

FEBRUARY 2023

# THE COURIER



E BENTON  
A COUNTY  
S HISTORY  
T MUSEUM  
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## *Alphabet Houses Turn 80*

Plus

- Lewis & Clark and the wake of expansion
- Coyote Canyon Coloring Contest!
- Exhibits and Lecture Calendar for 2023

# Welcome to 2023!

## Grant opportunities

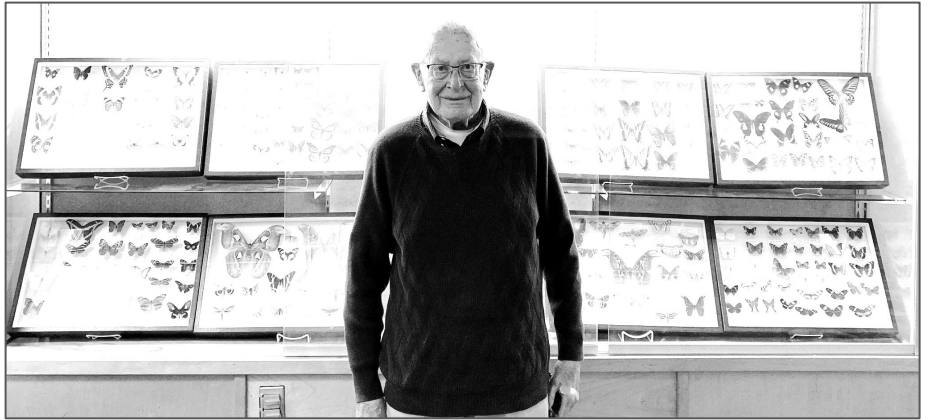
*We look forward to the 2023 Grant season. If you are aware of a grant opportunity that we may be able to capitalize on please let us know! We rely on grants and donations to help us in expanding and upgrading our exhibits, marketing, and so much more.*

## Donations of items

*Weekly the museum is fortunate to receive donations of items for use in our displays. Our accessions committee reviews the donations to determine if there is a tie to East Benton County history and how the item(s) can best be used. Items accepted by the museum typically have local history. On occasion, we cannot use the donated item. We offer it back to the donor or if they do not wish for it to be returned, we offer it to another museum or find another use for the item(s).*

*A couple of our recently acquired donations include a baby carriage and a wedding dress from the 1940's.*

*Wondering what to do with your family's history that will not be passed down, Think of The East Benton County Museum!*



## Dr. Roderick Coler

Our community lost a truly unique and remarkable man in January, 2023.

In 1958, Dr. Roderick S. Coler became the first Internal Medicine Specialist in Kennewick. Dr. Coler had a boundless curiosity toward a lifelong passion for the naturalist's life. His insect collection was legendary and never stopped growing. The museum was fortunate to have his collection on loan in 2021. This exhibit is one of the most popular the museum has ever featured.

The museum features an historical medical exhibit featuring many of Dr. Coler's early medical tools and an in depth interview with Dr. Coler.

## ***Our condolences to the Coler Family.***

## Welcome New Board Member

Paul Oliver recently joined the East Benton County Historical Society's board of directors. Paul has been a long term volunteer with the museum. Paul was born and raised in Kennewick. His grandmother, Marilla Oliver, was first president of the museum. Paul has always been involved with history and the town. He looks forward to "getting things done".

Welcome to the board Paul!

## Upcoming Exhibits

We are excited to feature information about our upcoming exhibits for 2023. These exhibits are the result of volunteers, donors and community partners and sponsors. We appreciate all of their efforts in bringing these exhibits and programs to completion.

## **Thank you volunteers!**

We at the museum are so grateful for our volunteers. From our board of directors, to members who come in as needed. Thank you for all you do!

# Lewis & Clark

Through the Mid-Columbia  
October 16-18, 1805

By C. Mark Smith



The morning of October 16, 1805, dawned cool and cloudy. Rounded, grass-covered treeless hills replaced the steep, brown basalt canyon walls rising up from the both sides of the Snake River. The Corps of Discovery, commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson, “to explore the Missouri river, & such principal stream of it, as, by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river that may offer the most direct & practicable water communication across this continent for the purpose of commerce.”

