

# Wyoming History News

*Published for the Members of the Wyoming Historical Society*

June 2024

www.wyshs.org

Volume 71, Number 5

## WINNERS ABOUND IN WYOMING

### WYOMING HISTORY DAY & HOMSHER WINNERS ANNOUNCED



Liberty Skalicky of Sheridan Junior High School won first place in the Junior Individual Performance category at the 2024 Wyoming History Day state contest hosted by the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming and will be going on to compete in the national contest.

WYOMING HISTORY DAY / AHC

The University of Wyoming American Heritage Center and Wyoming Historical Society held the 2024 Wyoming State History Day Competition on Monday, April 29, 2024, in Laramie, Wyoming. Over 125 students from across the state of Wyoming came to participate in the 44<sup>th</sup> Wyoming History Day competition. Students participated in year-long research projects based on the National History Day

theme - *Turning Points in History*.

First and second-place winners from Wyoming History Day move on to the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland in June.

#### Senior Group Documentary

1st: *Phoebe Turner and Jack Tobiason*  
Jackson Hole High School

2nd: *Adrian Behringer and Bryce Behringer*  
Kelly Walsh High School

#### Junior Group Documentary

1st: *Reagan Vigil and Lilliann Otto*  
Greybull Middle School

2nd: *Kaden Vouk and Gavin Erickson*  
Pinedale Middle School

#### Junior Group Exhibit

1st: *Will Walsh and Grant Stewart*  
UW Lab School

2nd: *Maisey Davidson, Joyce Valadez, and Alina Peterson*  
Clear Creek Middle School

#### Senior Group Exhibit

1st: *Lillyke Martinek and Lyli Kelly*  
Jackson Hole High School

2nd: *Nora Reid and Kaydence Mosley*  
Worland High School

#### Junior Group Performance

1st: *Lilla Beaulier and Roma Beaulier*  
Laramie Home School

2nd: *Drew McDaniel and Coy Robertson*  
Wheatland Middle School

#### Junior Group Website

1st: *Chaizley Williams and Andrea Fox*  
Wheatland Middle School

2nd: *Remedios Mata and Oz Koci*  
Pinedale Middle School

#### Senior Group Website

1st: *Logan Owings, James Maxim, and Jackson Mayer*  
Jackson Hole High School

2nd: *Brayden Douglas and Hudson Keller*  
Kelly Walsh High School

#### Junior Individual Documentary

1st: *Nursena Bicer*  
UW Lab School

*Continued on Page 2*

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Cindy Brown, President**

clwlbrown@gmail.com

**Cheryl O'Brien, 1<sup>st</sup> VP / NW Rep**

cherobrien@dteworld.com

**Jessica Flock, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP**

thepaddlehouse@gmail.com

**Heidi McCullough**

Treasurer / SE Rep

heidih2202@yahoo.com

**Nancy Tabb**

Secretary / At Large

ntabb@johnsoncountylibraries.org

**Andrea Lewis**

SW Rep

flute42@yahoo.com

**Sandy Holyoak**

NE Rep

holyoak.sw@earthlink.net

**Lucas Keeler**

At Large

lkeeler@blm.gov

**Bud Alley, Out of State Rep**

alleybud@gmail.com

## Executive Director & Editor

Aley Philp, 307.322.3014

All correspondence, membership issues,  
and questions should be addressed,  
preferably via email to:

[executivedirector@wyshs.org](mailto:executivedirector@wyshs.org)

or

Wyoming Historical Society

Aley Philp, Executive Director

PO Box 247

Wheatland, WY 82201

## HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

**Jeremy Johnston**

jeremyj@centerofthewest.org

**Ann Chambers Noble**

anoble1227@aol.com

**Alena Wagner**

alena.wagner@yahoo.com

**Linda Fabian**

lindafabianwy@gmail.com

**Rick Robbins**

rarob@wyomingwisp.com

**Kristi Wallin**

kristi@episcopalwy.org

**Brian Beauvais**

bbeauvais@parkcounty.us

**Lucas Fralick**

lcfralick42@gmail.com



## Senior Individual Documentary

1st: *Jack Pharaoh*

Greybull High School

2nd: *Rylan Duffy*

Kelly Walsh High School

## Junior Individual Exhibit

1st Place

*Emily Mai*

UW Lab School

2nd: *Caeli Martin*

Shoshoni K-12 School

## Senior Individual Exhibit

1st: *Elaina Wronko*

Jackson Hole High School

2nd: *Mia Kautza*

Kelly Walsh High School

## Junior Individual Performance

1st: *Liberty Skalicky*

Sheridan Junior High  
School

2nd: *Rose Whelan*

Cody Middle School

## Junior Individual Website

1st: *Henry Russell*

Wheatland Middle School

## Senior Individual Website

1st: *Metta Curzon*

Jackson Hole High School

2nd: *Morgan DeStefano*

Kelly Walsh High School

## Junior Paper

1st: *Elif Bicer*

UW Lab School

2nd: *Grant Weierman*  
Rocky Mountain Middle  
School

## Senior Paper

1st: *Oscar Andersen*

Jackson Hole Classical  
Academy

2nd: *Georgiana Mueller*  
Jackson Hole High School

## Special Topic Awards

**Clara Jensen Award** is for  
the best overall entry on  
Wyoming History spon-  
sored by the Wyoming  
Historical Society.

