

# JACKSON HOLE

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

### CHRONICLE

VOLUME XXXVII NO. 2

Spring 2017

## Life in the 'Good Old Days'!

*This summer we are adding additional exhibits to our museum galleries. This article highlights one of our newest additions at the Cache Street location: the challenge of doing laundry in an earlier time.*

Whether you were living on a farm or ranch, traveling west on the Oregon Trail, or living on a military post in Indian country, probably the most onerous and time consuming task was washing clothes. Usually one day a week was set aside as "wash day" and often that was Monday. The following day was "ironing day" and each job would quite literally take all day. Make no mistake: it was woman's work, so hopefully there were a few daughters old enough to assist or a neighbor girl to hire. The extent of any boy's help would have been to carry water or supply wood necessary to keep a fire burning under the cast-iron wash kettle.

Today, with all of our modern conveniences, we take for granted the real labor involved in accomplishing even the most basic everyday chores that our ancestors faced 125 years ago. At the turn of the century in this valley, far from access to any early 'modern' amenities, laundry was still a strenuous endeavor. After the wood had been split and a fire burning in the back yard, water hauled from the well or nearby creek, then the iron cauldron was

suspended over the fire and filled with water to begin heating. While the water was warming, the clothes would be gathered and sorted.

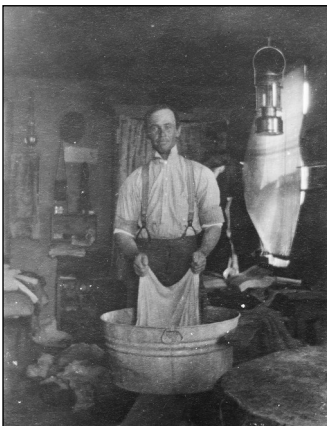
From a big bar of lye soap, previously made from wood ashes and lard or tallow, flakes would be shaved off into the hot water to dissolve. Next, putting the clothes into the water and using a hand-held agitator, the clothes were 'churned' to get them thoroughly wet and soapy. For more stubborn stains, running the garment back and forth over a washboard helped remove the worst of the dirt. Then more agitation until most of the grime was removed.

The clothes would be soaked and agitated again in fresh hot water to remove the soap. After all the laundry had been rinsed enough it would be forced through a ringer a few times to squeeze as much of the water out as possible. Today all of this is done for us automatically in our modern electric washing machines.

From there the laundry went into the clothes basket waiting to be hung out on the line



Verba Lawrence hangs out the laundry in winter wearing snowshoes.



Clarence Blain washes a shirt on his own...

*[Continued on page 4]*



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK:

### Mission Statement

*Preserving and sharing the heritage of Jackson Hole*

### Staff

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*Acting Executive Director*

**Steve Roberts**

*Retail, Marketing, Research*

**Nora DeWitt-Hoeger**

*Research Assistant*

**Marilyn Wartig**

*Visitor Services*

**Alexei Cree**

*Education & Research Intern*

**Samantha Ford**

*Historical Research*

*& Outreach*

**Matt Stirn**

*JH Archaeology Initiative*

**Rebecca Sgouros**

*JH Archaeology Initiative*

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[www.jacksonholehistory.org](http://www.jacksonholehistory.org)

**SHOP your Museum Store  
at our website!**

Masthead sketch by Robert Rudd:  
*Joe Pfeiffer's homestead on Antelope  
Flats Road.*

**All photos from JHHS&M & staff  
unless otherwise noted.**

**Newsletter Editor: Steve Roberts**

### Howdy Friends,

Trees are budding, daffodils blooming, and Jackson had spring-like weather during May. My potatoes are sprouting and vegetable seeds have germinated in the house on a table facing the afternoon sun. Pronouncements of spring are popping out all over in the robin's song, soft grass under foot, first baby animals, and streams rising to rush toward rivers under glorious blue skies put a skip in our walk and excited anticipation in our hearts for the great seasonal awakening. Summer!



All of us who live and work in Jackson recognize harbingers of the Peak Season: buses navigating our streets; photos taken from the middle of Cache and Broadway; crowded boardwalks and restaurants; No Vacancy signs lit; voices of excited children; art and music; festivals; whitewater rafting, hiking, and climbing the Grand. Our town fairly busts at the seams with visitors expecting to experience the "Romance of the West" or "The Great Adventure." They've done their research and know Jackson is the "Place"! Excitement reigns and schedules are tight.