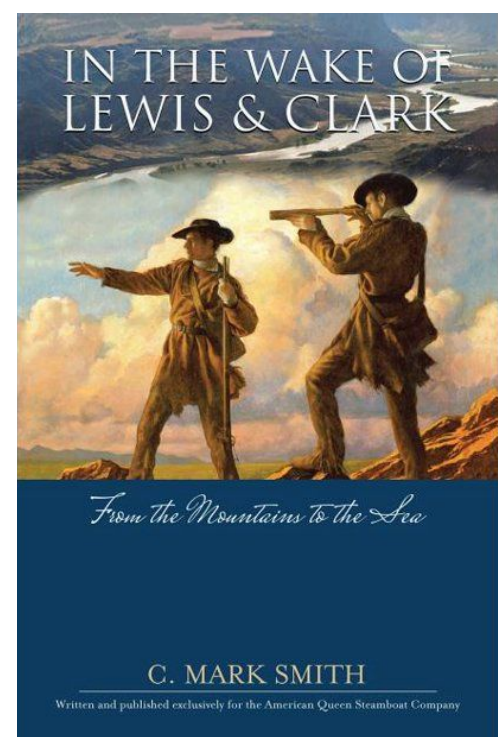
Paddling downriver in clumsy, thirty-foot long canoes hollowed-out from pine trees, the expedition included Captains Meriweather Lewis, Jefferson’s former private secretary; and William Clark, Lewis’s former commanding officer and accomplished frontiersman; Clark’s slave, York, three sergeants, and twenty-two privates. The party also included Toussant Charbonneau, a French-Canadian trapper, his Indian wife, Sacajawea, and her small infant son. Charbonneau had been hired on by Clark after he discovered that his wife spoke Shoshone.

The group had nearly starved to death in the Bitterroot Mountains before stumbling into a band of Nez Perce Indians who—largely because of the presence of Sacajawea—took them in for several months while they recovered. Now, they were headed toward the far reaches of the Louisiana Purchase and a route to the sea. Near the current location of Ice Harbor Dam, the river widened out. They had travelled about twenty-one miles before coming to a wide delta where the Snake emptied into the Columbia River.

As they neared the junction of the two great rivers, they were observed by a growing number of curious Indians both in canoes and fishing along the shore. The arrival of the strangers at what is now Sacajawea State Park caused a sensation. The location had long been a favorite place for the local tribes to fish, trade, and visit.

A large village stood on the point of land that separated the two rivers. The explorers made camp nearby and then welcomed a chief and 200 men and boys who came to visit them, singing and dancing to the beat of their drums. The captains handed out tobacco to as many as possible and distributed Jefferson medals to the chiefs. To the west they saw the blue humps of the Horse Heaven Hills—formed during the Ice Age floods—about two miles distant on the other side of the Columbia River to the west.

Their arrival was recorded by Clark in a matter-of-fact journal entry: “S. 28 W. 6 ½ miles to the Junction of Columbia R.” The location had been correctly predicted by Twisted Hair, the Nez Perce chief travelling with them, but a little more enthusiasm might have been expected in recording such a milestone. Private Whitehouse wrote, “Toward evening we arrived at a large fork that came into this River from a Northerly direction & was much large[r] than the fork which we descended which we supposed to be the Columbia River.”



## NEW EXHIBIT EXAMINES LEWIS & CLARK AND THE WAKE OF WESTWARD EXPANSION

It was just 50 short years from the events of Lewis & Clark to the conflicts and treaties that led to many native tribes ceding their territory to the U.S.

Government. Our current exhibit takes a look at both the Corps of Discovery trek but also the after effects as settlement moved and literally recontoured the American west. This interactive exhibit features artifacts, videos, books and tabletop games all available to be interacted with and is suitable for most ages.

