

WASHAKIE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

2200 Big Horn Avenue
Worland, WY 82401
washakiemuseum.org
(307) 347-4102

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WASHAKIE MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER

MAMMOTH



NEWS



Spring 2024

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Thank you for being a supporting member! During May we hope to add even more members to our Museum family. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join; or better yet, give them a gift membership! Details at washakiemuseum.org or give us a call at 347-4102.

SAVE THE DATE: PALEONTOLOGY SYMPOSIUM JULY 6, 2024



Hear presentations from world-class paleontologists working in the Big Horn Basin, including:

Timing and Mapping of Synorogenic Sediments in the Bighorn Basin Bob Raynolds, Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Sharks, Salamanders, Tyrannosaurs, and Turtles: Strange Neighbors in the Mesaverde Formation of Cretaceous Wyoming Andrew A. Farke, Raymond M. Alf Museum of Paleontology

Poster Presentations from other paleontologists and UW students.

9:00 AM—4:00 PM - LUNCH INCLUDED

FREE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- May 8: Creative Journaling class
- May 9: All School Art Show Opening Gala
- May 11: STEAM class: The Power of Levers
- May 18: Field Trip & Lecture, Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite
- June 5: Creative Journaling Class
- June 6: Speaker Series: Lost Coal District of Gebo, Crosby, and Kirby
- June 7: *WONDER: A Journey for the Senses* Exhibit Opening
- June 10-29: Performing Arts Camp



WASHAKIE MUSEUM
& CULTURAL CENTER

Letter from the Director

What Makes a Museum Member Special?



Marian Bender,
Executive Director

Members give.

Members care.

Members matter.

In the past few weeks I've been working on materials to support our "May is Museum Membership Month"

campaign. I've been reflecting on the benefits we provide to our community, and on the funding it takes to make them happen.

We are very fortunate that our museum has an endowment and receives grant funds from local and state foundations, but the support we receive from our members (a significant percent of our operating budget) is special, and critical. Membership gifts not only represent dollars on

the balance sheet, they let us know that the work we do is valued.

Members who donate at any level are also important because they care about what happens at the museum. Member suggestions and feedback help us choose programming that is relevant and worthwhile for our audience.

If you're receiving this newsletter, it means that you already are a member of the museum, and we are very grateful for your support. I hope that when you visit or read about the museum, you feel that you belong here, and are valued by all of us at the museum.

If you do, I hope you'll share that feeling with your friends and neighbors and encourage them to become members too!

Book Review: "A Vast Amount of Trouble" by John Davis Reviewed by Chuck Glade, Museum Volunteer

I have lived in Washakie County 48 years this spring. Over the years I have become more and more interested in the history of this marvelous place in which we live. Nevertheless, when I recently read Mr. Davis's recount of the infamous Spring Creek Raid, I was embarrassed that I had not read it years before.

John does a masterful job of bringing to life the forces and events of cattlemen vs sheepmen that lead to the massacre/killing at Spring Creek (south of Ten Sleep) on April 2, 1909. Then he takes you through the arrest of the five perpetrators and the trial of one Herbert Brink. Allemand, Emge, LaFors, Saban, Metz, Simpson are all names that are large in the history of the Bighorn Basin and the Spring Creek Raid. You will learn the part each of these characters play in the events of Ten Sleep, the cattle vs sheep battle, and the Spring Creek Raid.

A Vast Amount of Trouble is not a novel. John's research is extensive and painstaking. In spite of John's meticulous penchant for detail and adherence to historical accuracy, his writing keeps you involved in the story and anxious to turn the next page.

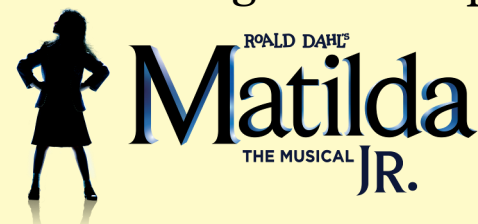
If you have a penchant for details, John has plenty of references and footnotes to guide you to his resources and other reading on this topic. Or you can just enjoy this fascinating piece of history.

If you have any interest in Washakie and Big Horn Counties, ranching past and present, and how we got here, I think *Vast Amount of Trouble* is a required addition to your reading list. It's available at the Museum gift shop.



Summer Fun for Kids at the Museum

Performing Arts Camp:



PAC provides participants with a 3-week, intense immersion into the performing arts, featuring 4 workshops and full musical theater rehearsals and performance.

