

Trail of Governors project moves forward in Pierre

On Flag Day, the Trail of Governors Foundation in Pierre unveiled the statues of Govs. Frank L. Farrar, Harvey Wollman and William J. Janklow in the Capitol Rotunda. These three new statues will join the previous three statues to be placed around the City of Pierre and the Capitol Complex, creating a "Trail of Governors." Last year the statues of Govs. Arthur C. Mellette, Harlan Bushfield and Walter Dale Miller were made public.

South Dakota has had 32 governors to date -- men who have led our great state and helped shape our state's history. In addition to current Gov. Dennis Daugaard, we have four living former governors -- 24th Gov. Frank L. Farrar (1969-1971), 26th Gov. Harvey Wollman (1978), 29th Gov. Walter Dale Miller (1993-1995), and 31st Gov. M. Michael Rounds (2003-2011). Gov. Daugaard and the former living governors were all in attendance on June 14 for the 2013 ceremony.

The trail serves as a lasting legacy to the leadership and accomplishments of these men, in short, the telling of the heritage and history of South Dakota. Since 1889 when South Dakota became a state, the people of South Dakota have experienced amazing change. Agriculture remains the largest industry; however, South Dakota has transformed from a state dominated by agriculture to one with a more-diversified economy. The Great Depression and two world wars influenced the shaping of South Dakota. With the good-roads movement and

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

the completion of the interstate highway system, tourism became the state's number two industry. Despite an overall growing population and more recent economic development, many rural areas have been struggling with declining populations. Farms have gotten bigger and towns have gotten smaller.

The Trail of Governors project is the brainstorm of Pierre/Fort Pierre businessmen Rick Jensen and Leroy Foster. Today the Trail of Governors Foundation works to raise funds to create, cast and erect three new statues each year. Artists Lee Leuning and Sherri Treeby, John Lopez and James Michael Maher have been commissioned to craft the

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Summer hours are now in effect for the museum in the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. Through Labor Day, the museum is open 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. CDT Monday-Saturday and 1-4:30 p.m. Sundays. Call (605) 773-3458 for more information.

The South Dakota National Guard Museum in Pierre is also offering extended hours this summer. Normal museum hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. CDT Monday-Friday. As of July 1 and continuing through September, the hours will be 9 a.m.-7 p.m. on the first Tuesday and third Thursday. Call (605) 224-9991 for more information.

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The Charles Mix County Historical Restoration Society, also known as the Geddes Historical Society, is renovating the Peter Norbeck boyhood home that sets in the Historic Village in Geddes. The total cost will run about \$40,000, and the group hopes to be finished in two years. They have applied for grants to help with a portion of the cost, the rest will be raised by fund-raising projects and contributions. They are a 501(c)(3) non profit public charity, all contributions are tax deductible.

Society officers are: Irene Merkwon, President; Pat Biddle, Vice President; Ron Dufek, Secretary; Sharon Ackley, Treasurer. For more information, contact Ackley at jskley@aol.com.

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Klein Museum wins Governor's Award

The Klein Museum in Mobridge is this year's Organizational winner of the Governor's Awards for History, presented by the South Dakota State Historical Society on May 4 in Rapid City.

The Klein was called "The Smithsonian on the Prairie" by one visitor. Curator Diane Kindt works with a group of about 100 volunteers who donate their time, talents and treasures to help ensure the success of the museum. The museum's theme is "Preserving the Past for Those Stepping into the Future," and visitors never leave without feeling that they have had the opportunity of stepping back in time as they view the exhibits.

Other winners included Jim and Peg Aplan of Piedmont, Individual; Sandra Jones of Wessington Springs, Teacher of the Year; and Teresa M. Houser of Omaha, Neb., Herbert S. Schell Award for best article in the previous year's edition of *South Dakota History*.



The Governor's Awards for History winners included, seated from left, Jim and Peg Aplan of Piedmont, Individual; Judy Curran of the Klein Museum in Mobridge, Organization; and Sandra Jones of Wessington Springs, Teacher. Not pictured is Teresa M. Houser of Omaha, Neb., Herbert S. Schell Award. Presenting the awards were, standing from left, Brad Tennant, SDSHS board president; and Jay D. Vogt, SDSHS director.

Vogt

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statues. Leuning and Treeby collaborate in their work. Leuning is a South Dakota native and a wildlife biologist turned sculptor, and Treeby attended college in the state and stayed and taught school. Lopez was born and reared on a ranch in Western South Dakota and was one of the artists for the City of Presidents project in Rapid City. Another native South Dakotan, Maher has lived in Pierre, Rapid City and currently Belle Fourche, and is a signature member of the Artists of the Black Hills.

The Trail of Governors Foundation, working with the City of Pierre and state government, determines the location of the statues. Currently, the statues of Govs. Wollman and Janklow are on display in the lobby of the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center, headquarters of the State Historical Society. The statues will remain with the society until moved to their permanent location. For more information, visit www.trailofgovernors.com. jdv

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This year's officers of the Minnehaha County Historical Society in Sioux Falls are: President — Jim A. Carlson; First Vice-President & Programs — Jennifer Dumke; Second Vice-President & Newsletter — Sandy Dean; Secretary — Celia Benson; Treasurer — Gaylord Helmbrecht; President Emeritus — Bob Kolbe; General Board Members — Richard Foster, Bill Hoskins and Wayne Fanebust.

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An eight-year project culminated on May 25 with the grand opening of the \$5.5 million Days of '76 Museum in Deadwood. The museum has already been designated an "American Treasure" by the National Park Service. Seven core exhibits tell the stories of Deadwood's struggles and successes in the American West. This year's 89th Days of '76 Celebration and Rodeo is July 23-27.

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Phyllis and Clarence Justice, long-time owners of the Grant County Review in Milbank, have donated \$200,000 to the Grant County Historical Society to be used for the construction of a new museum building. It is hoped that construction can begin later this year.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service South Dakota Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program would like to enter into a programmatic agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office to expedite compliance and fulfill its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for certain routine activities, such as fence construction, grass planting, grass management, invasive species control, nest structure installation and wetland restoration. The PFW program would like to receive any comments or concerns you may have regarding the potential PA. Please send comments and concerns to Boyd Schulz in written format at P.O. Box 247, Brookings, SD 57006, by email to boyd_schulz@fws.gov, or by phone at (605)697-2500.