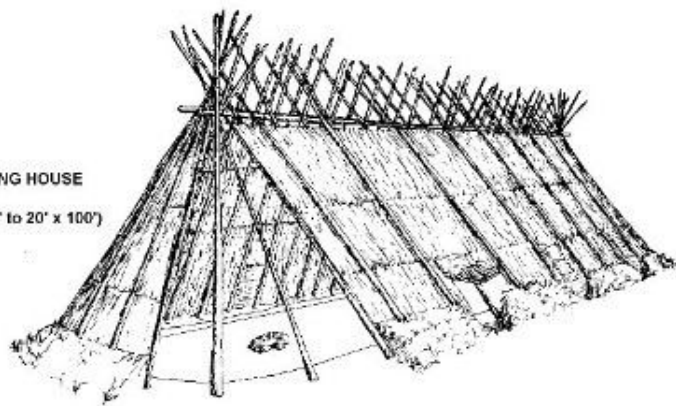
The captains were worried about their location. They believed that they had already been on the Columbia River—that the Snake was the Columbia. Could this larger river coming in from the north be the same river that the Canadian explorer, Alexander Mackenzie, had discovered twelve years earlier? If so, did that validate the existing British claim to the region and render irrelevant one of the vital goals of their expedition? They had a copy of Mackenzie’s 1801 Voyages report with them, and they consulted it carefully, but there was little they could do about it at the time. Winter was closing in, and they needed to reach the ocean.

The Indians they encountered at the junction included large numbers of Walla Walla, Yakama, and Wanapam tribes, drawn to the river by the fall salmon migration. Clark noted the differences between these Indians and those they had previously met in various journal entries. These Indians were smaller in stature. They wore fewer clothes and owned more canoes than horses. They lived in triangular-shaped lodges of various lengths, about six feet tall, with relatively flat roofs and interior wooden frames covered with tule reed mats.

The local Indians owned large numbers of dogs, which, in the absence of available game, the explorers purchased to supplement their diet of dried or fresh salmon. Clark had a problem with either option. Fresh fish would have been preferable to the dried and pounded salmon, but “The fish being out of season and dying in great numbers in the rivers, we did not think it proper to use them.” Nor was he a fan of dog meat. “As for my own part, I have not become reconciled to the taste of this animal.”

The next day, October 17, Clark decided to explore the river on a clear and pleasant day. Having heard of another river that flowed into the Columbia farther to the north from, he set out with two men in a small Indian canoe and paddled north for about ten miles. They passed numerous islands, most of which are now no longer visible because of the higher water level on the river created by the pool behind McNary Dam.

MAT LONG HOUSE  
Plateau  
(15' x 30' to 20' x 100')



NOT JUST A TEPEE: Mat lodges were significantly bigger. They were covered with reed mats not skins.

They stopped at one island located off the north bank of the river, which had three mat lodges and numbers of woman occupied with “great quants. of Salmon on Scaffolds drying.” The Indians prepared a lunch of salmon boiled in a basket with hot rocks from the fire. Clark declared that “The boiled fish . . . was delicious.” After lunch, they paddled across the river to explore the entrance to the Yakima River, which the local natives called Tapteal. Clark wrote in his journal that, “This river is remarkably clear and crowded with salmon in many places . . . Salmon may be seen to a depth of 15 to 20 feet . . . The numbers . . . are incredible to say.” It was from that vantage point that Clark noticed “reach” of river extending to the north and noted it in his journal—today’s Hanford Reach. Before leaving their camp at what is now Sacajawea State Park, they measured the width of the two rivers. They found the Columbia to be about a half mile (960 yards) wide at that point, while the Snake was determined to be 575 yards wide. For comparison purposes, today the Columbia River is about one mile wide at this location. The next day, they continued their journey down the river where the party wintered over near Astoria, Oregon before returning east in 1806.

