

# FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM AND HISTORY CENTER

612 Royal Gorge Blvd. Cañon City, Co. | 719-269-9036

## Contact your board of directors for more information

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Ann Zielinski - Activities

Mark Van Rhyn - Activities

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## Friends Memberships

Become a member to support our history & history to come.

Individual cost is \$10.00

Couples cost is \$15.00

Family cost is \$20.00

Organization cost is \$25.00

Life member cost is \$150.00

Friends of the Museum & History Center, P.O. Box 481, Cañon City, CO 81215-0481

## Annual Meeting

Friends member, museum volunteer and retired history teacher Mark Van Rhyn will present his program “From Bone to Bullets” on **Saturday, February 1st at 1:00 p.m.**

The program is designed as a hands-on interactive presentation to encourage audience participation. It will focus on a display of the evolution of weapons technology in Southern Colorado from about 1600 to 1875, with an emphasis on weapons as tools rather than as implements of mass destruction. We will use examples, discussion, and audience assistance to describe how these tools changed life around the Royal Gorge area. The “hands on” element will allow the audience to physically handle these tools, to give a different interpretation of what they did, how they worked, and their strengths and weaknesses.

The program will focus on three time frames beginning with the First Nations peoples. Examples of “stone age” technology will include the lance and the bow and arrow, with several projectile points (some prehistoric) to show the variety of this essential hunting tool, followed by an examination of knives with different blades, from bone to obsidian. Finally a brief look at ancient trade routes and the impact of the red Pipestone materials.

The second segment will begin with the initial European contact and the impact of new tools on the West. The arrival of what Jared Diamond called “guns, germs, steel” caused rapid massive change for the indigenous people and dramatically affected both the animal population and the biota. Central to this notion was the introduction of metal, especially iron implements such as knives, pots, and pans. Finally the introduction of firearms: first flintlock muskets, then cap and ball weapons, irrevocably stamped a permanent

## History in the Making

**Morning Line** - Remember to tune in to 1400 KRLN the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month to hear news, stories and information from the museum.

**Community Coffee and Conversation** - Watch the museum's calendar to join the conversation about Cañon City's history, its people, buildings and institutions.

**Virtual Genealogy Classes** - Join us for our Zoom genealogy sessions "The Postal Service", on January 11, "The Green Book" on February 8 and "Harvey Houses" on March 8. All Zoom presentations are at 9:00 am. Registration can be completed via the museum's calendar at [canoncity.org/museum](https://www.canoncity.org/museum).

Follow the museum's activities on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com).

If you are interested in viewing photos from the museum's collection, follow us on instagram at [rgmhmc](https://www.instagram.com/rgmhmc).

Check the museum's calendar for the schedule of all activities, registration and waiver forms.

<https://www.canoncity.org/museum>

change throughout the region. A part of this section will briefly discuss the Mountain Men and the trapping era and will introduce the Hawken rifle and single shot pistols, along with an example of a steel trap.

The final portion of the program will focus on the Civil War Era and the "Wild West". This will concentrate on the transition from single shot muzzle loading weapons to breech loaders, then into repeating weapons such as magazine rifles and revolver pistols that are the essence of the Hollywood image of the American West.

## Old Timey Movies

John Wayne was young once! Movie night on Thursday, September 26 introduced us to the 1939 movie *Stagecoach* just as the movie introduced Wayne to the big screen.



The stagecoach was packed with a cast of suspicious characters and suspense rose from the very start.

Would Ringo (Wayne) be delivered to the sheriff, the embezzling banker be unveiled, the cavalry arrive in time to rescue the stage from an attack by the Apache Indians?



On Friday, September 27th we watched Robert Taylor try to protect his trigger-happy younger brother in *Saddle The Wind*. A former gunfighter and soldier, he abandoned his guns after the Civil War. His younger

brother, played by John Casavetes, is taking up the gunfighter life where he has left off. Threatened with losing his own land, he makes every attempt to rein in the young man but alas to no avail.

## Community Coffee & Conversation

The museum sponsored a series of weekly coffees during the month of October focused on recreation in the area. The topics were biking, river sports, hiking and climbing, culminating on October 16 with hunting and fishing. Enthusiasts from the community joined the round table to discuss some historical aspects, memories and current plans for each topic.

