THURSDAY UNIVERSITY

Campbell County Public Library
2101 S 4-J Rd | Gillette, WY
November 2, 2017 | 6:00 PM

Doors open at 5:30 PM for a free, light dinner and snacks.

6:00 PM  Tropical forests in Wyoming? Only 55 Million Years Ago
Dr. Ellen Curren, Associate Professor of Botany, Geology and Geophysics, University of Wyoming

Wyoming fossils are world famous, particularly those from the Paleocene and Eocene periods (66-34 million years ago). Using our trusty picks and shovels, we can travel back in time over 50 million years, to a Wyoming resembling modern-day Florida, covered in palm trees and populated by alligators. This talk will describe Wyoming’s fossil plants from this last great warm interval and discuss how they can be used to reconstruct past climates and landscapes.

7:15 PM  Bigger Than We Can Imagine: How Mathematicians Grapple with Infinity
Dr. Myron Allen, Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Wyoming

From the time of the ancient Greeks, people have wondered about the infinite. During the past two centuries, in resolving classical paradoxes involving infinity, mathematicians have discovered many surprising and seemingly paradoxical facts about infinite sets. This presentation reviews this history and some of the fascinating logic behind one of humankind’s most challenging concepts.

8:30 PM  Finding Religion in a Globalized World
Dr. Mary Keller, Senior Lecturer of Philosophy and Religious Studies, University of Wyoming

Since many of the world’s human cultures lack a word for “religion,” does that mean they are not religious? Or is there a religious nature in humanity that needs no explicit name? Join me as we study actions and cultural attitudes from the Crow Indian nation, the Caribbean Republic of Benin and the United States and learn how to evaluate their implicit and explicit religious nature.

We’ll see you at the next Saturday U.