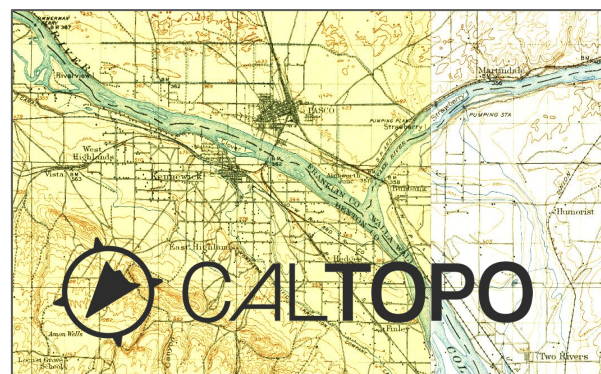
**C**

# Map lecture promises treasure

## TREASURE MAPS LECTURE: MARCH 11 2PM @ the Museum

Digital archivist and local historian Ryan Bennett will provide a guide to the online resource CalTopo and some of the other digital resources that take online travelers virtually through time. We will additionally go over some of the print maps in the permanent collection at the Museum at Keewaydin.

This free lecture will also discuss the nature of the changing Columbia and Snake Rivers and why the journals of Lewis and Clark don’t match up when looking at the rivershore. **C**



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FAVORITE ABC'S

Richland's love affair with houses named for their ABC's began 80 years ago. Rewind to 1943 when the Hanford Construction Camp and the rest of the Tri-Cities was doing it's best to deal with the overnight boom of incoming workers for the Manhattan Project. Every available inch of liveable space was being used for housing.

Some folks in Benton County were renting out spare rooms, trailers, barns and chicken coops.

Workers with wives and children would come home to complaints of the heat and desert climate. The "Termination Winds" as some would call the gusts that sprung up, caused some of the less hardy to quit.

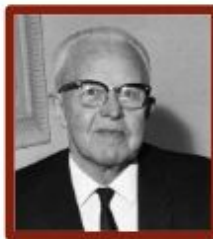
The Hanford Engineering Works made quality of life and employee retention a company and national priority. With that the H.E.W Village of Alphabet Houses was born.

Some of the houses (most notably the prefabs) were designed to be temporary housing. Yet 80 years later many of the hundreds of Alphabet Houses of Richland remain standing memorials to the city's heritage and history. ...



A LOT CAN CHANGE IN 80 YEARS. This shows the approximate sales prices of HEW houses back when they first would have become available for sale. Prices have appreciated significantly.

## Celebrating Richland's Alphabet Houses



# MUSEUM at Keewaydin

## Neighborhoods built ahead of their time:

City planning and architectural design was headed by G. Alvin Pehrson for work done during WWII. Expansion in the post-war era was contracted to Gordon Turnbull Inc. and the firm of Graham, Anderson, Probst and White Inc. Pehrson designed neighborhoods to be walking communities that were designed to strengthen connections amongst residents and make life with just a single vehicle doable for homemaker spouses. In an age before fences, circular blocks of houses would have created large park like backyards for kids to play without having to play in the street. Pehrson also intentionally built styles of homes for three levels of employees: blue collar workers, professional managerial workers, and executives. But he intermixed these styles and sizes of houses so that there would be a variety of each class in every borough creating unity through class diversity. That said, it should be noted that housing was still segregated in much of the Tri-Cities through restrictive housing covenants at that time with many families of color forced into housing in east Pasco. With the end of World War II, these homes were sold to residents in the mid 1950's. Since then these houses have become prized possessions to many of their owners. For some they have become mini-museums with an eye on keeping them as original as possible. Other houses have become custom like Ikea dollhouses for homeowners' creativity as they renovate and reimagine.

