

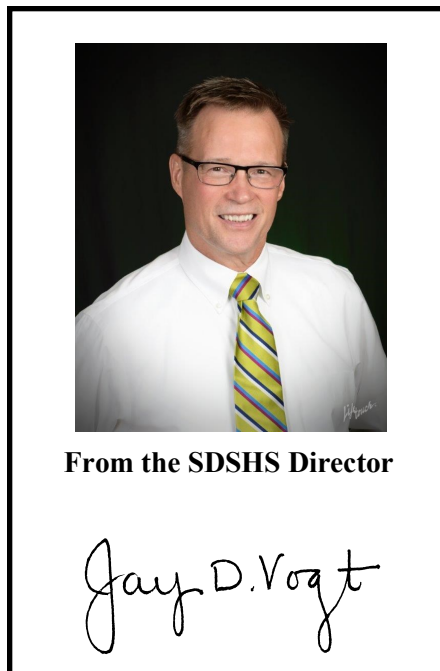
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Trail of Governors statues tell historical stories of state

On Friday, June 15, the Trail of Governors Foundation unveiled their latest three statues in Pierre—Governors William McMaster, Merrill Q. Sharpe, and Ralph Herseeth. Seven years ago, the Foundation announced their ambitious plan to commission statues of all our former governors of the state and purposefully place them to form a trail around the Capitol Complex and downtown Pierre. Over the past six years, the Foundation has created a trail of 19 statues, and now will be adding these three statues this summer. The trail currently includes the statues of Governors Arthur Mellette, Charles Herreid, Robert Vessey, Peter Norbeck, Warren Green, Tom Berry, Leslie Jensen, Harlan Bushfield, George T. Mickelson, Sigurd Anderson, Joe Foss, Nils Boe, Frank Farrar, Richard Kneip, Harvey Wollman, William Janklow, George S. Mickelson, Walter Dale Miller and M. Michael Rounds.

The remarkable aspect of this project is that the statues, which cost \$72,000 each, are privately funded. The Foundation, state government, and the City of Pierre work together to determine the location and placement of the individual statues. At the end of Governor Dennis Daugaard's term, the Foundation will have only nine more statues to erect—Governors Charles H. Sheldon, Andrew Lee, Samuel Elrod, Coe Crawford, Frank Byrne, Carl Gunderson, W. J. Bulow, Archie Gubrud and Dennis Daugaard. The numbers between completed and future statues do not work out because Governor Janklow is counted twice as both the 27th and 30th governor.

The Foundation and artists John



Lopez, James Michael Maher, Lee Leuning and Sherri Treeby, and James Van Nuys have provided the people of South Dakota with an incredible gift. The governors are not portrayed so much as politicians, but as individuals who had careers before and after serving as governor. For example, the three statues unveiled this year show Governor McMaster sitting on a bench with a gas can at his feet because McMaster took on Standard Oil over high gas prices while serving as governor. Although he may not have been a fisherman, Governor Sharpe is depicted holding a prize fish because of his work getting the dams built on the Missouri River and creating the recreational fishing industry in the state. Based on a photograph,

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Field Reports

The City of Fort Pierre, Fort Pierre Development Corporation and the Fort Pierre Tourism and Promotion Council have an exciting lineup of Fort Pierre summer events, 56 to be exact! From rodeos to farmer's markets and concerts to paddleboat cruises, the summer months are going to be jam packed with something for everyone of all ages in Fort Pierre!

The Silver Spur is sponsoring a concert series. Lonestar and Westbound will perform at the Spur July 13, and Exile with Danny Hall and the Joe Creek Band August 18. Drifters Bar & Grille is hosting summer patio sessions every Thursday night with such singers and musicians as Minority Falls, Trevor Green, Lance Speers, Library Prophet, Trap Kit, Andrea Royer and Katie Dwyer.

Of course, there's the annual parade and rodeo on July 4. Trader Days will be held August 14-18, leading into and including the State 4-H Rodeo Finals. The Dakota Western Heritage Festival and Stirling Ranch Rodeo is Sept. 14-16.

Beginning June 12, Fort Pierre is once again holding their weekly Farmer's Market every Tuesday night, complete with activities, games, music and a fundraising meal.

A big event already occurred June 25-July 1, when Fort Pierre and Pierre hosted the Bassmasters Fishing Tournament. The well-known tournament has been called "the NASCAR series of fishing" with first place paying out \$100,000 and a total tournament prize of \$638,000.

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Vogt

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Governor Herseeth is portrayed wearing overalls leaning on a fence. His children said their memories of their dad were as a farmer.