*Emma Crowley*

and *Jaylen Kaufman*

Wheatland Middle School

**Family History Award** for  
the best use of family  
history or genealogy,  
sponsored by the National  
Society of the  
Colonial Dames of America  
in Wyoming.

*Liberty Skalicky*

Sheridan Junior High  
School

**Jim Gatchell History of  
Science Award** for an  
outstanding project in the  
history of general,  
medicinal, technological, or  
veterinary science, spon-  
sored by the Jim  
Gatchell Memorial Museum.

*Coy Robertson*

and *Drew McDaniel*

Wheatland Middle School

**Mark A. Greene**  
**Excellence Award** for an entry for an outstanding demonstration in the use of primary sources, sponsored by the American Heritage Center.

*Emma Crowley  
and Jaylen Kaufman*  
Wheatland Middle School

**Dr. Joseph Stepan**  
**Junior Award** for an outstanding entry that authentically tells the story of a marginalized person(s) or community in Wyoming, sponsored by the Stepan family.

*Ava Kendrick  
and Natalie Kim*  
Cody Middle School

**Dr. Joseph Stepan**  
**Senior Award** for an outstanding entry that authentically tells the story of a marginalized person(s) or community in Wyoming, sponsored by the Stepan family.

*Mia Kautza*  
Kelly Walsh High School

**Sissy Goodwin Award** for the most outstanding project celebrating stories of identity and persistence, sponsored by Wyoming Humanities.

*Lilla Beaulier  
and Roma Beaulier*  
Laramie Home School

**Wyoming Historical Society Scholarship** is awarded to a senior in high school planning to attend a college in Wyoming or the University of Wyoming sponsored by the Wyoming Historical Society.

*Evelynn Shivers*  
Pinedale High School

**Dr. Robert Campbell**  
**Teacher Award** for a teacher who promotes marginalized stories and communities through education, sponsored by the Stepan family.

*Greta Class*  
Cody Middle School

**Homsher Research Grants for 2024** were announced by Committee Chair **Cheryl O'Brien** on behalf of the Wyoming Historical Society:

**Patrick Michael Pace**  
*Hellenic Cohesion:  
A Historic Approach to  
Transnationalism,  
Particularism and  
Cosmopolitanism in the  
Greek Immigrant  
Communities of Wyoming*

**Karen Spragg &  
Angeline Hutzenbiler,**  
**Lovell-Kane Area Museum**  
*Lovell-Kane Area School  
Research*

**Brian Beauvais**  
*Thomas Jaggar  
Rephotography Project*

**Ian Strahn**  
*From William F. Cody to  
Winnetour: American  
Frontier Representation in  
the German Cultural  
Imagination*

**Tina Hill**  
*Names Behind Bars:  
An Alpha Roster of Former  
Inmates from the Wyoming  
Frontier Prison*

**Brian Beauvais**  
*Thomas Jaggar  
Rephotography Project*

## PROMOTE. PROTECT. PARTICIPATE.

Are you passionate about history? Do you want to make a meaningful impact? Look no further! Several of our committees are seeking dedicated volunteers to join.

Whether you're interested in preservation, research, or community outreach, we have a place for you.

The following committees are looking for the indicated number of members starting this upcoming fall.

- Executive Board (3)
- Foundation Board (2)
- Bylaws (1)
- Historic Preservation (1)
- Legislative (1)
- Management & Oversight (1)
- Nominating (1)
- Oral History (1)
- Projects (2)
- Publications (1)
- Website (1)
- WyoHistory.org (1)

By volunteering, you will contribute to preserving our heritage, organizing events, and shaping our historical narrative. Join us in celebrating the past and building a vibrant future.

If you are interested in joining a committee, please reach out to Aley at central office; 307.322.3014 or [executivedirector@wyshs.org](mailto:executivedirector@wyshs.org)  
Remember, your commitment can make a difference!

# A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Friends,

It is great to look out my window and see all the flowering trees and bushes. It does not last long, so I am trying to savor the view. I also have a rhubarb bush in my back yard which is going to town. I have never eaten rhubarb. It should be interesting.