Each year at this time we have a unique opportunity to make someone's trip of a lifetime, so.....

**WE'RE REMEMBERING THE GOOD OLD WAY  
BY CELEBRATING OLD FASHIONED DOLLAR DAY  
SATURDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>  
ADMISSION AT EACH MUSEUM IS JUST \$1.00  
OLDSTERS – YOUNGSTERS ALIKE**

Everyone is invited to visit the Homestead Museum (225 N. Cache) to jump start your memories of "Wash Day" the old fashioned way at the new exhibit in the center of the gallery. Moving on around to the player piano your memory will take in the "Good Old Days of Entertainment" before computers and 50 inch Televisions. We're also excited to share artifacts from the Game Creek archaeological dig site on temp loan from UW in room #2 of the *Indians of the Greater Yellowstone* Museum (corner of Deloney & Glenwood).

**HISTORY – PAST – PRESENT – FUTURE**

*Brenda Roberts*

Acting Director

## Don't miss our new summer exhibits!





# RESEARCHING THE PAST

NORA DEWITT-HOEGER

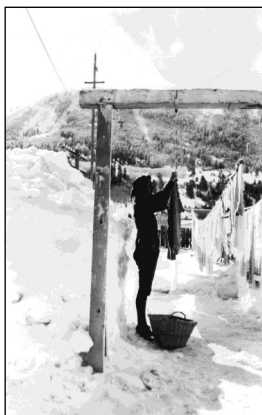
The Research department has been pretty busy these last few months. We have been involved in a variety of projects such as archiving donations, responding to research requests and helping out with our new Gallery exhibits. As an ongoing job we assess the value of our donations received and then archive them into our collection where they can then be accessible to researchers. We have had several History Day students stop by who were researching the controversial creation of Grand Teton National Park, which we are happy to help them with.



The radio brought the world to our doorstep.

Also over the last few months we have been assisting a woman from Los Angeles with her essay on the all-women town council and the women's lives following their stint in politics. She is very thorough in her research and has helped us as much, if not more, than we have helped her. Did you know that each women was practically running against her male counterpart? Such as Rose Crabtree running against her husband and Mae Deloney, who helped operate the Deloney store, ran against her business competitor William Mercill.

Furthermore the museum staff as a whole has been working on assembling new exhibits for the Cache Street gallery. We wanted something specific and tangible enough that both tourists and locals could relate to—something akin to daily life tasks and how they differ from today. Such as how did people entertain themselves before modern technology and when the weather did not permit them to play outside? Also, can you imagine doing laundry outside in the winter with snowshoes when the snow was 20 plus feet deep? We have some great artifacts that depict these avenues of daily life that we all overlook—entertainment is engrained in all aspects of life today and modern advancements make laundry hardly an effort anymore.



Betty Woolsey hangs out the wash on a bright winter's day!

Steve and I have gone back and forth numerous times from the Wiley building and Mercill cabin that houses most of our collection to acquire the right artifacts for display. After the selection process a decent amount of dusting, polishing and cleaning ensued. We are slowly getting everything ready and we hope that you will stop by once the museums open back up and enjoy what we all have put

together. We hope to take you back to a time that was hard and demanding, but nevertheless entertaining.



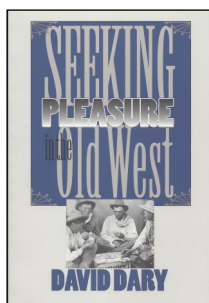
Is it whist or gin rummy?



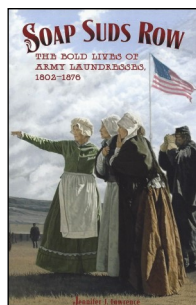
The challenge of a good game of chess!

## Want to discover more about life in the Old West?

Check out these titles in our Museum Bookstore:

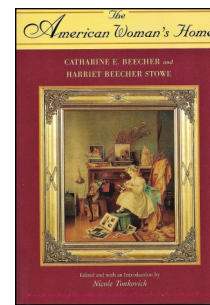


Seeking Pleasure in the Old West, David Dary.



Soap Suds Row: Bold Lives of Army Laundresses, 1802-1876, Jennifer Lawrence.

