**Vore Buffalo Jump Foundation – News Release
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**Vore Buffalo Jump Annual Meeting**

**Sundance, WY:**

The Vore Buffalo Jump Foundation will hold its annual meeting on October 19, 2024 at 10 am at the Vore Buffalo Jump Archaeological Site located on Old Hwy 14 just west of Beulah, Wyoming. Tours will be offered from 9 am to 10 am and after the meeting until noon.

At the annual meeting, VBJF board president Jacqueline Wyatt will provide an update on the state of the non-profit Foundation. This year, the board is excited to share recent progress toward exhibit development. The Foundation recently received a grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund to create an exhibit of approximately 17 bison skulls that were removed from the Vore Site sinkhole during excavations conducted by the University of Wyoming in the early 1970s. This exhibit will visually emphasize the number of bison killed at the Vore Site and will acknowledge the contributions of the Vore family to the development of the Site.

There will also be an update on progress toward curation of the 22,000 plus artifacts that were removed from the Vore Site sinkhole in excavations in 1971 and 1972. Most of these artifacts are bones of bison killed in the sinkhole during the 22 jumps at the Site by Native American hunters between about 1550 and the late 1700s. Archaeologists have also found more than 200 projectile points and the skeletons of dogs that traveled with the hunters. The Vore Collection is stored at the University of Wyoming Archaeological Repository. The Vore Scholars program provides stipends to two interns each semester who work on the Vore Collection. Donations from our supporters, including the Sundance State Bank, support the Vore Scholars Program.

As part of the Foundation’s educational mission, the Vore Site hosts about 800 students from the region in spring and fall for field trip programs. This fall students have come from Moorcroft, Rozet, and Sheridan in Wyoming and Lead/Deadwood, Dupree, and American Horse schools in South Dakota. The volunteers who make this program possible will be acknowledged at the annual meeting.

Photo 1 caption: The exhibit made possible by a grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund will include this skull, which was one of the first complete skulls removed from the sinkhole during the first summer of excavations in 1971. The skull was given to Doris and Woody Vore and until recently hung over the fireplace in the Vore ranch house. This skull demonstrates the unique preservation of the artifacts in the sinkhole: The horn sheaths are intact. These sheaths are grown by specialized hair follicles and are composed of keratin, the same protein found in fingernails.

Photo 2 caption: Michael Thom, a 2024 fall semester Vore Scholar, is pictured in the bonebed at the Vore Site. Michael is a graduate student at the University of Wyoming and will study the projectile points excavated from the Vore Site with the goal of developing a new exhibit.

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