- Ages 10-18
- Members \$140, Non-members \$150 (scholarships available)
- Rehearsals: M-F June 10-27, 2024 9:00am-2:00pm
- Performances: June 28, 7:00pm, June 29, 2:00pm

Art Camp:

Form vs Function

Ponder the question "What is art?" while you create your own sculptural masterpiece using fun recycled everyday objects! We'll also explore how both form and function play a role in art through various small projects during this three-day camp.

July 24-26

9am-12pm

Members \$20

Non-members \$25

Ages 11+



For details and to register, please visit washakiemuseum.org or call us at 347-4102

MONTANA
Shakespeare
in the Parks

FREE... EVERY SUMMER

THE WINTER'S TALE

SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, JULY 13 6:30 PM
SANDERS PARK WORLAND, WY

FOR ALL PEOPLE · FOR ALL TIME

Museum welcomes new board members



Rick Dorn

Non-profit organizations with a 501(c)3 IRS designation are required to have an all-volunteer board of directors to make sure that all money donated to the organization goes toward achieving the mission of the organization. That's the legal requirement, but a strong board of directors also helps the organization by setting the strategic direction, contributing professional expertise, acting as an ambassador in the community, building connections throughout the community, and providing guidance and oversight to the Executive Director. The Washakie Museum is fortunate to have an engaged, dedicated, collaborative board of directors that meets every month to make sure our organization is properly managed and funded.

We were very honored in the past year to have three community members apply to be on our board of directors. All three were reviewed and approved by museum members and the other board members. They are Rick Dorn, Charlie Cauffman and Laura McDonald.

Rick Dorn joined the board in September 2023. Rick is a high school social studies, speech, debate, and theatre teacher at Worland High School. He also serves as the Speech and Debate coach and the High School Drama Director. He has a master's degree in Counseling and Guidance, a master's degree in History (in progress) and an bachelor's degree in English and Communication. He sees his board membership as a way of giving back to the community by sharing his dedication and expertise in history and the arts.

Laura McDonald joined the board in March, 2024. She has been an active member of the Worland community for over 20 years, working as an Administrative Secretary at the High School and volunteering for the Friends of the Library and the Historic Preservation Committee. She has a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies, and has been a loyal and active member of the museum for decades. She hopes to put her administrative skills and strong interest in local history to work for the museum, which she believes is a great community asset.

Charlie Cauffman also joined the board in March. He is currently the Chief Operations Officer for Washakie School District #1, and has a bachelor's degree in Spanish Language and Literature, a bachelor's degree in Communications and Public Relations, as well as an Master's in Business Administration, all from the University of Wyoming. He has years of experience serving on boards at the state and local level. Charlie hopes to share his professional expertise and connections with the Museum, especially in the areas of facilities and building management, and capital construction.



Charlie Cauffman

EDUCATION STATION



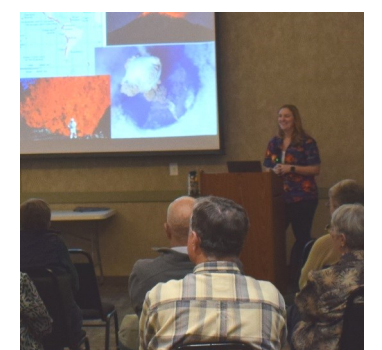
Museum Educator
Angela Reddick

The beginning of 2024 has been exhilarating with STEAM, art, and performing arts programs at the Washakie Museum. We began the year with a fun **STEAM Saturday** class focusing on Math and Origami where, on the coldest day of the year, kids spent time creating stellated octahedrons! Then in February we created light-up valentines using batteries and copper tape. And in March, local artist Sarah Miller shared all about creating prints for reproducible art work. In the coming months, we plan to find more ways to engage children in fun projects connecting Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics including a lesson on the Black-footed Ferret on April 20th hosted by Elizabeth Foss of the Meeteetse Museums, and on May 11th, David Kissner will join us once again for a fun activity on levers and leverage. As always, these programs are FREE for children once a month at the Museum!

The start of the year also saw two interesting talks for our **Speaker Series**. On January 18th, Amy Philips of the Draper Natural History Museum discussed her research on the Bison of the Big Horn Basin. And on February 29th, I covered the history of leap years and calendars across thousands of years of human history. Then in March, Wyoming native Annika Dechurt presented her research on the Three Sisters Volcanic Complex of Oregon. The unique topics will continue on April 18th with Fran Scranton covering the Hebgen Earthquake of 1959, and on Saturday, May 18th we will conduct our first field trip of the year to the Red Gulch Dinosaur Tracksite lead by Erik Kvale and the Grey-bull Museum. And on June 6th we will host author Lea Schoenewald to discuss her latest book.