The portrayal of each governor tells a story itself. People can also learn about these important leaders by using their cell phones at each statue. They give us a peek into the history of these men and an understanding of our state's political history. Governor Mellette led us from being a territory to a state. Governor Vessey founded the South Dakota Retailers Association. Progressive Governor Norbeck was a surveyor and well-driller. Governor Green illustrates the wind and grasshoppers of the "Dirty Thirties." Governors Anderson and Foss are placed outside the state government office buildings named in their honor. Governor Boe is featured with his dog, Beagle Boe. Governor Farrar is represented running because he became a triathlete in retirement. Governor Janklow is shown holding a megaphone at Spencer following the F4 tornado in 1998.

If you have not followed the Trail of Governors, I encourage you to do so. On the Saturday following this year's unveiling ceremony, the inaugural Run with the Govs took place. This fund-raising event took runners past all the existing governor statues. I participated in the four-mile run, but I walked (at a quick pace). Eighty-nine-year-old Governor Farrar ran in the event, as did Mark Mickelson, son of Governor George S. Mickelson and grandson of Governor George T. Mickelson. The Run with the Govs was a wonderful experience, but not a way I would recommend seeing the statues. However, if you follow the trail, I encourage you to also stop up at the Cultural Heritage Center and visit the museum and/or archives.

The Trail of Governors is an amazing project. Most local historical societies and museums have amazing projects, too, maybe not to the scale of the Trail of Governors, but similarly as important. Thank you for your efforts to collect, preserve, interpret and promote the local history of your community or area. Your work is greatly appreciated. jdv

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"On The Prairie: The Art of Eugene Christopherson" is an exhibit on display through Oct. 12 in the Madson/Nelson Galleries of the Fantle Building at the Center for Western Studies in Sioux Falls. In 1982, to honor "The Little House on the Prairie" television show, the East Palestine China Company commissioned South Dakota artist Eugene Christopherson to create 12 paintings for a collector's plate series. In March of 2017, the 12 original oil paintings Christopherson created for the series became part of the Center's Fine Art Collection. This series, together with several other prairie-inspired Christopherson paintings, is now on display.

The Brookings County Historical Society held a grand opening for its Horse-Drawn Museum in Volga. More than 1,000 people attended the day's events. More than 1,200 people went through the museum buildings later at Volga's Old Timers Day. The society raised funds with a silent auction of wine with a special, collectible 50th anniversary museum label "Sod Buster's Delight ... plow 'til sundown" and raffling off a painting.

The Brown County Historical Society announced its annual Historical Research and Writing Awards for Northern State University and Presentation College students in Aberdeen. First place went to Pamela Gruba (NSU) for her paper titled "The Second Wounded Knee: An Effectual Response to Centuries of Injustices." Kirby Kragenbring (PC) received second place for his paper on "Minnesota's Growth and its Contribution to a Young United States," and Chase Sievers (NSU) received third place for his paper on "The Allies of Joseph R. McCarthy." Each of the students received a certificate and a cash prize for their winning papers.

The Dalesburg Scandinavian Association hosted its 149th Midsommar at Dalesburg on June 22 at the Dalesburg Lutheran Church north of Vermillion. The day was filled with music, arts and crafts, children's games

and a ball game. They also served a Scandinavian Smorgasbord for supper.

Robert and Jo Anna Warder of Hill City are the latest recipients for the South Dakota Railroad Hall of Fame, as announced by the South Dakota State Railroad Museum in Hill City. The Warders were presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award during a special railroad history banquet in May at Mount Rushmore. The Railroad Museum has a book, "The Badlands Route," coming out this fall. The book, a partnership between author Gary Holzinger and the museum and its project partners, chronicles the construction, operations and rebirth of the Milwaukee Road's Mitchell to Rapid City line from the 1870s until today. The estimated release date of this book is Oct. 1. The museum in Hill City will be open daily from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mountain time through Oct. 14.

A bronze statue of legendary cowboy Casey Tibbs riding "The Old Grey Mare" was unveiled June 2 at the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre. The Tibbs statue was placed alongside a 2013 bronze of Billy Etbauer. Next year, a third statue, of Clint Johnson, will be added. Tibbs was a nine-time World Champion, with six of those championships in bronc riding. Etbauer won five World Champion bronc riding titles and Johnson won four. That night the center hosted the 25th annual Casey Tibbs Match of Champions, drawing more than 1,700 bronc riding fans.

The Tri-State Museum in Belle Fourche received a donation of three vintage cameras, just in time for the June 16 opening of the museum's new exhibit, "Picture That! The History of Photography." The cameras were brought to the museum by Belle Fourche resident Karen McKelvie, her daughter, Katie Satziner, and McKelvie's sister, Judy O'Connor. The cameras belonged to McKelvie and O'Connor's parents and grandfather. The new exhibit includes storyboards, photos and artifacts about the history of photography. It also includes biographical details and photos from four area photographers, including Jodi Baxendale, John Skoberg, Jon Larsen and the late Milo Dailey.