23rd Annual Festival of Trees

The 23rd Annual Festival of Trees runs November 11-20 at the museum. Bring the whole family to see the beautiful trees, take your holiday card photos, and enjoy the various events of this annual Steamboat tradition. Yampa Valley Bank and Steamboat Ace Hardware are our presenting sponsors and generously underwrite all of the costs for the museum’s primary fundraising event.

This family-focused, pre-holiday tradition transforms the museum into a sparkling forest of uniquely decorated holiday trees by creative local organizations and businesses such as Ladies Recreation Club, local artists, and more. This year, we are thrilled to have over 23 sponsoring businesses. We would like to thank all of the decorators and local business sponsors who make this event possible.

Museum members are invited to a special VIP night for members with hors d’oeuvres, wine, and live music on Wednesday, November 15 from 5:30-6:30pm. We will host all local area seniors for cookies, cider, and live music at the Senior Tea on Thursday, November 16 at 2:00pm and 3:00pm. We hope families will take advantage of holiday photo opportunities while touring the trees and will attend special events such as Pioneer Christmas Story-time for Kids on Saturday, Nov. 18 at 11:00am and 2:00pm. With the generosity of our sponsors, all Festival of Trees events are FREE to all Routt County residents! Don’t miss the splendor and fun at this year’s Festival of Trees.

2017 Festival Schedule:

- Nov. 11-20
  Viewing daily: 11:00am-5:00pm
- Monday, Nov. 13
  Sponsor Night: 6:00pm
- Wednesday, Nov. 15
  Museum Members' Night: 5:30-6:30pm
- Thursday, Nov. 16
  Senior Teas: 2:00pm & 3:00pm
- Saturday, Nov. 18
  Pioneer Christmas Story-time for Kids: 11:00am & 2:00pm

Members’ Night in the Trees – You’re Invited!
Wednesday, Nov. 15
5:30-6:30pm

Don't miss this very special evening for members during the 23rd Annual Festival of Trees. Come enjoy complimentary refreshments and live music while mingling in the beautiful trees. Don’t miss the fun!
Curator’s Corner

All year long, the Tread of Pioneers Museum receives fascinating artifacts that help us interpret and document the rich history and heritage of the Yampa Valley. Here are just a few unique treasures recently accepted into Tread of Pioneers Museum’s permanent collection.

1 Rabbit Ears Pass souvenir cup
Marked on bottom: “painted and imported for Carlisle’s Variety Store, Steamboat Springs, Colo.”
The Carlisle Variety store first opened in Steamboat Springs in 1926. The store moved locations and owners over the years, but always sold novelty items.

2 Sarvis Timber Company Coin
Markings: “Sarvis Timber Company - Steamboat Springs Colo.” and “General Merchandise”; “50 pat. applied for”; “Good for in Merchandise”. Size: 1 ¼”
Likely used by workers as their wages for goods and services and not as actual cash. Coins came in 5 and 50 values. The Sarvis Timber Company operated between 1913 and 1919. The company used chutes to move cut logs down Sarvis Creek to the Yampa River and down to the sawmill located in Steamboat Springs.

3 Leckenby family Civil War portrait and pin

Do you have interesting Steamboat Springs or Routt County items you think are worthy of placement in the museum? Call our Curator at 879-2214.

Meet Emily Eldridge!

I’m Emily, the museum’s new Episcopal Service Corps volunteer. I’m from North Texas, and I love the small town vibe of Steamboat Springs and working in a small museum so active in the local community. I have always loved history and the connection to the past offered by museums. I have degrees in History and Museum Studies, and one of my favorite hobbies is making doll clothes and dollhouse miniatures.
History Happy Hours Return

Join the Tread of Pioneers Museum the first Tuesday of each month, October through April, at 5:30pm at the Butcherknife Brewery (2875 Elk River Road) for our most popular event series called “History Happy Hours.” The event takes the rowdy and raucous side of Routt County history to the community and into beloved happy hour. To sweeten the deal, each attendee will receive one free craft beer compliments of Butcherknife Brewery.

What do we mean by rowdy and raucous history? “The focus of the talks will be the mysteries, legends, lore, debauchery, conflicts, wars, crimes, lawless, and lawmen of the Wild West,” said the event’s organizer and museum Executive Director Candice Bannister. “The event has been extremely popular due to the perfect pairing of fine local beer and fascinating local history.”

To kick off the series, on Oct. 3, author and Hayden Heritage Center Curator Laurel Watson presented “Brooklyn: Yampa Valley Sin Circuit.” Author of the book The Yampa Valley Sin Circuit: Historic Red Light Districts of Routt and Moffat Counties, Watson unveiled the stories, characters, and shenanigans of the whisky crowd that congregated in Brooklyn just across the river from Steamboat Springs. From fishing with dynamite to murder, Watson fascinated the audience as they wet their whistle with craft brew.

On Nov. 7, nationally renowned author and historian Peter Decker will present “Ute Indian History and the Death of Nathan Meeker.” “Make no mistake, this was nothing less than a land grab by the U.S. government,” Decker said when describing the U.S. government’s broken promises and land treaties with the Utes and other tribes.