Ending out the month, Glenn Norberg led a discussion about “curious encounters”. Having read an article in the local newspaper about a sighting on Main Street in Florence, he became interested in the topic. He has since spent many hours photographing images and recording sounds that cannot be explained as well as



interviewing people about their experiences. He explained the signs to look for, many of which are unexplained except for a possible

sasquatch. He brought two foot castings and passed them around for everyone to examine. Participants shared their beliefs and a few doubts about such encounters and some even recounted personal experiences.

Italian heritage was the topic of November 20th conversation and while several attendees had no Italian connection, the discussion was lively. Why they immigrated, the towns they came from, the landing ports, mining, farming and orchards, family values and religion were all part of the interchange of information. The smell of Vezzetti’s freshly baked bread that



permeated the air around Coaldale was a particularly fond memory among long-time residents. Discrimination also existed; Cañon City passed a law in 1902 outlawing carrying a lunch pail down Main Street. I wonder if that’s still on the books?



## It is Rocket Science!

And boy is it fun! The museum paired with the Cañon City Public Library on Friday, November 22 to host Estes for a lesson on rockets, assembling a rocket and launching a rocket. Everyone met at the Rotary Pavilion in Centennial Park where Bella Power from Estes led five groups of 9-13 year olds through the various types of rockets, the parts composing the rockets, and step-by-step instructions to build their rockets. Each group had the opportunity to form a human rocket to demonstrate how each of the major parts works during a launch. After a short safety briefing, it was time to launch.



## Volunteer Christmas Party

Friday the 13th did not put a damper on the festive atmosphere of the annual party honoring volunteers. The discreetly placed “Elf on the Shelf” presided over the activities. Lisa Studts, on behalf of each of the staff members expressed their thanks for all the hard work done this



past year. Everyone had the opportunity to introduce themselves

and to share the tasks they perform. Each of the volunteers brings unique knowledge and experience that contribute to the work of the museum. Some of the volunteers are new while some have served for

decades. The food was excellent and the conversation good. Jessica Ashton was our emcee for games and Hannah Plummer will long be remembered for her dramatic showcasing of prizes.



## The Museum's Reach

The museum plays a vital role in our community by conserving and protecting artifacts and archival materials, providing educational opportunities to young and old, and sharing the knowledge and resources contained within. Just look at the statistics for 2024. There were 779 research visits or requests. Many were made in person but more requests came via mail, email and phone. Of the 1754 visitors who came to tour the facility, 1173 were from outside our area so our “fame” is far-reaching. The museum offered programs for adults and children both in-house and through outreach programs. 2228 people participated in these programs. The museum also hosted 102 meetings. We in Cañon City are so fortunate to have this wonderful resource. And it's free. If you are a Fremont County resident and have not visited recently, add a visit to your 2025 calendar and be counted in the statistics next year.

## Renewal Time

December means it is once again time to renew your membership. Membership runs from January 1 through December 31 of each year. Envelopes are enclosed for your convenience. Your ongoing monetary gifts ensure the availability of funds to support the museum's needs and programs. Thank you to those who have become lifetime members this past year.

We on the board would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your attendance at museum programs, your continuing financial support, and your volunteer work. **We want to wish everyone a joyous holiday season and all best wishes for 2025.** See you in the new year with more exciting programs.

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 (719)275-3936  
 MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-6  
 SUNDAY 12-5  
 LOCAL. HEIRLOOM. ORGANIC

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 Karin McGowan

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**HOME TOWN**  
 REAL ESTATE OF CAÑON CITY  
**JoAnn Grenard**  
 Managing Broker  
 My 38 years of experience and results  
 have earned me the status of #1 REALTOR  
 in Cañon for the past 6 years!\*

\* Based on information from the Royal Gorge Association of REALTORS®/MLS for the period 1/1/12 through 12/1/17 interpreted by JoAnn Grenard of Home Town Real Estate

**Royal Gorge Lodge**  
 ORDER OF ITALY IN AMERICA  
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