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Society still collecting artifacts about the COVID-19 impact

Greetings from the South Dakota State Historical Society. It's so good to see Spring arriving and the active COVID-19 cases declining. COVID-19's historic impact on the country and our state is something we've recognized and to that end, we are collecting South Dakota artifacts about the virus' impact. If you have photos, artwork, poetry, emails, or other items that help capture and explain life during the pandemic, we'd love it if you contribute them to our growing collection. Please see <https://history.sd.gov/archives/covid19.aspx> or email Nicole Hosette at Nicole.Hosette@state.sd.us. Thank you for helping us collect the history of this major event in the life of our world.

The Society made history by holding the annual History Conference virtually this year. If you'll recall, last year we cancelled the event due to COVID-19. However, in 2021 we wanted to shift to the virtual forum and had just as many people register as we did two years ago when the conference was "in person" in Pierre. The virtual option, and the topic of "South Dakota's Icons" drew people from the east and west coasts, South Dakota educators, as well as many from the "typical crowd" who normally can attend. The videos of each presentation will be made available for viewing so you can enjoy the presentations if you missed the conference.

The Governor's Awards for History this year were awarded to Larry Belitz, John Mollison, and Wayne Fanebust. Scott Tubbs of Rapid City was awarded History Teacher of the



Year. Phillip Burnham of Albuquerque, NM won the Herbert S. Schell Award for his *South Dakota History* article on Clarence Three Stars. The Robinson Award was given to Jay D. Vogt and Nancy Tystad Koupal for their notable work over their long careers supporting South Dakota's history. Rolene Schliesman and Peggy Sanders were re-elected to another three-year term on the Board of Trustees.

The Society's staff, with support from the Trustees and the SD Historical Society Foundation Board, have begun to craft a strategic plan to guide our work over the next five years. We aim to present a draft to the Trustees next month and finalize it by the end of the

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Field Reports

The South Dakota State Railroad Museum in Hill City had a FREE ADMISSION WEEKEND in recognition of National Train Day (May 8th), and in honor of all of our mothers for Mothers Day (May 9th).

All adults were admitted FREE, and children 10 and under were admitted if accompanied by an adult. Face mask use is still encouraged.

New exhibits, updated model train operations, and changes in the Dakota Depot displays were available for public viewing for the first time. Historic demonstrations, new retail items and out-of-print books were available, and giveaway items for kids of all ages were provided.

Regular Summer and Fall Hours for the Museum are:

- May 8 - May 21, DAILY, 10:00AM - 4:00PM
- May 22 - May 28, DAILY, 10:00AM - 5:00PM
- May 29 - August 5, DAILY, 8:00AM - 5:00PM
- August 6 - August 15, DAILY, 10:00AM - 5:00PM
- August 16 - September 5, DAILY, 8:00AM - 5:00PM
- September 6 - September 30, DAILY, 10:00AM - 5:00PM
- October 1 - October 17, M - F, 10:00AM - 4:00PM; Saturday and Sunday, 10:00AM - 5:00PM

After a one-year break, Pioneer Day Camp will return to Beaver Creek Nature Area east of Sioux Falls for three Tuesdays in June — the 15th, 22nd and 29th.

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The camp is for kids 7 to 12 years old. The \$35 registration fee includes a meal and a snack. Call 605-367-4210 to register your children.

The Brookings County Museum complex in Volga's City Park will be open to visitors beginning Sunday, May 30. Museum hours will be daily from 1-4 p.m.. Admission to the museum is free. The grand re-opening comes after a year of covid-inspired closure during the summer of 2020.

Visitors this year will discover a new museum experience, as volunteers have worked tirelessly during the down time to improve the museum in many ways. These include new displays, and with the refurbishing of the historic 1884 James Hauxhurst house now complete, one new building has been added to what has been a five-building museum complex. The Hauxhurst house includes furnishings and embellishments similar to what might be found in a Brookings County home in the late 1800s and early 1900s

For more information, visit brookingscountymuseum.org or call 605-827-2303.

Share what's happening at your museum or historical organization by sending it to Jeff.Mammenga@state.sd.us or mailing it to Hoofprints, SD State Historical Society, 900 Governors Dr., Pierre, SD 57501-2217.

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summer. The staff has been providing good ideas and mulling over various issues as we seek to widen our participation and deepen our impact sharing South Dakota's history to those in and outside of our state. I look forward to sharing the result of this process with you in the coming weeks.

We wish you a healthy, safe, and enjoyable summer!



Three new exhibits open at Mead Center in Yankton

"Lincoln And The Dakotas" is one of three new exhibits on display at the Mead Cultural Education Center in Yankton. It will feature artifacts from the museum's collection and detail Abraham Lincoln's impact on the Dakota Territory and its creation 160 years ago. This exhibit will include *The Mask of Lincoln* Smithsonian Institute poster exhibit, which presents portraits taken of Lincoln during his presidency and rise to national prominence. These images show the changing face that Lincoln presented to the world as he led the fight for the Union during the Civil War.

"The Linden Graber Motorcycle and Scooter Collection" features pieces of vintage motorcycle history including a rare 1921

Indian Powerplus motorcycle and a 1904 Indian Motorcycle in original condition. The motorcycle collector, Linden Graber, was at the museum and discussed his collection on May 7.

"Fall In! Soldiering In Dakota" is a traveling exhibit made possible through the South Dakota State Historical Society and showcases the lives of frontier soldiers with artifacts from the Dakota Territorial Museum Collection.

All three exhibits will be on display through August 31, 2021. The Mead Cultural Education Center is open Monday - Saturday 10 am-4pm. Summer hours, Monday-Friday 10am-4pm & Saturday-Sunday 12pm-4pm, will start on June 5. Please call 605-665-3898 with questions.