## Upcoming Exhibit, Lectures, and Events.

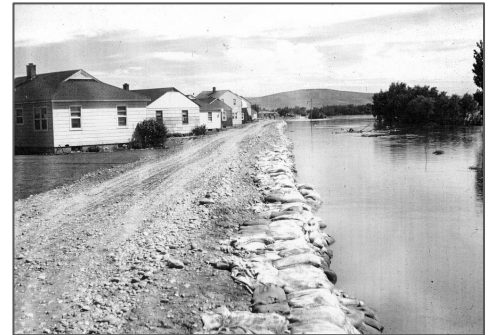
We are proud to partner with Richland Public Library and Encore Realty to celebrate these houses. We will have house plans, photos, and virtual walkthroughs available (provided by Encore Realty) at both the Museum at Keewaydin and the Richland Public Library for people to peruse. Richland Public Library will also have select house model reprint blueprints available for the public to peruse as well.

### ALPHABET HOUSE BIRTHDAY PARTY: MARCH 30 4PM @ Richland Public Library

We will be having a special birthday party. Alphabet house owners will be invited to come and share stories and their own photos of their homes. Light refreshments provided and members from the museum will be on hand. Public welcome

### LOVE YOUR ALPHABET HOUSE LECTURE: APRIL 6 6PM @ Richland Public Library

ABC homes are full of surprises. Ryan Brightman from Proper Home Inspections will offer a free lecture on what intrepid ABC homeowners can expect should they choose to tackle home remodeling or maintenance. Public welcome **G**



VIDEO: Watch rare footage of dikes being built in Richland during the 1948 flood.

## ATTENTION MUSIC TEACHERS

Do you struggle to find  
music recital space?

We can help!

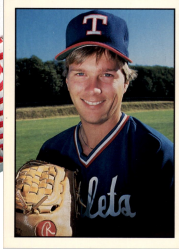
Connect for details. 509-582-7704

## GRAND STUDENT RECITALS



# The Tri-Cities Triplets

READ GALE'S  
FEATURE  
ARTICLES  
MONTHLY IN  
THE SENIOR  
TIMES



Forty years ago,  
the boys of  
summer returned  
to the Tri-Cities.

By Gale Metcalf

The Tri-Cities Triplets were born, ending an 8-year hiatus of the Tri-Cities being without professional baseball since being founded here in 1950.

The love affair between Tri-City baseball enthusiasts and their teams continues when the current version of Tri-Cities baseball, the Tri-City Dust Devils, opens its 2023 season on April 6 against the Hillsboro Hops at GESA Stadium in Pasco.

It renews refreshing summer evenings with the munching of hotdogs, the crunching of peanuts, the popping of popcorn, the flowing of beverages, and the crackling of baseballs flying off bats.

The 4-year love affair with the Triplets began with the team's arrival into the Northwest League following the 1982 season.

A New Jersey-based organization known as Big Six Sports purchased the Walla Walla Padres of the Northwest League and set eyes on the Tri-Cities featuring the promise of a larger market.

Tri-Cities professional baseball originated in 1950 with the building of a sparkling new ballpark on what was then rural land off today's Clearwater Avenue. The Tri-City Braves became a franchise in the then International League and opened their season in Sanders Field, named for a Connell benefactor who donated the needed funds to complete the ballpark. Years later it was renamed Sanders-Jacobs Field.

Home games for the Tri-Cities Triplets were played on the Richland High School baseball field adjacent to today's Fran Rish Stadium, formerly known as the Bomber Bowl. The Triplets began the season affiliated with the Texas Rangers as its parent club.

In the short-season Northwest League of those days, the Triplets completed its inaugural season with a 33-37 record, drew nearly 49,000 in home attendance and hosted the Northwest League All-Star game.

In the Triplets second season, Tri-Cities compiled the best record in the Northwest League at 46-28 and won the Washington Division title. On Labor Day 1984 the team played for the Northwest League championship against Oregon Division champion Medford A's. An astonishing 34 hits were driven by the two teams, including 18 by the Triplets in a 17-8 win.

Home attendance for the 1984 season was more than 52,000.

New owners, led by a southern California-based attorney, took over the team for the 1985 season, but the Texas Rangers ceased its player-development contract and the Triplets played out the 1985 season as an independent. It suffered accordingly on the field, ending the season 33-41 and last in its division.

