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Historian presents the stories of Colorado's "soiled doves"

Glenwood Springs, Colo. – Colorado historian Julie Blanda will explore the lives of the women who worked in Colorado's boomtowns and red-light districts during the state's gold and silver rushes in a free presentation, "Soiled Doves: The Working Women of Colorado's Boom Days," on Saturday, November 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Glenwood Springs Branch Library.

Blanda, a Colorado historian with the Healy House Museum & Dexter Cabin, will move beyond the myths of the Wild West to explore who these women were, their day-to-day lives and their influence on early frontier communities. The presentation examines the women commonly known as "soiled doves" and their place in Colorado history.

"These women have been marginalized, mythologized and often vilified, while the realities of their lives have largely been left out of the story," said Lynn Aliya, Program and Education Manager at the Glenwood Springs Historical Society. "We're excited to have Julie as part of our Speaker Series to move beyond the stereotypes and look at who these women really were and the lives they lived."

Blanda is a Colorado historian with the Healy House Museum & Dexter Cabin in Leadville, where she shares the history of Colorado's mining era and the people and communities who shaped the state's past.

The program is recommended for ages 13 and older. Admission is free and open to the public.

The program is presented by the Glenwood Springs Historical Society in partnership with Garfield County Libraries.

The Glenwood Springs Historical Society's educational programs are sponsored by Bank of Colorado, Glenwood Hot Springs Resort, Hotel Colorado and the City of Glenwood Springs.

Glenwood Springs Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to preserve and share the unique history of Glenwood Springs and Garfield County. It operates Frontier Historical Museum at 1001 Colorado Avenue and a satellite exhibit in Bullock's Western Wear store in downtown Glenwood Springs focused on the lore of the American West. The organization also publishes history tour booklets and conducts educational programs. Donations to support this mission are welcome at GlenwoodHistory.org.

ATTACHED PHOTOS: Julie Blanda, Colorado historian; historic images courtesy of History Colorado.

Glenwood Springs Historical Society
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GlenwoodHistory.org