The American Woman's Home, Catharine Beecher & Harriet Beecher Stowe.





to dry. Assuming you were blessed with good weather they dried in a few hours and were ready to fold, starch, or iron the next day. Rinse water would be spread on the garden, while soapy wash water was used to scrub the porch.



Mr. Lucas takes a turn working the agitator on what appears to be a Maytag Model 45 washing machine on the Lee Lucas homestead. Earlier in the 20th Century there were over 700 washing machine manufacturers in the U.S. alone.

If the weather was bad a clothesline would be strung up in the kitchen so the clothes could dry by the heat from the wood stove. On a sunny day even in winter clothes could be hung on the line, as the sunlight would evaporate the moisture in the dry climate. There are still a few of us left who recall the feel and fresh smell of line-dried sheets and towels.

Later, as more folks ordered from Montgomery Ward or Sears & Roebuck catalogs, washing machines and other early 'improved' appliances began to arrive in the valley, even though they might seem antiquated to us today. Also Jackson Hardware and other mercantile stores began to carry more goods to meet the housewives' needs, so that a late fall trip to Jackson often resulted in a good-sized

wagonload returning to the ranch with supplies for the winter and hopefully some new equipment to make the chores of housekeeping a little easier.

FOR COMPLETE INDEX REFER TO PINK PAGES IN MIDDLE OF BOOK. 583

# 6 38 OUR SUPERBA BALL BEARING WASHING MACHINE

## THE EASY RUNNING WONDER

**IF YOU WANT THE EASIEST RUNNING WASHING MACHINE ON THE MARKET;** if you want the best machine to be found anywhere; if you want a machine that will do more work and do it quicker and with less labor on your part than any other swing washing machine made, you have all your desires fulfilled in our SUPERBA BALL BEARING WASHING MACHINE, fully illustrated and described on this and on the opposite page.

**A THOROUGH CLEANSING WASHER**  
A GREAT CLOTHES AND LABOR SAVER.  
EVEN A CHILD CAN RUN IT.  
GUARANTEED FOR FIVE YEARS AGAINST DEFECTS.  
YOU HAVE SIX MONTHS' FREE TRIAL

To test its qualities, and if it does not do exactly as we claim, you may return it and we will refund both the price and any transportation charges you paid. SEND US YOUR ORDER TODAY.

See illustrations and description on opposite page.

**OUR SIX MONTHS' TRIAL.** our liberal guarantee surely ought to convince you of our high opinion of this splendid washing machine, and under these liberal conditions surely you can well afford to wash yourself in our Superba. Remember you do not take the slightest risk, you cannot lose a penny by the transaction if you order the Superba, because if, for any reason, you prefer the machine to us and get your money back if you are dissatisfied after six months' trial, and every defect in material or workmanship developing within five years is corrected free of charge. Just think what it would mean to you if you have a hard running, slow operating, unsatisfactory washing machine, and then by order to own a high grade machine, a Superba Ball Bearing Washer which will easily wash a load of dirty clothing in from five to thirty minutes if the directions are followed. The Superba makes washday so easy that you will find that you get the advantage of our free trial offer and still have the satisfaction of spending an entire day in back-breaking labor over the washday, you will find that our Superba Washer will do the same washing in a couple of hours and do it much easier than you would ever be expected to do without it.

**OUR GUARANTEE ON THE SUPERBA**  
IN ADDITION TO GIVING YOU SIX MONTHS' FREE TRIAL, we guarantee to do the washing machine to see whether or not you will keep it longer than six months. If you do not like it, we will refund you the money and give you a new one free of charge. If you do like it, we will refund you the money and give you a new one free of charge. If you do like it, we will refund you the money and give you a new one free of charge.

**OUR PRICE REDUCED, BETTER THAN EVER BECAUSE OF IMPROVEMENTS.**

Mother goes right on with her regular work while her little helper finds it so easy to swing the Superba to and fro that she is glad to do it. The washing is all done quickly and easily, and washday is no harder day for the family than any other day of the week.

**DON'T PAY FROM \$12.00 TO \$16.00 FOR A WASHING MACHINE** if you want a machine that will do more work and do it quicker and with less labor on your part than any other swing washing machine made, you have all your desires fulfilled in our SUPERBA BALL BEARING WASHING MACHINE, fully illustrated and described on this and on the opposite page.