New owners arrived again in town for the 1986 season as the Triplets were bought out by the members of the Brett family which also owned the Spokane Indians. Among family members was George Brett, a major League Hall of Famer.

The new owners had an eye on a new or renovated stadium as a need for long-term viability but it never came to be. Again without a Major League affiliation, the Triplets declined to a 25-49 record and a second consecutive year in last place. Attendance dropped significantly from its inaugural and championship seasons. The Brett group sold the Triplets, and the new owners relocated to Boise, Idaho for the 1987 season.

At least five Triplet players made the Major Leagues, and one of its managers achieved a sterling collegiate managerial record in Division I.

John Jaha, a Triplet first baseman, played 10 years in the majors for the Milwaukee Brewers and the Oakland Athletics, including being selected to play in the 1999 Major League All-Star game.

Pitcher Randy Cramer played in all or parts of four seasons between 1988 and 1992 for the Pittsburgh Pirates, the Chicago Cubs and the Seattle Mariners, winning six games in his limited Major League career.

Outfielder Mark Leonard had a 168-game career in the Majors between 1990 and 1995, playing for the San Francisco Giants and the Baltimore Orioles. An Oriole teammate included Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. who lived in the Tri-Cities as a boy when his father managed the Tri-City Atoms to a Northwest League title in 1965, a first for a Tri-City franchise.


Gino Minutelli, with the Triplets for the 1985 season, pitched parts of three seasons in the Majors with the Cincinnati Reds and the San Francisco Giants.

Triplets' pitcher Bob Sebra would win 15 Major League games in all or parts of seasons between 1985 and 1990 with the Texas Rangers, the Montreal Expos, the Philadelphia Phillies, the Cincinnati Reds, and the Milwaukee Brewers. They included 1-0 and 2-0 complete game shutouts.

Pat Murphy was the last of the Triplets four managers. He became an interim manager of Major League's San Diego Padres, but his major success came at the collegiate level. For 22 consecutive seasons managing Notre Dame's baseball team, and that of Arizona State, he would have winning seasons, including taking Arizona State to runner-up in the nation in the 1998 college World Series. **G**

SAY  
*Yes...*

Historic  
bridal gowns  
from our  
collection &  
community.



**MUSEUM**  
at Keewaydin

BENTON  
COUNTY  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM  
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# 2023: SAVE

*It's going to be a full year  
the Museum at Keewaydin.*

## Featured in the Courier:

- **The Wake of Westward Expansion** ON DISPLAY NOW
- **Maps Lecture** MARCH 11 2pm
- **Celebrating Richland's Alphabet Houses** COMING IN MARCH
- **Alphabet House Birthday Party** MARCH 30th @ RICHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
- **Love your Alphabet House Lecture** APRIL 6th @ RICHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

## Coming Soon:

- **Say Yes... Wedding Dress Exhibit** COMING IN MAY

The bridal show goes vintage with lots of satin and lace pulled from our permanent collection.

- **My Heritage w/ TCGS Lecture** COMING IN MAY

Get in touch with your roots and bring your photos to life with the website My Heritage. Ryan Bennett will host this live demo co-hosted with the Tri-City Genealogical Society.

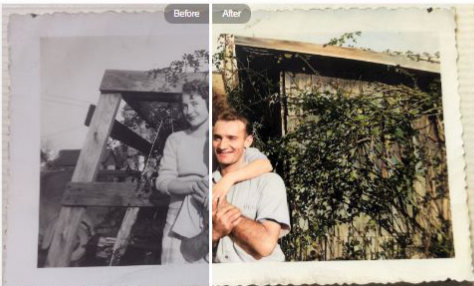
- **Royal Wedding Movie Night** COMING IN JUNE

You will be dancing on the ceiling for this great romantic musical comedy starring Fred Astaire that is loosely based on his life and partnership with his sister who, #spoileralert, got married.

