conducted field research at that site in 2008 and is still searching for the answers. His lecture will combine historical accounts of the battle along with analysis of the 2008 archaeological work and discussion about why this event is still a mystery. Walker is Wyoming’s Assistant State Archaeologist and an Adjunct Professor of Archaeology at the University of Wyoming.

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](http://www.fortcasparwyoming.com).



**CITY OF CASPER LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**