

# The WFP Underground

A Quarterly Publication by the Wyoming Frontier Prison

## Quarterly Con-versation: In the Midst of Summer

The summer has been flying by, and we've been keeping ourselves busy; we're giving 9 tours a day, 7 days a week, hosting Haunted Night Tours, preparing for Friday the 13th Tours, and are continuing to make progress on several other projects here in Prison. The grounds are looking fantastic, and we're really enjoying the summer so far; it's hard to believe we're 2/3rds of the way through our full tour season!

Our historic daytime tours have been filling up daily, our Haunted Night Tours have also been popular this summer, and we'll be taking things above and beyond with special tours on Friday the 13th, this month. Unlike our Haunted Halloween tours when we offer a total of 33 tours over the course of 3 nights, this event will be more exclusive, with only 3 tours being offered, one night only. A reservation will be required so keep your eyes peeled for more information as the event approaches.

We've been advancing our technological abilities lately too, with Sarah diving into the 580 page manual for the new PastPerfect software, we'll soon begin cataloging our museum artifacts. The software was purchased with grant funds we were awarded earlier this year from the Colorado Wyoming Association of Museums, and will allow us to catalogue over 2,000 artifacts that have not been previously documented. We also recently purchased Quickbooks software to streamline our finances. Kathie and the new Gift Shop Manager, Lindsay, attended a Quickbooks class hosted by Carbon County Higher Education, and have very successfully utilized the software since.

Brian has also been keeping busy with seasonal maintenance tasks, and with the hired help of Dan Mika and his staff, the lawn is well-groomed. We're also very pleased that Rawlins residents have noticed the grounds; we've been hearing a lot of nice comments and were even the topic of a very supportive Letter to the Editor in the Rawlins Daily Times. We always appreciate a nice pat on the back, and gladly extend our thanks for all the nice comments.

We've definitely been hard at work lately, but we've managed to have some occasional fun too. On July 14th, a group of us went to the "new" pen and took a tour; it was very informative, and we had a wonderful time. We've been having fun with Haunted Night Tours, and Friday the 13th preparations have been a lot like one big craft project thus far. We'll be finishing strong this summer, and things will be winding down soon as our summer seasonal staff redirects their attention to school later this month.

## Totally Random Prison Fact

The original State Penitentiary was equipped with 373 cells, but overcrowding was an almost constant concern.

At the peak of overcrowding, the prison housed approximately 530 inmates.

## Old Pen Joint Powers Board

Glenna Kaupillia-Chairman  
Mary Pat Whitfield-Secretary  
Dennis Carpenter-Treasurer  
Leigh Nation  
David Michie III  
Bob Pixler  
Gary Hansen

Friends of the Old Pen  
President-Position Vacant  
Vice President-Geoff Hiatt  
Treasurer-Kathy Hiatt  
Secretary-Tina Hill

The Friends of the Old Pen meet at Hoot&Howl, the first Wednesday of every month, at noon.

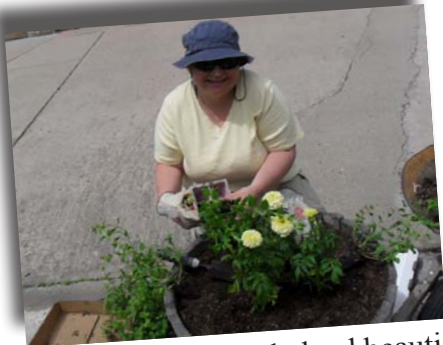
For membership information, please contact the Old Pen at (307)324-4422 or [wfp@tribcsp.com](mailto:wfp@tribcsp.com) or visit [wyomingfrontierprison.org](http://wyomingfrontierprison.org).



2010 Wyoming Frontier Prison Staff



Lindsay and Kathie working with Quickbooks



Brian's wife Shelly helped beautify the grounds this summer by planting flowers

*For more pictures,  
check out the Wyoming  
Frontier Prison  
Facebook page!*

## Friends of the Old Pen: Gift Shop

Lindsay Soulliere- Old Pen Gift Shop Manager

Hello my name is Lindsay and I am the new Gift Shop Manager. I just moved here from Michigan, and so far I love it here. It's been a busy summer at the Old Pen Gift Shop; we've been going through a lot of inventory. I've introduced a few new items that give our customers the option of a little color in a shop that has been previously dominated by a black and white merchandise. We're currently featuring new t-shirts and pull-over sweatshirts, available in 3 bright colors with contrasting text, boasting having "done time" at the Wyoming Frontier Prison in Rawlins. Our books have also been selling well, with the most popular title being *The Sweet Smell of Sagebrush*, which is the unabridged published diary of a former inmate. In addition to managing the Gift Shop, I've had to fill in occasionally as a Tour Guide.