**68 SUPERBA BALL BEARING WASHING MACHINE**  
Our Superba Ball Bearing Washer, our Easy Running Wonder combined with basket or tub stand and wringer board is the latest and best. It saves a separate wash bench. Saves taking off and replacing the wringer. It is complete in itself and yet takes up no more room than an ordinary washing machine.

**REDUCE YOUR WASHDAY TO HALF** or three-quarters of an hour once a week by using the Superba Ball Bearing Washer, with the same powerful motor springs that do the work for you. The same anti-dustion ball bearings which make running the washer a pleasure, is so easy to operate that even a child can run it. The Superba Washer is the most popular washing machine on the market. In addition to this, our Superba Combination Washer, equipped with a large backwood wringer tub, and a strong and solid support for the wringer. It furnishes a convenient stand for the clothes basket or in construction, thoroughly tested and thoroughly satisfactory. The cloth is made of a very substantial material. In Southern Michigan.

Shipping weight, 75 pounds. Price ..... \$6.38

Shipping weight, 165 pounds. Price ..... \$7.68



Many tons of supplies and equipment were hauled over Teton Pass throughout the years for homes and businesses in Jackson Hole. This is a flour mill on its way the Kneedy store in Kelly.



Of course, washtubs had a wide variety of uses...

A Sears and Roebuck catalog page from the 1908 edition.



# TETON CLIMATE RECONSTRUCTION: FROM FIELD TO LAB

MATT STIRN AND REBECCA SGOUROS

In 2015, JHSM archaeologists Rebecca Sgouros and Matt Stirn began a study to reconstruct the environment of Jackson Hole from the end of the ice age to present. With the help of Dr. Peter Wigand, a paleoenvironmental specialist from the University of Nevada, the team extracted 30 feet of sediment from a high elevation lake in the northern Teton Mountains. The goal was to extract clues, such as pollen and diatoms (single celled organisms), that could shed light on the climate, temperature, and precipitation patterns of the Tetons over the past 12,000 years.

Since 2014, when Stirn and Sgouros first began looking for evidence of prehistoric life in the Tetons, their Teton Archaeological Project has recorded over 40 ancient sites. One of their biggest questions remains; why did people choose to live so high up in the alpine zone? The artifacts they discovered offered some clues, but a better understanding of past climate patterns would help paint a more complete picture. Were the mountains always as we know them today? Or were they more temperate, or perhaps even harsher?

When the team extracted the lake core and first submitted it for radiocarbon dating, they were shocked to discover that it represented over 18,000 years of detailed climate information. It would not only be useful in helping them understand the archaeology of the mountains, but would also provide clues about the end of the ice age, and how the local climate has changed since the large valley glaciers began to melt away.

In the early spring of 2017, Dr. Wigand and three of his PhD students at University of Nevada-Reno began the long and arduous process of extracting pollen grains from the mud. The process involves a flotation system which separates the pollen and other organic material from small rocks and debris and then an acid bath to dissolve the sediment around it and extract the pollen. Then, the real work begins with counting individual, and microscopic pollen grains- a task that takes hours under the microscope.

Every plant species has uniquely shaped pollen, so it is possible to identify plant communities by counting these grains. There currently exists no automated way to do this, so Wigand and his students will be counting over 500 grains per slide, for over 200 samples. The information will be compiled and statistically

analyzed to tell us about the climate. Different plant species react in their own way to changing weather, be it drought, floods, increasing temperatures, or extreme cold. By looking at these trends over time, we can learn about when trees first arrived in the area, how seasonal temperatures have changed over time, and what has an average snowpack looked like over the last 18,000 years. Once this data is assembled, it will offer invaluable information towards understanding what it was actually like to live in Jackson and the Tetons during different periods in prehistory.

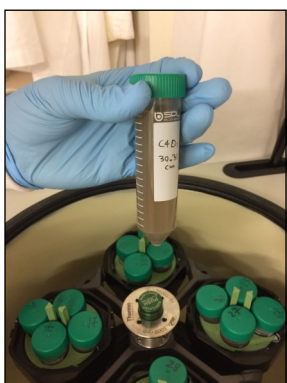
4) Final pollen slides are prepared and ready for counting.