MyHeritage Home Family tree Discoveries Photos **NEW**

From Gmas80  
Date: Add Place: Add

Repair Enhance Colorize Animate



4th DAY of OUR  
MARRIAGE - 9 DECEMBER 44



Tri-City  
Genealogical  
Society  
serving Benton & Franklin  
Counties, Washington



PHOTOGRAPHER  
SCOTT BUTNER



# THE DATES

of programming here at  
 . We hope you will join us!

- All Ages Show** COMING IN JUNE  
 We help commemorate the reopening of Ray's Golden Lion with an exhibit featuring photography of local nightlife taken by Scott Butner. We will also be showing the local documentary by Tony Moser, All Ages Show in our Benton Theater.
- BLOCKBUSTER SUMMER** COMING IN JUNE  
 It's going to be bricktacular! We will have an exhibit of everyone's favorite building block. In addition we will have bricks for building available in the museum through the summer and a build contest. Side note: we are seeking Lego brick donations if you have spares at home. Also look for great content from our partners at the community libraries.
- Ginny Harding: Horses of the Horse Heavens** COMING IN AUGUST  
 Come see the great work of equine artist Ginny Harding. This multi-award winning prisma-color artist has done a variety of portraits of both people and horses. She will be on hand during the month to talk about her work and possible commissions.
- Gale Metcalf: My Interviews with the Stars Lecture** AUGUST 17  
 Anyone who knows Gale, knows he is a man of many stories. Come and hear some of his best yarns from his best celebrity interviews, including Johnny Cash, Jerry Reed and more.
- More to come for fall...**

**BLOCKBUSTER SUMMER**

**MUSEUM at Keewaydin**

E BENTON COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**HORSE HEAVEN HILLS HORSES WITH ARTIST GINNY HARDING**

A MOSER WORK PRESENTS  
**ALL AGES SHOW**  
 A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE MUSIC SCENE IN TRI-CITIES, WASHINGTON

A conversation with Gale Metcalf  
**Interviews with the Stars**

The former Tri-City Herald journalist shares reflections on interviews from his career.

E BENTON COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**MUSEUM at Keewaydin**

Best Week of Summer

# COME UNLOCK ADVENTURE

**YOUTH GROUPS**  
**SCOUT TROOPS**  
**BIRTHDAYS**  
**FAMILY REUNIONS**  
**FIELD TRIPS**

Build a memory and  
find the treasure  
hidden in our  
museum.  
A steal at \$10/person



## Introducing a new box to **Discover!**

We are putting the finishing touches on our new box to compliment our Lewis and Clark exhibit. This exhibit will honor living treasure George Boice whose personal items are featured in the Lewis and Clark exhibit.

Our Escape the Museum timed adventures have come a long way since they helped us first escape Covid lockdowns when only six people were allowed in the museum at a time.

Since then we have added additional puzzle trunks so that we can now accommodate up to 40 adventurers at once in our main gallery.

Bring your group and make a memory.  
We are suitable for all ages (readers and up.)

I'M NOT JUST A MUSEUM VOLUNTEER

## I'M A LOCAL AGENT

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY ISN'T JUST  
SOMETHING I TALK ABOUT.