The few times I've been able to give tours, I have met some really nice people. I was nervous to give my first tour; I was hoping it would be a small group, but it ended up being almost 40 people! I was more comfortable than I anticipated, and the only issue I had was the tendency to speak quickly, which can make me hard to understand at times.

Hands down this is one of my most favorite jobs ever! I love to talk and I get to do a lot of it!

WYOMING FRONTIER PRISON



## Reports from the Warden: Daily Activities

Tina Hill-WFP Historic Site Director

For the Wyoming Frontier Prison and me, this is the most wonderful time of the year! We are open seven days a week and we offer nine tours each day, so we have had thousands of visitors walk through our massive front gate this summer. We've had visitors from Bakersfield, CA; Canada; Corpus Christi, TX; Cumming, GA; Denver, CO; England; Eugene, OR; Fairmont, NE; France; Germany; Littleton, CO; Milwaukee, WI; Montrose, MN; Mt Burg, AR; Norway; Ottumwa, IA; Placitas, NM; Plattsburgh, NY; Princeton, LA; Provo, UT; Seattle, WA; St. Augustine, FL; Strawberry, AZ; Washington DC; Windsor, IL; and Yankton, SD just to name a few!

I love to hang around with my Tour Guides: Cassie, Desi, Dylan, Jamie, Justin, Kaitlyn, and Tanner. Their spirit, enthusiasm, good humor, and love for the Old Pen brighten my days and they keep me "young at heart". (Yes, I also love to spend time with my full time staff: Brian, Kathie, Lindsay, and Sarah!)

It is great to bask in the Wyoming sun and then run into the wonderfully cool prison when the heat gets to be too much.

It is fun to hear travel stories from our visitors and anecdotes from my Guides. As I am writing this, Cassie came in to tell me about her great 3:30 tour. The people on her tour told her they have taken many tours of our prison, but each time they come they learn something new. They told her that they would come back again next year. Just seconds ago, Tanner came in after the 4:30 tour telling me how he had a really cute little girl on his tour. He said she was nervous to be in the big old prison, but after she adjusted to each new room she was excited to continue on to see the next room.

I am really proud of the fact that we are pet friendly. Leashed, caged, and "pursed" pets are allowed to join their humans for the tour. Since Memorial Day weekend we've had 63 dogs, 2 ferrets, 3 birds, and 1 bunny take our tour. Some of these visitors have made it onto our face book page, so find time to check that out.

I appreciate the fact that still so many people are interested in discovering if the Old Pen is inhabited by ghosts. We have four different ghost investigative groups that are scheduled to come through later this summer and we answer "ghostie" questions several times a day.

I love the activity, the passion, the exercise, the mental challenge, the humor, the oddities, the flexibility, and the fun that make up my summer days as the "Warden" of the Wyoming Frontier Prison. If you have any questions or suggestions, drop us a line and please, come do some time with us.

Sincerely yours,  
Tina Hill  
Site Director

## Maintenance Report

Brian Hegg-WFP Handyman



I've been concentrating on outside repairs and projects lately with only the occasional thunderstorm or rain shower obstructing progress. One major project currently dominating most of my time is the drip water system for the seedling trees. We plan on completing it in the coming weeks. The system will provide water to approximately 99 seedling trees we planted a few months ago, as well as 65 larger trees that will be planted in the fall.

Hope you all have a good summer! Brian

# View from the Fish Tank: Tour Guide Tales

Tanner Kramer - WFP Tour Guide



For the past three years, I have been a tour guide at the Wyoming Frontier Prison. As a tour guide, we have all had experiences that will stick with us for a lifetime. In my time spent in prison I have met people from all around the world, but so far, my most interesting experience was when I had a former inmate of the prison on one of my tours.

