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New Society mission statement emphasizes organization's goals

While beginning our strategic planning, the State Historical Society's leadership has revamped the Society's mission statement. We needed to stay true to the activities assigned to us in state statute, but we also sought to have a mission stated more clearly, in a more contemporary fashion, and that made certain to include all aspects of our professional and volunteer work for the Society. Most importantly we wanted to have it clearly show that we are seeking out audiences and are the place people go to learn South Dakota's stories.

The new statement reads:

"Together we empower audiences to experience South Dakota's stories. We professionally collect, preserve, interpret, and publish our history for present and future generations. We are proudly supported by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation and are an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution."

Our purpose behind each word is explained below . . .

"We" – The who and emphasizing that we are one organization doing this work together

"empower" – a strong word indicating that our resources empower people

"audiences" – a recognition of our varied audiences in and outside of South Dakota

"to experience" – implying that the audience is experiencing historical thinking and appreciating the past in engaging ways

"South Dakota's stories" – recognizing the many issues, stories, cul-



**From the SDSHS Director
Benjamin F. Jones**

tures, and narratives in SD, the Midwest, and the Great Plains

"by professionally" - this is meant to clearly express a level of quality we have in our work

"collect. . . publish" - a summation and merger of the statutorily directed activities

"our history" - the what

"for present and future generations" - the why

We also needed to acknowledge our key partner, the SDHS Foundation, which stands beside us in many aspects of what we do. And of course we're proud and want to let visitors and patrons know of our affiliation with the

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Field Reports

The South Dakota State Railroad Museum in Hill City has its annual "Trees and Trains" exhibition on display through Dec. 24. For more information please visit sdsrm.org.

The High Plains Western Heritage Center in Spearfish has a busy December. Through Dec. 23, they are hosting a Christmas Shoppers Village, featuring 17 talented artisans. On Dec. 18, they are hosting a classic Christmas movie in the Bruce Miller Theater. On the 19th a "Christmas on the High Plains" concert will be performed live, featuring Paul Larson, Allen and Jill Kirkham, Jami Lynn and Katie Lautenschlager. Earlier, on Dec. 5, another concert, "A Very Potter Christmas," featured Orion and Stacey Potter, Connie Hubbard, Chet Murray, Ray Keller and Shawn Parker. More "Musical Entertainment in the Bruce Miller Theater" on Dec. 11 featured Gary Renner and Janeen Larsen. Winter hours at the Western Heritage Center through April 30 are Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. MST.

Other Black Hills area activities include, on Dec. 18-19, Deadwood History is presenting "Christmas Tours of the Historic Adams House, as it also did on Dec. 11-12. On Dec. 4, Deadwood History had a Holiday Open House at the Days of '76 Museum. The

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Fall River County History Conference is Jan. 15 at the Mueller Civic Center in Hot Springs. For more information contact pmuseum@gwtc.net or 605-745-5147.

Current members of the Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society in Highmore include: President — Janice Cermak, Vice-President — Teresa Williams, Secretary and Correspondence Secretary — Skyla Ratzlaff, Treasurer — Sandra Cermak, and Directors — Pierre Marshall, Skyla Ratzlaff and Beth Roberts.

For this year's Old Settler's Open House, the society had a display entitled "The Farm." A member had a 12-month calendar that featured paintings of 12 common farm animals which were mounted and placed on easels on the showcases. The display continues so it can be seen by local school children.

The January "History Talk" of the Minnehaha County Historical Society will be Charles Berdahl discussing "The Life and Times of Ole Rolvaag" on Jan. 20 at the Old Courthouse Museum in Sioux Falls. Rolvaag was a novelist and professor who became well known for his writings regarding the Norwegian American immigrant experience. He is

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Smithsonian Institution and our museum programming it supports. As you may know, Bronze Society members and above receive a subscription to the Smithsonian magazine and so that adds a great deal to the value of one's membership.

Putting the statement together involved the directors and some of the Foundation Board members, and some of the Trustees also provided their thoughts. A small test group from the staff also provided their thoughts and feedback. In the end, this statement provides us a sense of focus as our work now moves on to other exciting issues.

Happy Holidays from the South Dakota State Historical Society!

most frequently associated with "Giants in the Earth."

The Center for Western Studies at Augustana University in Sioux Falls plans to publish a "New History of South Dakota," funded by a \$35,000 gift from Educator Jan Johnson and Reliabank. CWS last published a history of the state in 2005.

Thanks to the efforts of Grant County Historical Society President Arlo Levisen, donor Dr. David Johnson of Albuquerque, NM, and many society volunteers, the society has a new "Buggy Museum" in what was known as the Fogelberg Building in Stockholm. The museum features a collection of 16 different buggies, as well as a 1902 McCormick Reaper. The museum "officially" opens next spring, but it was opened up to attendees of the local American Legion Fish Fry in October and 40 people came, and there was a "Santa Day at the Buggy Museum" on Dec. 11.

Honorees at the 32nd annual Casey Tibbs Foundation Tribute Dinner held Nov. 6 in Fort Pierre included: Past Rodeo Great — Dennis Hintz, Rodeo Cowgirl Great — Jana Griesmann, Rodeo Cowboy Great — Dugan Lebeau, Rodeo Promoter — Donna Keffler, Ranch Cowboy Family — The Jess and Edie Knight Family, and Rodeo Animal Athlete — Oakie with Cash (Louie) — owned by Lisa Lockhart.

Beginning with this issue of Hoofprints, the publication schedule is changing from bi-monthly to quarterly. Issues will be published in March, June, September and December. History groups and libraries are encouraged to submit their happenings or board members to: Hoofprints, 900 Governors Dr., Pierre, SD 57501. Space will be prioritized for History Group/Library members of the South Dakota State Historical Society.



Lake County Museum

Madison museum changes name

After many years, the Smith Zimmermann Museum in Madison is changing names, rebranding as the Lake County Museum.

The LCHS Board understands that for many, the museum will always be referred to as the Smith Zimmermann, and we intend to honor that legacy. But the board felt it was time to rebrand the museum to better establish its purpose as a county-wide museum.

The new name was originally put forward by George Smith. In a 1960 meeting of the museum's members, Smith suggested the museum be called the Lake County Historical Museum. The membership overruled Smith's suggestion, naming the museum the Smith Zimmermann after George and fellow donor Lilly Zimmermann, whose gifts were responsible for the new museum building. Prior to their gifts, the collection was housed in the basement of the county courthouse. Smith and Zimmermann made the initial donations that were combined with funds from the State of South Dakota. The result was the current building that is home to the museum.

A commemorative plaque to the original donors hangs in the museum and will stay there as a tribute to the generosity and foresight of George Smith and Lilly Zimmermann.

The LCHS board is responsible for the oversight of the museum and the collection, the recording and dissemination of historical information. To better serve that mission, the board held a strategic planning session with Dr. David Kenley, Dean of the College of Arts and Science at DSU. Dr. Kenley helped the board outline long and short-term goals. The mission statement was also reviewed. The focus of the session, however, was a discussion regarding the overall purpose of the historical society and how the organization adds value back to the community and the county.

Finally, the LCHS board has voted to adopt a new logo. The above logo was designed by DSU student Jared Klinkenborg and includes an outline of Lake County.