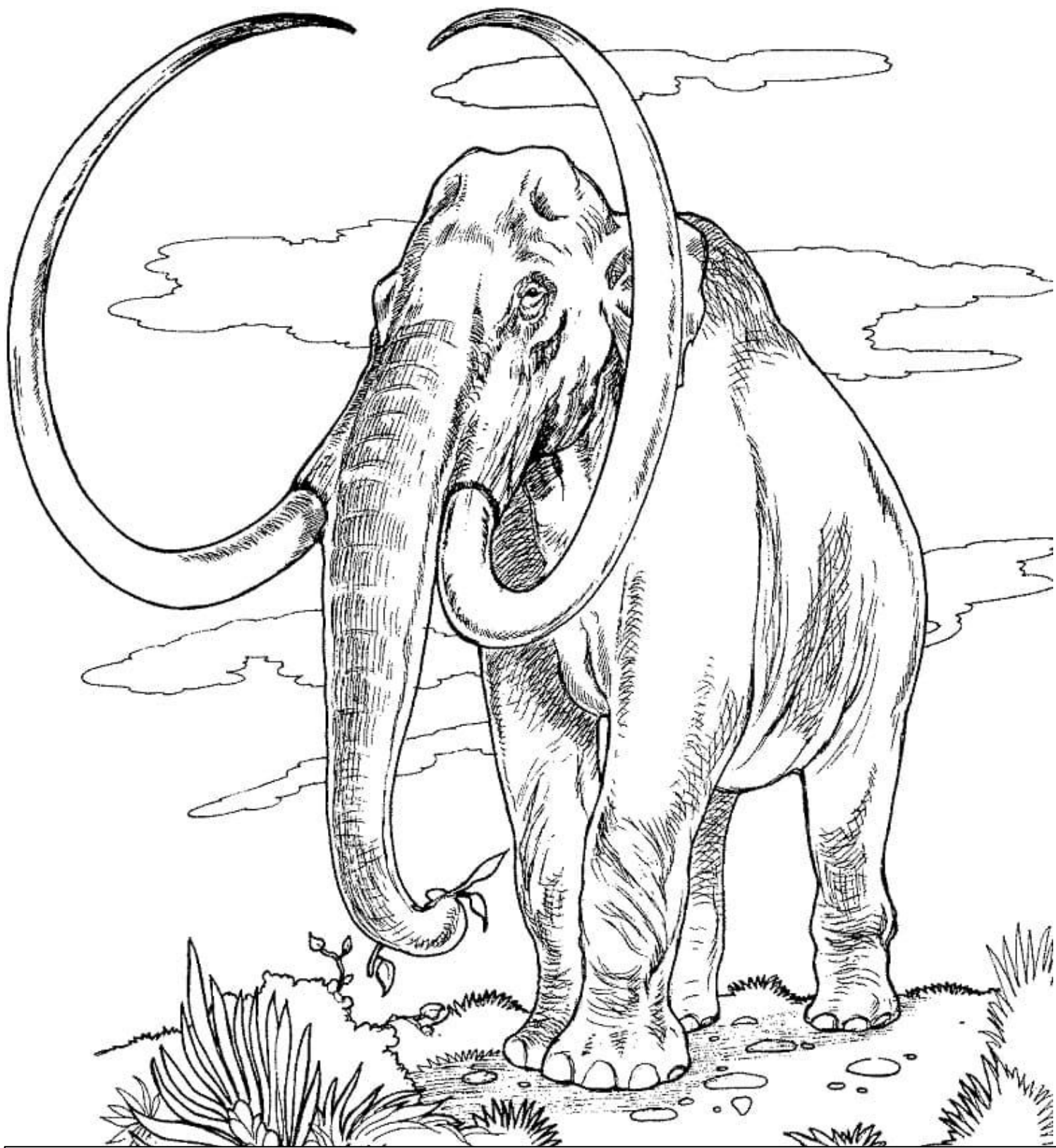
IT'S ACTIVELY A PART OF WHO I AM.

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**RYAN BENNETT | 509.222.8599**

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## **COLORING CONTEST: WIN A FIELD TRIP**

Enter to win a trip for your family to go to the Coyote Canyon Mammoth Dig Site. Color this page and return to the museum by March 31, 2023.

Be sure to include your contact information so we can notify you if you won.



MCBONES Research Center Foundation

**Coyote Canyon**  
**Mammoth Site**

# Renew

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Become a part of celebrating history  
and  
get the benefits of membership:  
Quarterly Magazine | Guest Passes  
Free Museum & Event Admission  
Digitization Tools and Archivist  
Resources

Annual  
Membership: \$35  
Single | \$50 Family  
\$50 Historic Home  
Membership



**MUSEUM**  
at Keewaydin

205 W KEEWAYDIN DR | KENNEWICK, WA 99336  
(509) 582-7704 | TUES - SAT | 12PM - 4PM