22nd Annual Festival of Trees

“Yampa Valley Bank is excited to share the Presenting Sponsorship of the Festival of Trees with Steamboat Ace Hardware for the 12th consecutive year. The Tread of Pioneers Museum is vital to the Yampa Valley’s historical preservation and education. The Festival of Trees is a magical kick-off to the Christmas season and we are proud to be a part of this Steamboat tradition.”

- PJ Wharton, President & CEO Yampa Valley Bank

Don’t miss the 22nd Annual Festival of Trees November 12-21 at the museum. Yampa Valley Bank and Steamboat Ace Hardware are once again showing their devotion to the museum and our heritage by generously underwriting all of the costs for this 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 Yampatika, the U.S. Forest Service, Soda Creek Elementary’s second grade and kindergarten classes, the Ladies Recreation Club, and more. This year, we are thrilled to have 21 sponsoring businesses and 21 decorator groups. We would like to thank all of the decorators and local business sponsors who make this event possible.

We hope families will take advantage of holiday family photo opportunities while touring the trees and will attend special events such as Pioneer Christmas Story-time for Kids on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 11:30am and 2:00pm. Museum members are invited to a special VIP night for members with hors d’oeuvres, wine, and live music on Wednesday, November 16 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 17 at 2:00pm and 3:00pm. With the generosity of our sponsors, all Festival of Trees events are FREE to all Routt County residents! Don’t miss the light and magic of the Festival of Trees!

2016 Festival Schedule:

- Nov. 12-21
  Viewing daily: 11:00am-5:00pm
- Monday, Nov. 14
  Sponsor Night: 6:00pm
- Wednesday, Nov. 16
  Museum Members’ Night: 5:30-6:30pm
- Thursday, Nov. 17
  Senior Teas: 2:00pm & 3:00pm
- Saturday, Nov. 19
  Pioneer Christmas Story-time for Kids: 11:30am & 2:00pm

Members’ Night in the Trees – You’re Invited!
Wednesday, Nov. 16
5:30-6:30pm

Don’t miss this very special evening for members during the 22nd Annual Festival of Trees. Come enjoy complimentary refreshments and live music while mingling in the beautiful trees. Don’t miss the fun!
Meet Sara Sweeney!

Hi! I’m Sara, a current intern at the Tread of Pioneers Museum and member of the Colorado Episcopal Service Corps. I graduated from Coe College (Cedar Rapids, IA) this past May with a B.A. in Religion. I call Minnesota home, but have found the mountains of Colorado to be just as welcoming (and I am excited to use my season pass on the slopes very soon!).

Through the CESC I share a home with four other members who each have their own non-profit placements. My own internship at the Tread of Pioneers Museum is an opportunity to see first-hand how a museum/non-profit organization functions, as well as offer my talent and abilities to help preserve the history of Routt County. Thus far, it’s been illuminating. I see how laborious the operations of a museum are for a three-person staff and am amazed at all that the Tread of Pioneers Museum accomplishes in our community.

I work with all three staff members, so each day looks different. I’ve learned how to file precious documents and oral history reports into the Lufkin Library and online databases, worked behind-the-scenes in the collections facility, greeted guests and gained customer service skills at the front desk, assisted with 2nd grade class tours, and have even written a “haunted history” article for the Steamboat Today. The variety of work keeps me on my toes, which is just what I want for this year of service and action.

In the months ahead, I hope to continue learning how a museum operates and what freedoms and challenges a small organization endures as opposed to those of a larger institution. More than anything, I am inspired by the culture of Routt County that nobly preserves its heritage and am happy to be a part of it.

Curator’s Corner: High School Yearbook Digitization Project

By Katie Adams

We have long known that high school yearbooks are valuable community records and cultural resources. They provide dates, historical records, put names to faces, and evoke nostalgia.

Thanks to a new digitization project, for the first time in local history, 72 Steamboat Springs High School yearbooks from the museum and the Steamboat Springs High School’s collections will be accessible to everyone, anywhere. A digital copy will be created to eliminate the handling of these original books, while still allowing researchers full access to the content. In the digital age, these online copies will assist those looking to reminisce on social media, as well as offer access for genealogical researchers.

Oklahoma Correctional Industries digitizes yearbooks as a free service to libraries and museums. The company uses inmate labor to do the digitization work using six overhead cameras to capture images of each page.

Once the digitization service is completed by the end of this year, we will provide digital copies on the museum’s website (treadofpioneers.org) and eventually the Steamboat Springs High School and Bud Werner Memorial Library’s digital library catalog.

Our collection of yearbooks is not complete. If you have a Steamboat Springs High School yearbook you would like donate or loan to us for digitization, please contact me. There’s a chance you have the missing year we are looking for!

Collection Furniture Storage Upgrades

During our 2013 facility expansion, which included our newly constructed collection care facility, we purchased and installed museum-quality, powder-coated steel shelving systems. Now that the collections have been located to their new home, we recently purchased additional collections-specific storage furniture for our large collection of skis, fine art, firearms, quilts and Native American blankets. This furniture provides a safe, clean storage option for the museum for the next 50 years and beyond. With this upgrade, we will also be cleaning, inventorying, and updating all records for these collections. The task is large but the resulting benefits are unlimited. If you are interested in seeing our newest upgrades, we offer free, twice monthly collection facility tours. Check our website for dates and times.
Colorado’s largest one-day online giving event is coming up and we need your support. On Tuesday, December 6, 2016, 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 NOW!**

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 6. Your support helps us continue to preserve and share the rich history and heritage of Routt County.

**Give Together on Colorado Gives Day!**

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 percent 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 topmuseum@springsips.com, or talk with your tax advisor.

**Additional Tax Credits**

On Dec. 6, we will present “Outlaws and Lawmen of Routt County.” Among other stories, hear the chilling tales of outlaws Harry Tracy and David Lant’s capture and escape from the Routt County Jail at Hahns Peak.

On Jan. 3, local historian Paul Bonnifield will share his discoveries in “Crimes and Conflicts in Routt County History.” According to Bonnifield, “There was a different attitude towards crime in the first half of the 20th century versus today. There was also a significant contrast between how crimes were handled in mining camps, versus other areas of the county.”

Other planned topics include local murder mysteries and kidnappings, the White River War and the Meeker Incident, the death of Joseph Hahn (the man for whom Hahns Peak was named), and more.

The event is just one example of the museum’s efforts to partner with local organizations and bring unique history programs and events out to the community—to bars, coffee shops, the Chief Theater, Bud Werner Library, churches, schools, and more. Programs take place at different times and days of the week to accommodate the schedules of locals, visitors, and varying age groups.
Looking Back

Ute historian Roland McCook speaks to a packed audience at Library Hall in May 2016

Author and speaker Bill Jamerson shares Civilian Conservation Corps history and stories in September 2016

Modesto Compestine demonstrates his photography equipment at the museum's Brown Bag Summer Lecture Series

Museum staff member Tamra Monahan demonstrates pioneer activities at Yampatika's Fall Festival

Two young artists at the museum's Lulie Crawford art program at the Botanical Park this summer

Kids camps get hands-on at the museum this past summer