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Gov. Daugaard Proclaims May ‘Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month’

PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed May as “Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month” in South Dakota.

“The thousands of archaeological and historical sites, historic buildings and landscapes that have been discovered and recorded throughout our state represent South Dakota’s rich and diverse cultural heritage,” said Gov. Daugaard.

This year’s theme, “Revealing the Past,” encourages South Dakotans to find history revealed in their local communities, look for efforts that have been made to retain historic authenticity in local sites and to preserve their stories.

“This annual celebration serves as a showcase for local communities to honor their past and help build their future,” said Jay D. Vogt, director of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. “It brings historic preservation to the forefront of our daily lives by emphasizing the vital importance of protecting our nation’s history and pre-history. Public awareness is heightened regarding the destruction of historical sites due to neglect and demolition and of archaeological sites due to looters, vandals and forces of nature.”

The State Historical Society’s Historic Preservation Office has encouraged local communities to plan activities for Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month and in celebration of their historic places.

Activities across South Dakota are listed on the State Historical Society’s online calendar of events at history.sd.gov. This calendar highlights educational programs in the areas of archaeology, preservation and history from across the state and beyond throughout the year. If you would like to submit an event to be posted on the calendar, a form is available on the website calendar page.

For more information on this annual celebration or other historic preservation programs, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217; telephone (605) 773-3458, e-mail shpo@state.sd.us, or website history.sd.gov/preservation.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Tourism. The Department of Tourism is comprised of Tourism, the South Dakota Arts Council and the State Historical Society. The Department is led by Secretary James D. Hagen. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society’s world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices.

Call (605) 773-3458 or visit history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.