At long last, the pollen counting is underway and some preliminary discoveries are being made. Wigand

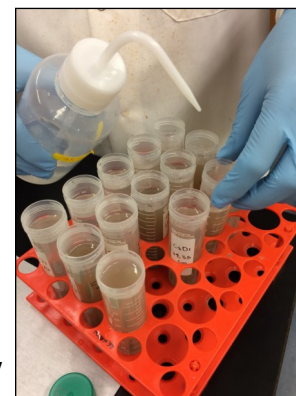
suspects that he has identified the first arrival of a high elevation (10,000 ft) forest shortly after the ice age. And, he has begun to model temperature and precipitation trends for the past 12,000 years. As more data is collected and exciting discoveries are made with this study, we will be thrilled to share it with the community. Stay tuned and please don't hesitate to contact the research department at the JHSM with any questions, or on how you can contribute to the study.



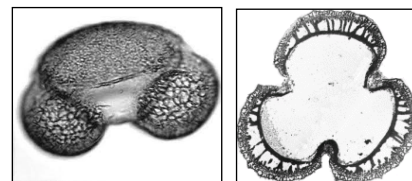
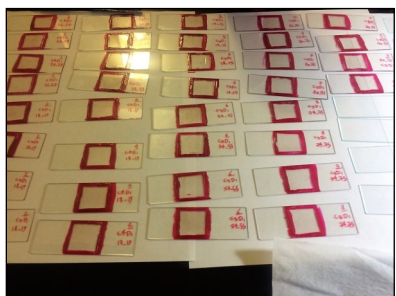
1) Samples from Green Lake are extracted from the main sediment core. There will be 1,200 samples collected for various studies from this single core.



2) Samples are placed in a centrifuge to separate pollen grains from the dirt particles.



3) Processing pollen samples in the lab.



Magnified pollen grains.  
Left: Pinus (pine tree);  
right: Artemisia (sagebrush).

# JOIN THE MUSEUM FAMILY – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## MOVING DAY-

You may have read in the newspaper that JHSM has recently renewed our Mercill property lease with the county for another two years plus a year. JHSM owns the buildings on the corner of Mercill and Glenwood, and the county owns the land - which is on a list of approved properties for affordable housing. The staff has been working diligently for two years to be ready for MOVING DAY. Now we need YOUR help. There is still much to do – learn on the job with a trained staff member. Please contact Brenda Roberts to sign up or for more info: 307-733-2414.

## **We need HELP in the following areas:**

**INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS UP TO 15**

**You choose the project, day and time – we work around your schedule**

### **SUMMER: (see above)**

#### **3-D & Furniture Inventory**

Photograph items  
Create list of items  
Write descriptions  
Wrap and pack

#### **Living History: July - September**

**Share your skills in Museum displays**

Script/Costume/Training provided



#### **Walking tour Guides: June 1 – Sept. 30**

Lead one-hour walks around the Town Square sharing the story of Jackson Hole. We offer complete training so that you feel comfortable and confident doing this fun and rewarding volunteer program.

#### **Visitor Services staff:**

We are still looking for that special someone to work in our museums during the summer from June through September welcoming guests, taking admission, ringing up store sales, and answering questions. This is a paid position, 7 hours a day, 2-3 days a week. Contact Steve at the museum if you might be interested (307-733-2414).

## THANKS:

**ROTARY SUPPER CLUB – 20 ARTIFACT BOXES PACKED IN 1 ½ HOUR!!**

**DAVID AND READE DORNAN – COMPLETED LIBRARY INVENTORY;**

**STARTED EDUCATION COLLECTION INVENTORY**

**MARISA BARBUI – ORGANIZED EDUCATION FILES; WORKSHOP PREP**

## **Join Us Today - Become a Part of History!**

\$35 - Individual; \$60 - Regular Family [includes children under 18 living at home]  
\$25 - Individual Senior [60+ years] / \$50 - Senior Family [includes member & spouse]  
\$100 - Friend [also Basic Business level]

\$250 - Contributing; \$500 - Sustaining; \$1000 - Benefactor

These are annual membership fees; you can join for one or two years.