The Executive Committee has been doing more work on the Bylaws revision project and is planning to approve proposed revisions for publication in the July newsletter. There was a special meeting held in May. Those attending focused on two main revisions. This includes a proposal to change the Bylaws amendment approval process from Chapter representatives voting at the Annual Meeting to a general membership vote, similar to how the membership votes for the Executive Committee. It would allow any needed bylaw revisions to be voted on at any point during the year. The Society would retain the publishing requirement. Any proposed amendments

must be published in the newsletter not less than thirty (30) days before the voting deadline.

I had suggested the above change because I wanted the Society to offer a monthly membership / subscription of possibly \$7 per month. It would make paying the Society dues more flexible, by allowing members to have a choice between the regularly scheduled monthly payment or continuing to pay once a year. I was dismayed to discover that this small change could not be approved until the Annual Meeting, which at the time was ten (10) months away.

It has not been finalized yet, but there may be a second suggested revision addressing a possible dues increase. Aley was able to figure out a way to increase the dues, provide a senior citizen discount and a digital membership option. Both of those approaches address concerns about any dues increase impacting our valuable older members who may be on a fixed income. More details will be forthcoming. The Executive Committee will

continue the discussion at a June 23rd meeting in Thermopolis, the Sunday at the end of the Trek, with online attendance available. For additional details, please contact Aley.

The Historical Society will be hosting a booth at this year's Civic Season event in Cheyenne on the afternoon of June 16th. Thank you to Kylie McCormick and Mary Cox for helping out. There are a couple other upcoming volunteer opportunities. The Historical Society will have a booth at the Wyoming State Fair in August. We would greatly appreciate any volunteers who would be willing to help man the booth. The American Heritage Center is sponsoring a Historical Society information booth at the Student Union during October. If anyone is available to help, please let Aley know.

Thanks for all of your support, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

*Cindy*

WHS President



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## At Large

Richard Aarstad  
Carol Chapman  
Michael Evans  
Mark Kot  
John McIntosh  
Leslie Noyes  
Kenneth & Ruth Ohm

## Albany

Garry May

## Johnson

Anita Eddington

## Park

Harris Haston  
Bev and Don Kurtz  
Carlene LeBous

# THANK YOU DONORS

## WyoHistory.org

Peter Gove  
Kenneth & Ruth Ohm  
Lucy Tamburelli  
James Vogel

## Above & Beyond

Larry & Susan Barttelbort  
Julainne Couch  
Ronald Hansen  
Dr. Michael Krampner

# LESTER HUNT

## HOW HIS STORY OF TRIUMPH AND TRAGEDY IMPACTS US TODAY

### EDITORIAL

"I get chills when I think about this." **Senator Cale Case**, R, of Lander has been a long-time proponent of giving Lander's only Governor his due. Last year, Case introduced a bill to recognize Hunt as a "consummate model to public servants for his distinguished career, his commendable civility and courage and his service" to the state and nation."

Hunt lost his life to suicide seventy years ago this month to what many believe to be victim of dirty politics of the time.

A popular politician, Hunt won six elections in his lifetime - once the legislature, twice as Secretary of State, twice as Governor of Wyoming, and finally to the US Senate in 1948.

Hunt started his Senatorial career just as McCarthyism was getting its teeth. By 1954, the country was divided with extreme viewpoints on either end and the balance of power up for grabs in the 1954 election. The Senate was evenly split: if Hunt, a moderate Democrat, would resign, then a replacement by Wyoming's Republican Governor would give the Republicans a 49-47 majority.

June 1954 hosted some of the most defining moments of McCarthyism. On June 9th, the infamous "have you no decency sir?" moment of army trials was televised across the United States.

On June 18th, Joseph R. McCarthy announced he had dirt on a US Senator. McCarthy and his camp said it was a Senator who was blackmailing someone; but it was opposite as Senator Hunt was being blackmailed after his son had been



Lester Hunt at his desk in the governor's office, during the time he was Wyoming governor from 1943 - 1949.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WYOMING STATE ARCHIVES

arrested. Facing non-stop pressure from the hostile environment that was Washington in 1954, Hunt took his own life on June 19th.

US Senator Lester Hunt, Wyoming's WWII war-time governor, accomplished and well-liked within his own state, was a man who tried to do his best for his beloved state. Through his story, we can see the pitfalls of polarizing attitudes combined with an unwillingness to, at the bare minimum, hear out the other side.

Decades later, former Wyoming **Senator Alan Simpson** said that what happened to Hunt "passed all boundaries of decency and exposed an evil side of politics."

A service is planned to recognize Hunt in Cheyenne on June 19th. For more information, please check out:

- **Rick Ewig's** 1983 *Annals of Wyoming* article on Lester Hunt. Ewig interviewed Senator Hunt's son, Buddy, for the article.

