

Tourism Promotion Tax helps State Historical Society

On Thursday, Jan. 31, Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed House Bill 1066 into law, making the one-half cent gross receipts tax on tourism-related businesses permanent. This is important to the South Dakota State Historical Society because the half-penny tax supports our work in archaeology and the museum.

In the state budget crisis of 2009, a one-half cent tax was added to the existing one-cent tourism promotion tax to cover budget cuts that impacted archaeology, the arts and the tourism challenge promotional program. Two years later, another round of budget cuts was softened by additional funds from the tax being directed to the museum at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center.

The State Historical Society operates in five program areas—archaeology, archives, historic preservation, museum, and research and publishing. The State Archaeologist oversees the archaeological research center in Rapid City. The office largely provides archaeological services, such as record searches, surveys, and some excavations for state and federal agencies. However, under state law (SDCL Chapter 1-20) we are also responsible for maintaining confidential site locations and records for nearly 20,000 archaeological sites; approximately 2,000 cubic feet of state archaeological collections; 70,000 catalog records, field and research notes and maps; and 83,000 photographs. Whereas the archaeological

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

services are billed out to the agencies using them, the safeguarding of the archaeological records is a state expense. When the Archaeological Research Center was threatened with closing over these necessary state outlays, the general funds were replaced with support from the half-penny tourism promotion tax.

Two years ago much of state government faced a ten-percent budget cut which would have crippled the State Historical Society. Although the society did take a budget cut, the funding for the museum was switched from general funds to the one-half cent tourism promotion tax. As a result, we are able to

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Field Reports

The Brown County Historical Society held its annual meeting on Feb. 2 at the Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen. The program, "Frederick: Past, Present, & Future," featured the community of Frederick, SD, and its Finnish heritage.

The 2013 BCBS officers are President – Sherri Rawstern; Vice-President – Brad Tennant; Secretary – Jean Rahja; and Treasurer – Dennis White. Other board members are Marie Schumacher, Rose Kraft and Evelyn Blum.

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The annual History Conference of the South Dakota State Historical Society is May 3-4 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rapid City. This year's conference, organized by the society's archeology office, has the theme "Rivers Run Through It — South Dakota's Rivers and Streams and the Flow of History." Call (605) 773-6000 for more information.

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The 21st annual West River History Conference will be held Oct. 3-5 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Rapid City. This year's theme is "War on the Plains — Stories of Conflict Over the Years." Call (605) 343-4852 or email wrhc@shebbyleetours.com for more information.

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More Field Reports

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The Dakota Discovery Museum in Mitchell has announced the dates of this year's Middle Border Lecture Series, with the first being held on Monday, March 25, from 7-8 p.m. at the museum. Remaining lectures will be held on May 28, July 29, Sept. 30 and Nov. 25. Each lecture will feature speakers on topics pertaining to the history, art and culture of the Middle Border region. The program is free to the public and made possible by a Speakers Bureau grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Call

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open the doors to the public at the Cultural Heritage Center.

When the State Legislature initiated the half-penny tourism promotion tax, they placed a two-year sunset clause on it, allowing the tax to expire. Prior to its expiration, an effort was made to permanently extend the tax, but the bill got caught up in end-of-the-legislative session politics, and the only way to get the tax extended was to place another sunset clause on it. The tax was set to expire at the end of June this year, and a coalition of tourism, history and arts leaders worked together to permanently keep the tax so the outstanding work that we do can continue.

This time around, the state legislature viewed the first four years of this tax as an experiment which proved highly successful. They saw the promotional work of tourism to be very effective and the contributions of the arts and history as being essential. So by overwhelming majorities, the House of Representatives and the Senate approved the permanent extension of the tax and Governor Dugaard signed the bill, the first measure he signed into law this legislative session.

Thank you for your support and hard work on behalf of the South Dakota State Historical Society and the one-half cent gross receipts tax on tourism related businesses. jdv

(605) 996-2122 for more information.

Current members of the board of directors of the Friends of the Middle Border Museum include: President — Seth Tupper; Vice-President — Justin Luther; Treasurer — Dan Beukelman; Secretary — Dr. John Husmann; Others — Dianne Carr, Dr. Robert Duffett, Dustin Ludens, Louise Maeschen, Terry Tietveld and Dr. Don Simmons.

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The annual Midsummer Festival of the Dalesburg Scandinavian Association of Vermillion will be held on Friday, June 21. A 3-young-man trio from Sweden will be performing. The event also includes an arts and crafts area, children's activities and a food stand. Current officers of the association are: President and Membership — Ron Johnson; Historian — Pat Norin; Treasurer — Connie Richards; ASI Liaison — Lorraine Carlson; Publicity — James Peterson; Website — Jeff Erickson; Of-

icers-At-Large — Carol Shubeck and Brendyn Richards; Ex-Officio Officer — Pastor Martens.

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The South Dakota State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) will offer a re-grant opportunity to local history groups, with grant funds from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission of the National Archives and Records Administration. With the grant money, the SHRAB will be able to disseminate \$3,000 in funds to local repositories, organizations and historical societies, in order to encourage and support identification and preservation of historical records, and training for the staff that care for those records. The deadline for application submission is April 30. For more information, please see <http://history.sd.gov/Archives/SHRAB/shrabactivity.aspx> or call (605) 773-3804.

Historic preservation grants are awarded

Six historic preservation projects recently received matching grants from the South Dakota State Historical Society.

The grants are awarded through the State Historical Society's Deadwood Fund grant program. Funding for the program is from Deadwood gaming revenue earmarked by state law for historic preservation projects throughout the state. The program is administered by the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The following projects were the most recent to receive grants:

- Hot Springs: Historic Sandstone School House and Pioneer Museum, \$15,000 for repointing the stone;
- Menno vicinity: Our Savior's Lutheran Church, \$10,000 for replacement of roof and flashing;
- Rapid City: Faith Temple, \$10,000 for repointing the masonry;
- Sioux Falls: Avery House, \$10,000 for repointing the masonry and porch reconstruction;
- Sioux Falls: Hollister-Sharp House, \$9,000 for replacement of the gutter system, repoint the chimney, and repair/replace woodwork;
- Stockholm vicinity: Brown Earth Church, \$3,125 for window and log rehabilitation.

The Deadwood Historic Preservation Commission recently awarded 12 grants worth a total of \$125,000 for its Outside-of-Deadwood program:

- Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Menno, \$25,000 for roof repairs;
- The Lead Rifle and Pistol Club, \$24,000 to renovate an indoor shooting range;
- The Keystone Area Historical Society, \$15,000 for interior renovation of the Keystone Museum;
- Historic Rapid City, \$10,000 for restoration of the McGillycuddy House;
- Sioux Falls State Theatre Company, \$9,000 for restoration of art work;
- Black Hills Mining Museum, \$8,500 for archival development;
- Frawley Ranches, Inc., \$7,500 for work on the barn floor of the Anderson Milking Building;
- The Newell Museum, \$7,000 for Phaze III of the Bushnell Building restoration project;
- The Society of Black Hills Pioneers, \$7,000 for work to secure the Crook City Schoolhouse;
- South Dakota Railroad Museum, \$4,500 for the creation of permanent exhibits;
- The Pyle House Museum, \$4,000; and
- City of Mobridge, \$3,000 for Oscar Howe murals assessment and documentation.