### **Membership includes:**

Quarterly Museum Newsletters; early notices of programs and events

Free admission to our Museums and programs; and a free book

15% OFF regular-priced Museum Store books and merchandise

Call, go on-line, or stop by today to find out more - 307-733-2414

# Game Creek Site Archaeology Exhibit Coming to Deloney!

Join us this summer at our *Indians of the Greater Yellowstone* Museum to check out our newest temporary exhibit. In partnership with the University of Wyoming and the Office of the Wyoming State



Marine shell bead (Photo courtesy OWSA)

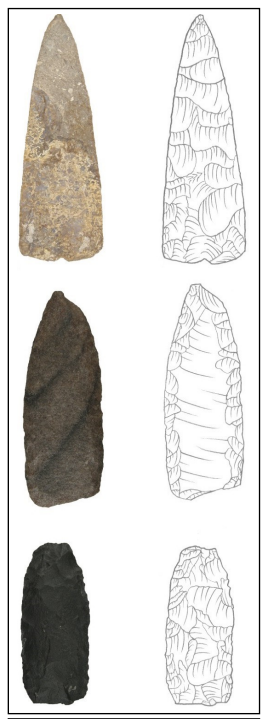
Archaeologist, this exhibit will highlight a recent and important local archaeological site - Game Creek. Most locals remember the large white tent perched above Highway 89 from 2010-2013, but few actually know what was discovered there. Thanks to the expansion of the highway, archaeologists were able to excavate an ancient campsite, the Game Creek Site, which has since shed light on some of the valley's earliest occupation.

The Game Creek site was one of the largest excavations to take place here in the valley. The site was an ancient campground that was occupied on and off for the last 10,350 years. Nineteen different cultural components were found showing that the site was heavily used from the Late Paleoindian period until about 550 years ago. In total, the excavation revealed over 170,000 artifacts including stone tools like projectile points, knives, and grinding stones as well as a few bone artifacts.

Analysis of the artifacts and radiocarbon dating of charcoal from fire hearths show that the site may not have been continuously occupied and that there may have been several periods of abandonment at Game Creek. However it is also possible that these gaps are due to poor preservation (for example flooding from the nearby Snake River may have washed away parts of the site).

Come and check out some of the most important artifacts from the site and learn how archaeologists in the field and back in the lab reconstruct the past!

The exhibit will be up throughout the summer at our *Indians of the Greater Yellowstone* Museum on Deloney.



Knives found at Game Creek site. (Photo courtesy OWSA)



Worked bone tool. (Courtesy OWSA)

—Rebecca Sgouros, JHAI

## Where in the world? -- 2016

Ever wonder who our visitors are and where they come from? Well, glancing through our sign-in register at the Cache Street location for the past year gives us an interesting snapshot of our guests. Folks from all 50 states have toured our museum, with the top 10 being:



- California (11%)
- Texas (6%)
- Florida (5.5%)
- Utah (5%)
- Wyoming (4.9%)
- Idaho (4%)
- Pennsylvania (3.7%)
- New York (3.3%)
- Colorado (3.2%)
- Washington (3.1%)



Following close behind are Minnesota, Virginia, and Ohio.

Forty-nine other countries came through our doors in 2016, with 57% of those nations coming from Western Europe, followed by Australia/New Zealand (14%), Canada (7%), Central/South America (6%), and Asia (5.6%).

We truly do cater to a world-wide audience when it comes to sharing the history of Jackson Hole!





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Jackson, WY 83001-1005

Non-profit organization

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Permit 82

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

**May 20 - ElkFest**

8am - 12N

JHSM Information Booth on the Town Square

**May 27 - Old West Days**

8am - 12N

JHSM Information Booth on the Town Square

**May 27 - Museum Dollar Days!**

10am - 5pm

Our Museums re-open for summer

**New Seasonal Exhibits** in both the  
Homesteading Museum, 225 N. Cache Street  
&

Indians of the Greater Yellowstone  
Corner of Deloney & Glenwood

**May 30 - Walking Tours Begin**

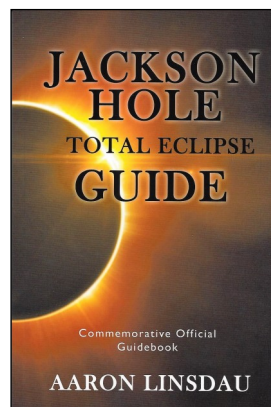
Tuesdays-Wednesdays-Thursdays

10:30am - meet in the center of the Square

**August 21, 2017 - Total Solar Eclipse**

## The Solar Eclipse of 2017

is coming...a once-in-your-lifetime event!  
Your Museum Store has a few commemorative  
mementos for you to consider:



The Who, What,  
Where, When,  
and Why Ultimate  
Guide to the Total  
Solar Eclipse in  
Jackson Hole!



Commemorative  
Western-style  
Stainless steel  
Eclipse Belt  
Buckle