On Dec. 5, local historian Paul Bonnifield returns to the series with “Routt County Murders and Kidnappings.” Bonnifield is well known locally for his in-depth research and broad historical knowledge of Routt County history.

On Jan. 2, Museum of Northwest Colorado Assistant Director Paul Knowles will present “Routt County Gold: From First Strikes to Still-Lost Treasures.” Knowles, who completed much of his research for a recent exhibition at the Craig museum, is also an amateur gold miner himself.

Local Olympian, outfitter, and rancher Ray Heid will share his “Stories from the Trail” on Feb. 6. Heid has become famous locally for his storytelling while leading guests on trail rides for Del’s Triangle 3 Ranch.

The March 6 lecture will be “The KKK in Routt County.” “It is almost unbelievable that such an organization could spread beyond the south into Colorado, even more so to the rural areas of the West,” wrote the late Oak Creek historian Peter Yurich.

Local historian Sureva Towler will close the series on April 3 with “Stories from Boys at the Bar,” Towler’s 2006 book about the “vanishing breed of cowboys and hellions.”

The History Happy Hours events are just one example of the museum’s outreach efforts to partner with local organizations and bring unique history programs and events out into the community—to bars, coffees shops, the Chief Theater, Bud Werner Library, churches, community centers, schools, and more. Space is limited. Cheers!

Give Together on Colorado Gives Day!

Colorado’s largest one-day online giving event is coming up and we need your support. On Tuesday, December 5, 2017, thousands of donors will #GiveTogether to support Colorado nonprofits like ours. Colorado Gives Day is an annual statewide movement to celebrate and increase philanthropy in Colorado through online giving.

Donations can be prescheduled!

Beginning November 1, donations can be scheduled ahead of time to make sure the value of your gift is increased by the additional state and local incentive funds available on Colorado Gives Day. Go to the local platform, www.yampavalleygives.org to support the museum any time between November 1 to December 5. Your support helps us continue to preserve and share the rich history and heritage of Routt County.

Additional Tax Credits

As a bonus, the Tread of Pioneers Museum is now a Colorado Enterprise Zone Contribution Project. This means that a member/donor who makes a contribution to the museum of $250 or more, may claim a Colorado income tax credit of up to 25% of the amount of his or her donation. This dollar-for-dollar credit against Colorado state income taxes can be claimed by the donor in addition to any federal or state income tax deductions. When you donate $250 or more, museum staff will send you an easy form to use at tax time to claim your tax credit and deductions. Easy as that! For more information, contact Candice at 970.879.2214 or cbannister@treadofpioneers.org, or talk with your tax advisor.

www.coloradogives.org/YampaValleyGives
Museum Celebrates 2018 Olympics
Steambot Springs’ Olympic tradition is second to none. Boasting more winter Olympic athletes than any other town in North America, our Olympic heritage runs strong and deep. To honor all of our local Olympians who represent Ski Town USA® on the world stage, the Tread of Pioneers Museum creates exhibits and hosts events that celebrate the unmatched Olympic traditions that are the lifeblood of our town. For the upcoming Olympic season, look for these museum events to help you catch the spirit!

Olympian Tribute Exhibit at the Steamboat Ski Area
(Second floor of Thunderhead-upper gondola building)
The Tread of Pioneers Museum and the Steamboat Ski Resort partnered to produce an Olympian tribute display on the second floor of Thunderhead (upper gondola building) at the Steamboat Ski Area. The exhibit tells the story of the competitive spirit and quest for excellence that began with Norwegian ski jumper Carl Howelsen and continues to this day.

Tread of Pioneers Museum’s 38th Annual Yule Log Hunt
Dec. 11-15 and 18-22
This year’s hunt will include local Olympic heritage themed riddles. Solve the riddles, find the log, and claim your $150 prize!

“Meet an Olympian” talks at the Steamboat Ski Area
Select Saturdays during the ski season
(Second floor Thunderhead/upper gondola building at Olympian Tribute Display)
Meet Steamboat Olympians and hear their stories of triumph and hardship on their road to Olympic dreams. Presented by the Steamboat Ski Resort and the Tread of Pioneers Museum.

Tread of Pioneers Museum’s Olympic Heritage Tours
Every Wednesday at 4pm during the month of February
(At Howelsen Hill Lodge, 845 Howelsen Hill Parkway)
This tour explores Steamboat’s Olympic heritage, the multiple talents of Carl Howelsen, and the history of the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club, Winter Carnival, Howelsen Hill, and ski jumping. FREE!

Tread of Pioneers Museum’s Winter Film Series
“I Never Look Back: The Buddy Werner Story”
Feb. 13, 2018 at 6pm
(At the Chief Theater)
Local Alpine ski racer and Olympian Buddy Werner became the first American to break the European’s domination in the sport of skiing. Werner was the first American to win major international skiing awards making him the most accomplished American ski racer in history. Experience Werner’s triumphs, tribulations, and tragic death in this 1997 biographical film by John and Joe Dee.

www.treadofpioneers.org