

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RE: Long-Time Curator, Michael Grauer Leaving PPHM

CANYON, TEXAS— Michael Grauer, curator of art and western heritage at Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, announced his resignation, Monday, July 16. His last day at PPHM will be August 31, and he will start at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City shortly thereafter.



For 31 years, Michael Grauer has worked tirelessly on curating and exhibiting world class, award winning exhibitions for the museum. School children know him as “Cowboy Mike” and adults know him as a learned panhandle scholar and historian. As the curator of art and western heritage, he worked with the art, weapons, militaria, sports, and cowboy and ranching collections. The museum is grateful to Michael for his 31 years of service and exceptional care of the collection.

“Michael has garnered national and international attention for our museum in Canyon, Texas. At the same time he has created a large and loyal local support group for the museum’s art collection. Michael always tells me that everywhere he goes he is “riding for the brand.” That brand recognition he has created for PPHM extends far beyond the Texas Panhandle,” said Carol Lovelady, director.

The Panhandle-Plains Historical Society will work with West Texas A&M University to seek a curator of history, a position encompassing some of Michael Grauer’s tasks as well as those vacated by Becky Livingston, history curator, who resigned in 2017. This position among other duties will curate exhibitions, care for the vast PPHM collection, and give public programs. All inquiries regarding that process should be directed to Carol Lovelady, museum director at clovelady@pphm.wtamu.edu.

“Our collection is what makes PPHM an exceptional museum. PPHM has been fortunate to have had dedicated individuals who have committed themselves to the preservation and interpretation of our collection since 1921. I am very grateful and appreciative of the time

and effort Michael has given to our collection. I am eager to see the insights our next curator will bring to the more than 2 million items owned by the Panhandle-Plains Historical Society,” said Lovelady.

The PPHM Marketing Department will update our constituents through our newsletters, website and social media channels as information becomes available.

ABOUT PPHM

Located on the campus of West Texas A&M University, the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum is the largest history museum in Texas, with more than 285,000 square feet—and over two million artifacts—dedicated to preserving this area’s past. PPHM offers visitors a chance to step into panhandle history with special exhibits, a permanent collection, Pioneer Town, cell phone tours, educational tours and special events. For more information about PPHM please visit www.panhandleplains.org