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### **Author Finds History Along U.S. Highway 83**

PIERRE, S.D. – Author Stew Magnuson will be signing copies of “The Last American Highway: A Journey Through Time Down U.S. Route 83: The Dakotas” at the Heritage Store, located on the first floor of the state Capitol, from 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. CDT on Thursday, April 24.

The book signing is sponsored by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society. Magnuson will be at Prairie Pages Bookseller, 321 S. Pierre St., at 6 p.m. for a program and a book signing.

“Magnuson’s book takes readers on a trip down the road and through history,” said foundation President Michael Lewis. “The book is the first part of Magnuson’s Highway 83 chronicles, and was published during the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of North Dakota and South Dakota becoming states.”

Magnuson is an award-winning author and journalist based at Washington, D.C. He grew up in Omaha, Neb. His grandparents lived in Stapleton, Neb., located along U.S. Highway 83. The highway runs 1,885 miles through the center of the United States. It passes through Pierre and Fort Pierre as it goes from Westhope, N.D., to Brownsville, Texas. Magnuson drove the length of the highway during different periods of time, discovering its history and meeting people who live alongside the highway. He is currently traveling through North Dakota and South Dakota as part of a book tour.

Of Pierre and Fort Pierre, Magnuson wrote, “The South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center to the north of the capitol in Pierre is where the history is kept. But Fort Pierre, across the river, is where the history took place.” Among those Magnuson writes about are explorer Pierre de la Verendrye, rodeo great Casey Tibbs and the Lewis and Clark Expedition meeting the Lakota.

The book is available at the Heritage Store at the Capitol and at the Cultural Heritage Center.

For more information, call (605) 773-6006.

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*The South Dakota Historical Society Foundation is a private charitable nonprofit that seeks funding to assist the South Dakota State Historical Society in programming and projects to preserve South Dakota’s history and heritage for future generations.*

*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 [www.history.sd.gov](http://www.history.sd.gov) for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.*