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Editor's Note:

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The Fremont County Pioneer Museum Grand Opening Saturday, May 16, 2009.

Lander, WY - The Fremont County Pioneer Museum staff and board are pleased to announce the May 16, 2009 grand opening of the much anticipated Fremont County Pioneer Museum. The opening ceremonies beginning at 10 a.m. Saturday May 16, 2009, include a ribbon cutting, building dedication and exhibit openings. The celebration is a culmination of the many hours of hard work provided by the staff and volunteers.

Lander's long tradition for preserving the past began in 1915 when pioneers who settled the Lander valley, in an effort to preserve their story for future generations, established the Pioneer Association. This group of dedicated volunteers was able, through paid memberships and donations, to raise the funds for the first museum in the state of Wyoming. In 1964, the museum building and all artifacts became the property of Fremont County.

The Pioneer Association's small one room cabin grew into a building that housed collections from many of the families in this area. However, by 1998, the additions to the original cabin were too costly to maintain and plans for a new building were started. Again volunteers donated hours and money to find a new Main Street location for the Fremont County Pioneer Museum. By 2006, ground was broken and construction began on the new building. The new state-of-the-art building houses the well loved collections in a much deserved and protected environment and will provide for new and growing collections in the years to come.

The Fremont County Pioneer Museum is located at 1443 Main Street. The May 16th Grand Opening will kick off the museum's regular summer hours Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m-5 p.m. A research room is available by appointment for those interested in delving into the available materials on local history. Research Room appointments may be made Tuesday through Friday 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.. All inquiries about the museum and its facilities may be addressed by telephoning 307.332.3373 or visiting <http://www.fcpm.org>

For a complete list of events in Wyoming's Wind River Country, go to <http://www.wind-river.org> or call 800-645-6233 for a free vacation packet.

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