This March, we once again welcomed **Missoula Children's Theater** for a production of "Jack and the Beanstalk." Through a partnership with the Worland School District, forty-five students were cast and participated in five days of rehearsals with visiting actor/directors Oscar Haimez and Rochanee Myles culminating in two performances on March 16th at the Worland Middle School.

But wait, there's more! On March 6th, Assistant Curator Jacquelyn Dennis and I hosted our first **Creative Journaling** class. We saw seven participants at that first meeting and hope to see many more as we continue meeting on the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00am-12:00pm. Each class we'll share another journaling activity like writing, art, scrapbooking, or collage. Feel free to join any time! You can bring your own journal or purchase a discounted journal and pen when you arrive.



Museum Speaker Series features Women of Science: Left, Amy Philips of the Draper Natural History Museum presented on her research into Bison of the Big Horn Basin in January; Center: Museum Educator, Angela Reddick, presented on the History of Leap Years on Leap Day in February; Right: Annika Dechurt of Shoshoni and the University of Oregon presented on the Three Sisters Volcanic Complex of Central Oregon in March.

Documenting History



Stefanie Kowalczyk,
Curator

For those of you who have donated items to the museum in the past, you may remember having to fill out paperwork. And then being mailed more paperwork. And then receiving even more paperwork. Why so many forms? These forms allow us establish a clear chain of ownership and ensure that each item is handled and credited to each donor the way they wish.

The first form people fill out when they consider donating an item is a *Temporary Custody Form*. This form contains contact information for the donor, describes the item being donated, and most importantly indicates what the donor wants to happen to the item if the museum chooses to not acquire it. Donors can choose to have the item returned to them or to have the museum dispose of it. When the donor and a museum staff member sign

the form, the donor acknowledges that the museum is being given temporary custody of the item so that we can see if it is something we would like to add to our collection.

The museum's decision to accept an item is based on the goals outlined in our Collections Policy (main points in the box below) as interpreted by the Curator, the Executive Director, and the Collections Committee. If the item meets our collection criteria, the donor is contacted either by phone or by email. This is when I can explain that that their item is being accepted into the museum's permanent collection and to expect mail from the museum. I then send a *Formal Deed of Gift* and ask them to fill it out and return it. This form confirms the donor's contact information and once again describes the object being gifted to the museum. It also asks the donor to acknowledge that they are the legal owners of the item and that they have the right to gift it to us. Additionally, they are given the opportunity to create a credit line for their item, so that they can give the object in memory of a person or people. If the object is put on display in the future, its label will reference the credit line. Once signed, the donor releases their right to their object, and it becomes the museum's property.

Once this form is completed and returned to us, we can formally accept, or *accession*, the object into our collection. I countersign the *Formal Deed of Gift* and return it to the donor along with a *Thank You Letter* which also includes an accession number for their object. Assigning this number to the object right away allows us to begin tracking its status and location within our collection immediately.

A donor file is then created to contain the *Temporary Custody Form*, the original *Formal Deed of Gift*, and other accession paperwork. Each time that individual donates an object to the museum, a new set of paperwork is added to their file. Together, these forms allow the museum to prove that we own every item in our collection. This is particularly important if we ever want to *deaccession*—or remove— an item from the museum's collection, which I will talk about in a future newsletter.

Interested in donating an item?

You can help the Washakie Museum preserve the history of Worland and the Bighorn Basin by donating items for our collection. We are always looking for things, photos, or printed materials related to:

- The history of Worland and the Bighorn Basin
- The people and businesses of Worland & the Bighorn Basin
- Art made by Worland artists or of Worland
- Art made by artists from the Bighorn Basin or of the Bighorn Basin

Think you might have something?
Give us a call at 307-347-4102 or email
curator@washakiemuseum.org

Back in the Day...

German POWs Grew Sugar Beets and Friendships (continued)

before going to bed in an open prison cell. Life was much different for POWs in Europe.

Wolfram returned to Germany after the war, a very healthy (and handsome, as his wife Hilde recalls) young man. He met Hilde shortly after returning, and always gave credit to her and the Lungrens for their happy and successful lives after the tumultuous years of war.

