

## Readers encouraged to attend MPMA Conference in Rapid City

The Mountain-Plains Museum Association (MPMA) is holding its annual conference Sept. 13-17 in Rapid City. Please make plans now to attend.

The MPMA is a 10-state regional museum organization that includes all types and sizes of museums. It is affiliated with the American Association of Museums.

No one from South Dakota can remember the last time the MPMA met in our state, so this provides a rare, but excellent opportunity for South Dakotans to attend this conference. The South Dakota State Historical Society and the Association of South Dakota Museums are helping sponsor the conference.

The preliminary conference program and registration information is available on-line. Visit [www.mpma.net/accurrent.php](http://www.mpma.net/accurrent.php), or you can request a copy by contacting the MPMA headquarters at (303) 979-9358. I suspect your organization may have already received a copy. We want a good representation from the museums throughout South Dakota.

Tours and workshops start off the conference. Approximately 50 sessions cover a wide variety of museum topics. Presenters and panelists share their expertise and advice on advocacy, budgets, collections, education, exhibits, fund raising and publicity. There is something for everybody.

South Dakota State Historical Society staff members, including State Archivist Chelle Somsen, Historic Preservation Director Jason Haug, and Museum Director Helen B Louise and

### From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Voigt

museum staff members Daniel Brosz, Kate Higdon and Ronette Rumpca, will be participating on panels during the conference.

Keynote speakers include American Association of Museums President Ford Bell, former South Dakota Senator George S. McGovern, Paleontologist Kirk R. Johnson, former Mount Rushmore Superintendent Gerard Baker, and Ruth Ziolkowskil of Crazy Horse Memorial.

The opening reception takes place at Mount Rushmore National Memorial. One evening we have a "museum crawl" that takes us to three different Rapid City museums. The closing party takes on a Sturgis Motorcycle Rally theme. So bring your biker attire and have fun. You will not want to miss attending the MPMA Conference this fall in Rapid City! jdv

### Field Reports

A benefit excursion for the South Dakota State Railroad Museum will be departing the 1880 Train's Hill City depot at 6:45 p.m. MDT on Saturday, June 19. A limited number of tickets, at \$35 apiece, are available. Call (605) 574-9000, or buy them at the Railroad Museum, next to the 1880 Train in Hill City.

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The Dakota Discovery Museum in Mitchell has changed its hours of operation as of May 1. The museum exhibits and the Garret gift store will be open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Saturday; 9 a.m.-8 p.m. on Wednesday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. on Sunday. For more information on current exhibits and events visit [www.dakotadiscovery.com](http://www.dakotadiscovery.com) or call (605) 996-2122.

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"Boys in Blue," an exhibit about the Grand Army of the Republic, a Civil War Union veterans organization, is on display this summer through Sept. 7 at the museum of the Codington County Historical Society in Watertown. Admission is free. For more information call (605) 886-7335 or e-mail [director@cchsmuseum.org](mailto:director@cchsmuseum.org)

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This year's keynote speaker at the West River History Conference is Dr. Brad Tennant, President of the South Dakota State Historical Society Board of Trustees. His speech, in keeping with the conference theme of "Relative Riches" is titled, "No Graves or Epitaphs - Remembering the Forgotten of Past Generations." Dr. Tennant is Assistant Professor of History at Presentation College in Aberdeen. The 18th annual West River History Conference will be held in Rapid City on Sept. 23-25. For more information on the conference contact: Shebby Lee, President; Phone: (605) 343-4852; E-mail: wrhc@shebbyleetours.com

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The Brown County Historical Society met at the Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen in April. The program, "Ghosts of Aberdeen's Past," remembered several of the city's historic buildings that vanished from the landscape over the years. Dacotah Prairie Museum director Sue Gates developed the program, which was presented by BCHS President Sherri Rawstern. In May, the BCHS presented two awards to Northern State University students in conjunction with the society's Historical Research and Writing contest. First place went to Jon Hepola for his paper "Brown Country Cries Wolf," while Nick Blazer received second place for his paper "Money: The Rosetta Stone of Tolerance." Both place winners received a cash prize and certificate.

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The Dalesburg Midsummer Festival, "A Celebration of Scandinavian and Rural Heritage," is Friday, June 18, at Dalesburg Lutheran Church, 30595 University Rd., near Vermillion. There are programs at 2 and 7 p.m. Featured performers at both programs are the Trio Con Brio from Stockholm, Sweden. For more information, call (605) 253-2575 or e-mail rjohnson@bmtc.net

## State Historical Society involved with Capitol Centennial Celebration

The South Dakota State Historical Society has been very involved in the preparations to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the State Capitol on Saturday, June 19.

We are hosting programming and exhibits all day at the Capitol, and we continue to feature "The People's House: Celebrating the Century" and "A Capitol Fight: Choosing South Dakota's State Capital" at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center. Members of the South Dakota State Historical Society have free admission to the museum at the Cultural Heritage Center.

History programming in the Capitol (take the annex elevator) includes:

10 a.m.-4 p.m., Room 414: Children/Family Activities, "A Capital Fight: Choosing South Dakota's Capital City" exhibit, and continuous showing of the historic Capitol photo PowerPoint.

10 a.m.-1 p.m., Room 413: Continuous showing of the "Our Statehouse: A Capitol Idea," SD Public Broadcasting documentary.



10 a.m.-4 p.m., Capitol Fourth Floor Lobby: Share Your Capitol Stories.

10 a.m., Room 412: "Capitol Stain Glass," (Barbara Johnson).

11 a.m., Room 412: "The Capitol Fights: A Comedy in Three Acts" (Readers Theatre, Rodger Hartley and company).

2:15-3:45 p.m., Room 412: "The Reconstruction and Deconstruction of History: Stories Behind the Capitol Restoration" (John Day, John Moisan and Marshall Damgaard).

**For more information about the day's events, visit [capitol.sd.gov](http://capitol.sd.gov), e-mail [capitolcentennial@state.sd.us](mailto:capitolcentennial@state.sd.us) or call 605.773.3688.**

## South Dakota historians should 'dig' these in-state vacations

This summer, discover South Dakota's eight archaeology and paleontology destinations. With a variety of activities for the whole family, it will prove to be a fun and educational experience for everyone.

South Dakota has five museums that allow guests to view a variety of fossils, minerals, rock formations and even some of South Dakota's Native American history. Museums include the Museum of Geology at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology and the Journey Museum in Rapid City, the Museum at the Black Hills Institute of Geological Research, Inc., in Hill City; the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, and the Kirby Science Discovery Center in Sioux Falls.

Each museum allows for a unique experience with diverse displays and

hands-on activities. You can even view "Stan," one of the two most complete Tyrannosaurus rex fossils ever found, at The Museum at the Black Hills Institute. Along with a variety of museums, The Mitchell Prehistoric Indian Village, Standing Rock Indian Reservation, and the Mammoth Site in Hot Springs allow guests to take part in or view active digs.

Each site provides a real-life, unique and hands-on experience for the whole family.

Come explore the great places of South Dakota with the whole family and make a vacation worth remembering!

For more information go to [www.travelsd.com/TravelSD/media/PDF/Guides/ArchaeologyPaleontology2010.pdf](http://www.travelsd.com/TravelSD/media/PDF/Guides/ArchaeologyPaleontology2010.pdf)