

We have a new parking lot at the Cultural Heritage Center!

If I had been holding my breath, I would have passed out a long time ago! The parking lot project for the Cultural Heritage Center was originally scheduled to start at the beginning of summer, but because of cost concerns, the project was changed and rescheduled to start Aug. 1. Sometime mid-August we saw the first dirt move.

The project involved creating two new entrances and a two-way public parking lot. The original central entrance with the tight curves is gone. Constructed in two phases to maintain public access for our visitors, the project faced trouble from the beginning. Early in the project, starting on the south end, the construction crew had trouble locating the utility services and especially problematic was the storm sewer system. Once the south half of the project was completed, the crew started on the north side and constructed a temporary road for the staff to access the employee parking lot. The road was steep and definitely had an “off-road” feel.

Mid-October brought an unseasonably early winter storm to Rapid City, and the Society’s Archaeological Research Center had the roof collapse in its south building. The next day, the construction crew at the Cultural Heritage Center, while cutting rebar for the concrete parking lot, started the grounds on fire. The center was evacuated as we watched the fire burn the earth-mounded grounds on the north side of the building. Fortunately, no one was hurt and the building did not

From the SDSHS Director



Jay D. Vogt

suffer any damage. It was quite the week!

Nevertheless, for the rest of the project, it seemed to rain or snow, with some beautiful days in between. Unfortunately, the change in the weather transformed the temporary staff road into a muddy path. As a result, most of the staff elected to park in the street rather than attempt the temporary road. Largely four-wheel drive vehicles used the road, but three vehicles did get stuck through the course of the project.

Our mantra from the beginning of the project was that it had to be completed before our annual holiday open house the day after Thanksgiving.

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Field Reports

Troy Kilpatrick of Rapid City became the new executive director of The Journey Museum in Rapid City on Dec. 1. Kilpatrick’s goals include bolstering the museum as an educational asset that facilitates local tourism. Museum board members cited Kilpatrick’s communications experience and community volunteerism as reasons why he was chosen from around 70 candidates for the job.

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The Dakota Discovery Museum in Mitchell hosted an old-fashioned Victorian Christmas on Dec. 7. The afternoon included tours, music and performances in the restored 1908 Farwell Church, plus tours of the 1886 Italian-style Beckwith House, located on the museum grounds.

Current members of the board of directors of the Friends of the Middle Border, Inc., which owns and operates the DDM, include: President — Seth Tupper; Vice-President — Justin Luther; Secretary — Dr. John Husmann; Treasurer — Dan Beukelman; and Directors — Dianne Carr, Terry Johnson, Dustin Ludens, Louise Maeschen, Amy Novak and Terry Rietveld.

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The Casey Tibbs South Dakota Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre added six new honorees during the annual

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Casey Tibbs Foundation Tribute Dinner in November. Those honored included: Jessica Painter Holmes of Buffalo as “Rodeo Cowgirl Great,” Casey Gates of Miller as “Rodeo Cowboy Great,” Harold Heinert of Parmelee as “Past Rodeo Great,” Harold Delbridge of Red Owl of “Rodeo Promoter,” Walter and Marian Klein of Hartford as “Ranch Cowboy Family,” and Sutton Rodeo of Onida’s “Chuckulator” as “Rodeo Animal Athlete.” Now in its 24th year, photos and biographies of the honorees are added to the “Wall of Fame” in the Rodeo Center. For more information, visit www.caseytibbs.com

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Vogt

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Fortunately, both the entrances and public parking lot were finished the week prior to another successful holiday open house. We were very pleased with the cooperation and attention of Sharpe Construction and the South Dakota Office of the State Engineer. More than 800 people visited the Cultural Heritage Center that day.

Next year, the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center commemorates its 25th anniversary. It is hard to believe it has been that long already. The South Dakota State Historical Society has flourished in the center and it has given us a much higher public profile.

In the meantime, the staff at the Archaeological Research Center is being temporarily relocated across the street at the Western Dakota Technical Institute and will continue to use the undamaged building. We are considering our options for our archaeological facility. It am trying to see this situation as an opportunity.

The South Dakota State Historical Society collects, preserves, interprets and promotes our state’s history every day and, I guess, we also make it. As with your local historical society or museum, we are faced with challenges and continue to do our important work on behalf of the public. Thank you for your contributions to the field of state and local history, and happy holidays!

Through Dec. 31, the South Dakota State Railroad Museum in Hill City has a “Trees and Trains” exhibit on display. The exhibit area is decorated with a variety of Christmas trees, in addition to learning about the history of railroads in the state. For more information, visit www.sdsrm.org

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The Homestake Opera House in Lead has kicked off a \$4.2 million capital campaign to renovate its stage. A \$50,000 anonymous donation pledging matching funds started the effort. The building turns 100 in August 2014, and the goal is to have a grand reopening in the fall of 2015. To donate to the 2014 Stage Design Fund or to give to the HHOH, visit www.homestakeoperahouse.org

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The city of Deadwood is spending nearly \$2 million in Deadwood Historic Preservation funds over the next three years to restore the 1877 St. Ambrose Cemetery, the lesser-known of Deadwood’s two historic

cemeteries. A three-year, \$3.4 million restoration of Mt. Moriah Cemetery, where western legends Calamity Jane and Wild Bill Hickok are buried, was completed in 2005. The first three phases of the restoration at St. Ambrose are already complete. Work on the fourth phase starts in 2014, with the project expected to be completed in 2016.

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The Hermosa Arts and History Association held its annual Christmas Carnival on Dec. 8 in the Hermosa School Gym. The event included a soup-and-dessert lunch, a bake sale, games like “Wheel of Fortune” and photos with Santa Claus.

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Current officers of the Hyde County Historical Society in Highmore include: President — Skyla Ratzlaff; Vice-President — Dolores Stoley; Secretary — Dee Smith; Treasurer — Maurine Bouzek; and Directors — Sandra Cermak (3 years), Jacque McDonnell (2 years) and Marlys Cermak (1 year).

Deadwood Fund Grant apps available

The South Dakota State Historical Society has announced that the applications for the first round of the 2014 Deadwood Fund grant program are due on Feb. 1, 2014 for work beginning no earlier than May 1, 2014.

The program is designed to encourage large-scale restoration or rehabilitation of historic properties by individuals, organizations or public agencies, according to Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society, whose historic preservation office administers the program.

Grants will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000. The grant amount must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis from nonfederal and nonstate sources. Nonprofit organizations will be allowed to use in-kind services for one-half of their match.

Grant forms are available online at

<http://history.sd.gov/Preservation/FundingOpps/FundingOpportunities.aspx>

In 2012, more than \$106,700 was distributed among 12 projects.

Funding for the program is from Deadwood gaming revenue earmarked by state law for historic preservation projects throughout the state and distributed by the State Historical Society.

The second round of 2014 applications will be due on Oct. 1, 2014 for work beginning no earlier than Jan. 1, 2015.

For more information on the South Dakota State Historical Society’s Deadwood Fund grant program, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501-2217; telephone (605) 773-3458.