Wolfram's stories of his experience as a POW are especially heartwarming, however, because he recounts the kindness of the people of Worland (especially the farmers.) His story is not unique. Other POWs, including Alex Uhlig, shared fond recollections of their time here. In a letter to the Victor Kister family, Alex wrote, "I am recognizing more and more that Worland plays an important role in my life. It is the only place in the US that I got to know, as a prisoner of war, through my work on the Lass Farm. The exceptionally good and friendly treatment by the Lass family will stay forever in my memory as a POW. ...the agricultural situation in Worland reminded me even back in 1945 of my own home in the middle of Germany. You may know that I grew up outside of Leipzig, in the countryside. My dad took care of two big farms. We had horses, cows, pigs, sheep, etc. We grew barley, rye, wheat, oats, rapeseed, potatoes, beets and sugar beets. Our farm was shareholder of a big sugar factory. That tells you that I felt almost at home on the Lass farm."

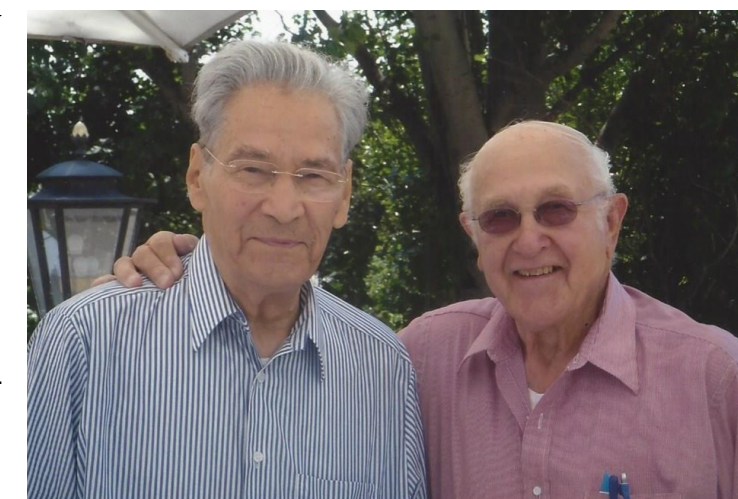
A big "thank you" to all the folks who helped us wander down this fascinating rabbit hole of Worland history. Thank you to Greg Lungren who lent us journals letters, and photos, and reconnected with the Sutter children to help us fill in the details. Thank you to the Kister family for letting us borrow their letters and journals. Thank you to Ulla Sheesley for translating the German letters for us non-German speakers. And thank you to Chuck Glade for being a fantastic side-kick and putting us in touch with scores of people who had memories, experiences and bits of information that helped us piece together these stories.

This April the staff of the Washakie Museum bid a sad farewell to long-time volunteer **Julie Robinson**, who moved out of state to be closer to family. Julie served as a front desk volunteer once a week for more than 14 years, and we will miss her very much!

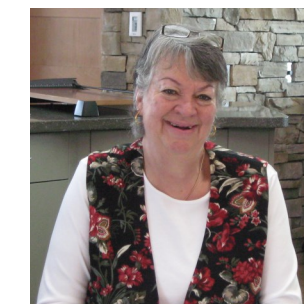
We'd love to have another friendly face volunteer at our front desk for a few hours a week. The hours are flexible and it's a great way to meet people! Give us a call at 307-347-4102 to learn more.

Both Wolfram Sutter and Alex Uhlig, along with many other POWs, returned to Worland years later to visit the families and farms they worked with. The Lungren family also travelled to Germany to visit the Sutter family at their home.

Not many prisoners of war come away from their experience feeling grateful, but that is how Wolfram felt. While working on the Lungren farm, he healed from his physical wounds and many of the mental wounds he sustained from the war. The experience strongly influenced how he saw America, his attitude toward life, and the lessons he passed on to his children.



Wolfram Sutter and Lloyd Lungren in 2010.



FROM THE MUSEUM'S ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION:

Back in the Day...

German POWs Grew Sugar Beets and Friendships

By Sarah Miller and Chuck Glade

It could be a line straight from an inspirational wartime memoir: In the shadow of the Bighorn Mountains, toiling side by side with the enemy captors, a young German POW forms an unlikely friendship with an American farmer.

Wolfram Sutter and Lloyd Lungren aren't around to tell the stories of how their friendship grew, but their children tell of the impact this experience had on them and their families.

Wolfram grew up very poor in Hanau, Germany. His father, a teacher, opposed the politics of the Nazi party and so was not allowed to work. Wolfram became a soldier at the age of 17, fighting in Tolbruk, El Alamein in Northern Africa and getting wounded several times before he was captured. Whether by intuition or information, he felt his best chance at survival was to be a prisoner of war of the American forces, so he escaped his original captors and fought his way through to give himself up to U.S. troops.

