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Society starting podcast to reach new audience

Greetings to all and I hope you are enjoying your summer. We held the summer Historical Society Board of Trustees meeting on June 18th where we discussed some of our new and emerging efforts. We also welcomed new Trustees Dr. Billie Kingfisher of Vermillion and Marshall Damgaard of Sioux Falls who replaced Francis Whitebird of Mission and Jon Lauck of Sioux Falls. The staff, and some of the members of the Foundation Board and Trustees participated in several hours of strategic planning in April and May and I presented the plan's overview to the Trustees. I shared with the Trustees that as the discussions and planning developed, we realized as an organization we needed to move in three Strategic Directions in order to best serve South Dakotans and our state's history. The three strategic directions are: 1) Renewing our Vision and Purpose, 2) Engaging and Inspiring all Audiences, and 3) Developing our Culture and Encouraging Innovation. Our organization has had quite a bit of turn over in the past 24 months and many fresh eyes on issues have prompted inventive solutions.

One of our ideas supporting the strategic direction, "Engaging and Inspiring all Audiences" is producing a regularly scheduled podcast in order to make South Dakota's history more accessible to people. You can find the new podcast, "History 605" on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and on the SD Public Broadcasting web site. The show's format is based around how historians, curators, archeologists and tribal historic preservation officers do their craft with a new episode being re-



leased twice a month. I believe it's vital for the public to understand how history is produced, written or exhibited as well as about the historical events themselves. So, in that light, I ask the show's guests to share their historical question, discuss their sources, and how they came to their answer based on what they found. Each show then will be more than the story of the event, it will share how that event is thought about by professionals while doing it in an engaging and interesting way.

In that light, if you have an interesting collection or topic and have worked with it such that it's on exhibit in your museum, have produced a book or

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Field Reports

Current board members of the Grand River Museum in Lemmon include: President — Stuart Schmidt; Vice-President — Lisa Schmidt; Secretary-Treasurer and Director — Phyllis Schmidt; and Members Jim Petik, Kim Petik, John Lopez and Tottie Hotchkiss.

The museum opened in 1998 as a place to help boost Lemmon's economy by displaying fossils found locally. Now some of John Lopez's sculpture work is also displayed. Through the help of the community and other visitors, the museum was able to successfully make it through the pandemic during the past year. The museum is open daily through Oct. 1.

The Tri-State Museum and Visitor Center in Belle Fourche will hold two creative dramatics classes for young actors on July 23-24.

The first class is for students in grades K-4 and will take place on July 23. It will consist of creative dramatic games, improvs, state geography, hat characters, some script work and acting techniques. The second class, on July 24, is for students fifth grade on up. It will consist of more-advanced games, monologues, an exercise to improvise an ending to a script and acting techniques.

Each class costs \$4 per student or is free for those with a membership. Pre-registration is required and can be made by calling 605-723-1200.

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More Field Reports

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The Codington County Heritage Museum in Watertown is hosting History day events this summer. The July 8 program was about ghost towns in Codington County. On August 19, the topic is the history of Lake Kampeska, including the Kampeska Creature. On Sept. 16, guest presenter Jim Roby will discuss a town on the Missouri River that is now under Lake Oahe. Before it was flooded, it burned to the ground and its loss had a large effect on Watertown's economy.

Now through Aug. 13, the Center for Western Studies on the campus of Augustana University in Sioux Falls is hosting the exhibit "Raising Up." Coinciding with the Center for Western Studies' 53rd annual Dakota Conference theme, "Farming, Ranching and Sustainability on the Northern Plains," on Aug. 5-6, "Raising Up" recognizes regional agriculture and provides a visual interpretation of the often-overlooked necessity of feeding a population.

The Pioneer Museum in Hot Springs will have a replica of the first modern Hot Air Balloon on display during the month of August. During the Balloon Festival in Hot Springs on Saturday, August 28, the balloon will be brought out-

side if the conditions are right. This year the museum will also have two to three balloons on the lawn during the night glow on Saturday night.

Hill City is having an Auto Show and Shine from 12-3 p.m. MDT (1-4 p.m. CDT) on Saturday, Sept. 11. The event is being held on Walnut Street, across from the 1880 Train. The entry fee per vehicle is \$10, with proceeds benefitting the South Dakota State Railroad Museum.

The Dalesburg Scandinavian Association, based in Vermillion, hosted the 151st annual Midsommar at Dalesburg on June 25 and 27. Friday's celebration included entertainment, the raising of the Midsommer Pole, an arts and crafts area, children's activities and a Scandinavian meal featuring Swedish meatballs. On Sunday, people gathered for an outdoor community worship.

The Newell Museum provided information for new signage on a stretch of Highway 85 between Belle Fourche and Spearfish — the Malcolm-Matthews Highway, in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the slaying of Dave Malcolm (Butte County Sheriff) and Tom Matthews (SD DCI Agent) by serial killer George Sitts. Sitts is the last person executed by electric chair in South Dakota. A visual program of the Sitts saga is available through Tim Velder, Sundance, WY.

Three Northern State University students won awards for their entries in the Brown County Historical Society's annual research and writing contest. First place went to Greg Lux for his paper "Striking Out: Why The Homestead Strike Was A Success For No One." James Heisinger received second place for "The Presidential Election of 1876: A Legacy Forgotten," and

Laine Converse received third for "Prohibition in Omaha: Alcohol And The Rise of Organized Crime." Each of the students received a certificate and a cash prize for their winning papers.

The Grant County Historical Society based in Milbank has a couple of public events planned for August. On Friday, Aug. 6, Pastor Jerome Renville will preside on a service at Eagle's Wing Baptist Church. On Sunday, Aug. 22, there is a Potluck & Hymn Sing at Countryside Covenant Church, presided by Pastor John DePalma.

The South Dakota Air & Space Museum, just outside the gate of Ellsworth Air Force Base by Rapid City kicked off the 2021 visitor season May 15 with a "Spring Take Off Party." The event included light snacks, beverages, unique exhibits and a raffle for a ride in a WWII airplane. The museum, founded in 1983, displays over 30 historically significant aircraft representing the progress of aviation from the 1930s to the present day. Admission is free.

The museum in the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre is open extended hours through Labor Day. Museum hours are 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m. CDT (8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. MDT). The latest exhibit in the museum is "South Dakota's Wardrobe: Selected Items from the Collection." It features the Pheasant Dress, created in 1948 for the National Convention of Hairdressers and Cosmetologists, plus several items never before seen on display. Admission is now free for South Dakota residents.

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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film, or some other work, please let us know. We'd love to consider finished historical works from local museums and historical societies from around the state. And please listen to "History 605" and share it with friends. You can find it on the South Dakota Public Broadcasting website, Apple, and Spotify. We hope to reach an audience that I know is out there!

And if you are reading this and aren't yet a member of the State Historical Society, I would encourage you to do so. Just visit history.sd.gov/membership or call Membership Coordinator Jeff Mammenga at 605-773-6000 for more information.