When a group of motorcycle riders came into the prison; they appeared to be an average family, and when I asked if they would like a tour, I had no idea how truly different this tour would be. The man in charge told me his name was Michael, and he was a former inmate. I glanced at the tour schedule and found that I was giving the tour that he would be taking. As usual, the tour began in the museum with a demonstration of the Julien Gallows, but when we stepped into the prison, things changed. The following hour was the highlight of my time here.

Michael had a story about every room and location. There were several points throughout the tour that I was nervous because I didn't want to botch any facts. The man has had first-hand experience; I myself had only been a tour guide three months. The tales he told ranged from having his mug shot taken, to the time he stabbed the barber his first hour in prison, at the age of eighteen. The barber was shaving his head, and when some threatening words were exchanged, Michael grabbed some scissors and stabbed the other inmate. He told stories of escaping his maximum security cell with the aid of a broom handle, as well as fighting with guards over belongings and contraband. Michael admitted to being quite a trouble maker. Over his years of being in prison, he said he was sent to the hole more times than he can count. He also said the addition of hot water in A Block [in 1978] was the best thing ever, next to Duane Shillinger being warden. He said Duane made the prison less of a hell.

When I rolled out of bed for work that morning, I had no idea that I would have such a rare experience. We do occasionally have former inmates pass through, which provides us with valuable insight into what life was really like in the original Wyoming State Penitentiary. These unusual visits are becoming fewer and far between as the years go on, so I feel privileged to have had this experience during my time here, at the Wyoming Frontier Prison.



**Friday the 13th**

**One Night...Three Tours**

**\$13 Per Person**

No one under the age of **13** admitted

Space is limited

Reservations **REQUIRED**

Call 324-4422

Reservations must be made  
Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

We'd like to thank...

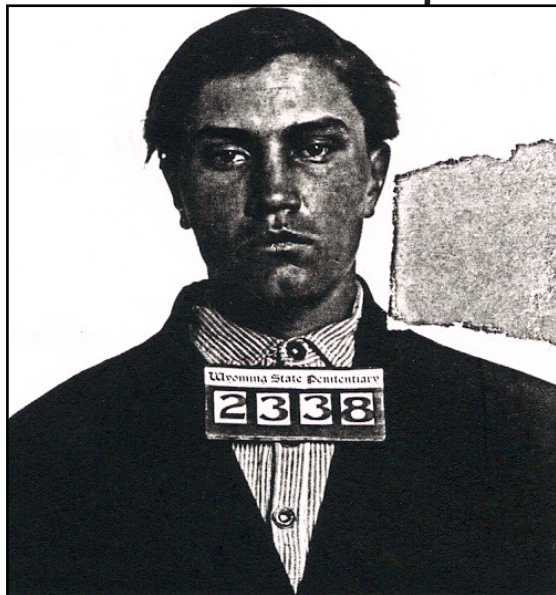
The Wyoming State Penitentiary for the lovely tour in July.

Leigh Nation and Kathy Hiatt for the window display at the Chamber of Commerce in June.

Shelly Hegg for planting flowers and making our grounds even more enjoyable!

Patty Schuler for her donation of handcuffs and striped costumes.

# Inmate Snapshot



Name: James Dobey

Age: 19

Number: 2338

Date of sentence: March 29, 1916

Length of sentence: 12-15 months

Crime: Grand Larceny

Details: Arrested in Wamsutter. Escaped from a road camp August 24, 1916, and remained at large 24 days, until being captured September 17, 1916. After returning to prison he was not permitted to earn any "good time" to reduce his sentence. Full sentence was served and he was released July 20, 1917.

# Wish List

As a non-profit organization, we're always finding ourselves in need of different things, and even the smallest donation is an immense help to us! These are some of the things that we're lookin' for these days...

A new external hard drive  
legal pads  
paper clips  
scotch tape  
post-it notes  
Kleenex  
Duct tape  
Heavy duty, outdoor extension cords  
Acid free photo albums  
photo paper (gloss or semi-gloss)

## Other Stuff...

If you have been wanting to tour the Wyoming Frontier Prison this summer and haven't had a chance, **DON'T DELAY!**

**Our full tour season ends September 3rd!**

Enjoy the behind the scenes updates you get from **WFP Underground**? Become a fan of the Wyoming Frontier Prison on Facebook for daily updates!

## Questions, comments or concerns?

Contact us

WFP

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Rawlins, Wy 82301

(307)324-4422

wfp@tribesp.com

[wyomingfrontierprison.org](http://wyomingfrontierprison.org)