Eventually landing in the POW branch camp in Worland, Wolfram was set to work thinning and harvesting sugar beets on the Lungren family farm. The Lungren family had deep German roots, and faithfully kept many German customs and traditions. Their family provided a "home away from home" for many prisoners. Father and son, Adam and Lloyd Lungren, worked side by side with the prisoners, exchanging

stories in their native German, and Elizabeth did all the cooking for the prisoners, serving food that would have been familiar and comforting. If it weren't for the uniforms the POWs wore, you probably wouldn't have known that they were prisoners.

Wolfram didn't talk much with his family about his experiences fighting in the War, but he shared many fond memories about his time in Worland as a POW. From the beginning he received medical care treating new and old wounds. He was able to take showers complete with hot water and soap, a luxury he hadn't experienced in a long time. And he was fed well; in the words of his children, he was fed "meat and potatoes, vegetable, beans; everything young men need."



During his time as a POW, Wolfram was able to get some education from older POWs who were teachers and professors before the war. He played the violin in a camp orchestra, and because he spoke some English he occasionally chauffeured an Army General around to other camps and acted as a translator. His children tell how German POWs who were interred in Russia, France, and even England found it hard to believe that Wolfram drove around in an automatic, heated car, spending his nights on the road playing cards with sheriffs and deputies



Guard for German POWs 1945 - Worland, WY.

Art Happenings

By Jacquelyn Dennis



Sagebrush Artisan members check out their art on display before the event begins.

Sagebrush Artisans

27 Wyoming artists participated in our April Sagebrush art exhibit and over a hundred people attended the opening gala! Thank you to everyone who joined us to support the Washakie Museum and Sagebrush Artisans Guild. Sabrina Annand won the people's choice award with her piece "Wolf Skull."

All School Art Show

We've shown so much art at the museum over the last couple of months. And now it's time to showcase our young artists!

From May 9th through the 20th, we will be displaying art created by our Washakie County students from the 2023/2024 school year. Come out and support our budding artists on **May 9th from 5:00-7:00pm!**



Worland kindergarten and high school art on display in 2023.

Featuring the art of Kay Wray

Enjoy a formal exhibit of classical landscape paintings juxtaposed with exuberant spaces of wonder depicting the four seasons. Indulge all of your senses at this unique interactive exhibit, on display June 7 - August 17

Opening Gala
Friday, June 7
5:30-7:30pm

Art for sale & Hors d'oeuvres
Cash Bar & Music



Museum Happenings, Winter 2024

Worland Works & Wyoming Wildlife Exhibits Opening, January 19

More than 100 people attended the opening of “Worland Works,” an original exhibit of artifacts and information related to the professions of early settlers in Worland. Attendees were also treated to the dramatic unveiling of a new exhibit of Wyoming wildlife on the museum’s mezzanine.



Attendees to the Worland Works exhibit opening read about Worland's early days and perused a handwritten payroll ledger from Holly Sugar.



The crowd oohed and aahed as the gold curtain dropped to reveal the new mezzanine exhibit of Wyoming wildlife.



MCT Production of “Jack & the Beanstalk,” March 16

Left: Forty-five Washakie County students participated in this year's Missoula Children's Theater production of “Jack and the Beanstalk.” Right: MCT performers wait patiently while this year's six “Wonder Beans” (Ellie Chatwin, Tatum Wright, Astryd Vigil, Hazel Hoopes, Charolette Thomas, Taylor Brown) pose before rehearsals.



STEAM Saturdays Offer Free Opportunities To Learn and Do



Aspen Green creates a valentine that lights up!



Museum Artist Sarah Miller explains how to evenly spread ink on handmade prints.



Big Horn Basin Talent Show, March 15 & 16

The Museum presented its second Talent Show celebrating a diverse array of acts from around the Big Horn Basin. Back row from left: Second place winners “Ivan and Whoever Shows Up” featuring Dawson Utterback, Jackson Richard, Parker Ruffing, Ellie Durrant, Scottie Thomas, Ivan Thomas, and Blake Mikkola. “Drama Nerds” featuring Edward Martenson, Jaden Butler, Addison Seghetti, Collyn Ramirez and Jazzy Blake. Front row from left: The Mighty Wailin’ Burnin’ Berry with Petey, Kathy Griffith, Jacy Denecke, first place winner Mikaela Garay, Katelyn Cauffman, third place winner Hannah Baldwin, Mike and Carol Willard, and emcee Marian Bender.

Welcome, Museum Colleagues!

The Washakie Museum and Cultural Center is proud to host the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Colorado-Wyoming Association of Museums, May 1-4.