- *The Meaning of Lester Hunt*, blog article from WyoHistory.org and

- *Baseball, Politics, Triumph and Tragedy: The Career of Lester Hunt* also on WyoHistory.org.

# Heard Along the Historic Trail:

## *Your Place for Local News*



On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, fourth graders from across Wyoming visited Fort Laramie National Historic Site, the Oregon Trail Ruts (above) and Register Cliff near Guernsey. On May 23<sup>rd</sup> they ventured on to the Wyoming Territorial Prison (pictured below inside the prison during a presentation.)



On May 18<sup>th</sup>, Training Soldiers assisted with volunteer clean up at Sunrise Mine in partnership with Sunrise Historic and Preservation Society.

The Goshen County Historical Society, along with a large turnout of WHS members and partners, showed up to celebrate the completion of the Lingle Turn-out signs project! Be sure to check them out 1.5 miles east of Lingle. The signs are for visitors and residents to learn more about Goshen County's history and depict artwork from local artist **Barbara Schaffner**. The event and Barbara in her gallery are pictured below.



Numerous members of the Society attended the Colorado - Wyoming Association of Museums Convention in Worland at the Washakie Museum and Cultural Center. It was great to see the Society so well represented, to catch up, and to get new ideas for the promotion and appreciation of history!

Johanna Wickman presented a genealogy workshop on "The Quest for Preston Plumb" on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Natrona County Library in Casper.

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

## JUNE

### **1 - Independence Rock & Rattlesnake Pass Trek**

Independence Rock is one of the most noted pioneer landmarks in Wyoming.

**8 AM - 5 PM**

***National Historic Trails Interpretive Center,  
1501 N. Poplar Street, Casper, WY 307.261.7700***

### **3 - The Arapaho Covered Wagon Redux**

Attendees will view a documentary by Alan O'Hashi, which retells "The Covered Wagon" an epic 1923 silent film with a new soundtrack recorded by the Northern Arapaho Eagle Society led by Michael Ridgebear and the Boulder Symphony & Music Academy

**7 PM - FREE**

***Lander Pioneer Museum,  
1443 W. Main St., Lander, WY 307.332.3373***

### **8 - Living History: Mountain Men**

On the second Saturday of the month from May to September, we will have a mountain man setup at the Fort from 10am to 1pm. This drop-in program is free with paid Museum admission.

**10 AM - 1 PM**

***Fort Caspar Museum - Casper, WY***

### **11 - 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry Headstone Dedication Ceremony**

Nine headstones will be dedicated honoring the soldiers of the 11th Kansas Volunteer Cavalry who died while stationed at Fort Caspar in 1865. Their remains lost to the prairie, these headstones serve as their only memorial.

**10 AM**

***Fort Caspar Museum - Casper, WY***

### **13 - Wyoming Photographers with Suzi Taylor and Jennifer Romanoski**

Jim Gatchell Museum Educator

Jennifer Romanoski and State Archives Reference Archivist Suzi Taylor will talk about Wyoming photographers. This event will be held in-person in Buffalo (more information to come) with a virtual viewing party also taking place at the Wyoming State Museum Classroom.

**7 PM - 8 PM**

***Johnson County Library, 171 Adams,  
Buffalo, WY***

### **16 - Civic Season**

Share your Wyoming Story and be a part of Civic Season. Record your Oral History with the Wyoming Historical Society and WyoHistory.org

**3 PM - 6 PM**

***Westby Edge Brewing - Cheyenne, WY***

### **19/20 - Honoring Senator Lester Hunt**

Details to be determined.

***Cheyenne, WY***

### **27 through 29 - Eastern Wyoming College Archaeology Symposium:**

#### **Exploring Early Cultures in America**

June 27: 6 PM opening reception and 7 PM Symposium Session 1, Fine Arts Center

June 28: 7 PM Symposium Session 2, Auditorium

June 29: 9 AM to 4 PM Mine activities

The symposium is free, but in order to help us plan, we are requesting you register for the activities. Please send an email to [stacie@bootsproductions.com](mailto:stacie@bootsproductions.com) to register and for more information

***Various Times & Locations***

*Please send events for this calendar list by the 15th of each month prior to [info@wyshs.org](mailto:info@wyshs.org).*





Wyoming Historical Society  
PO Box 247  
Wheatland, WY 82201

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Wheatland, Wyoming  
82201  
Permit No. 71

Address Service Requested

# AVAILABLE NOW! 2025 CALENDAR OF WYOMING HISTORY

## CONTACT US TODAY!

Calendars are available both as individual sales at \$17.50 each or bulk orders of 50 or more at a discounted rate. Contact Aley at [executivedirector@wyshs.org](mailto:executivedirector@wyshs.org) to order!

