New exhibits opening at the expanding State Museum

By Kim Jondahl, Communications & Education director

Walt Disney once said, “You can design and create, and build the most wonderful place in the world…but it takes people to make the dream a reality.” Our agency staff members have found that phrase to be true. When the galleries and hallways spaces are filled with visitors, there’s a vibrant energy throughout the building. Since the doors opened on April 28, we’ve welcomed more than 85,000 visitors to the new State Museum!

“It’s great to see the Heritage Center open and busy with kids and adults,” said Beth Campbell, visitor services coordinator with the agency. “We’re glad the public is coming in to see the amazing spaces and supporting the expansion.”

What’s new?

- Two of four museum galleries are open, as well as special exhibits in the hallway cases including the newly installed “Guns of North Dakota,” “Gems and Minerals,” and a “Recent Acquisitions” display. Coming this fall is the opening of the new James River Café featuring North Dakota foods and specialty coffees.

- Visitors can enjoy the newly opened east entrance and convenient parking in 118 new spaces on the east side of the building.

- Other new additions include cannonball concretions on the Pembina River Plaza at the new entrance. There’s also new landscaping around the building.

- An assortment of historic vehicles and large objects have been installed in the Inspiration Gallery: Yesterday and Today. The Museum Division is busy installing more than 950 artifacts in the gallery. The Inspiration Gallery and the Governors Gallery will open on November 2 during the grand opening celebration from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. We invite you to attend this celebration of a North Dakota dream that has become a reality.

Cannonball concretions donated by the Morton County Water Resource Board add character to the beautiful new Pembina River Plaza outside the Northern Lights Atrium.
A special visitor weekend highlighted two museum galleries

About 2,200 visitors enjoyed open houses for two new galleries at the State Museum. On July 26 and 27, the Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time and Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples hosted special programs and entertainment for the public.

State paleontologist retires after 25 years of “digging” his work

State Paleontologist John Hoganson, who jokes about being a “fossil” and “being around since the beginning of time,” retired from the North Dakota Geologic Survey at the end of July. Based in the ND Heritage Center, John spent 25 years as the state paleontologist, developing a fossil resource management plan, advocating for fossil resource protection legislation, creating public digs, and starting a state fossil collection from a few bones that now includes hundreds of thousands of pieces. Most recently he played a critical role in the planning, selection, and installation of fossils and specimens in the Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time. John’s impressive work over the past 33 years with the Geologic Survey has been instrumental in raising North Dakota to a place of international recognition in the field of paleontology.

“John’s passion and leadership with the state’s paleontology program has brought North Dakota into the spotlight of international prominence,” says Merl Paaverud, State Historical Society of North Dakota director. “The impact he has made with North Dakota’s fossil resources will continue to evolve for generations to come.”

Although John has retired, visitors can still catch glimpses of John at the Heritage Center as he completes research projects and finishes work in some additional areas of interest.

Fort Abercrombie hosts community expo

Blacksmith Michael Quade gave demonstrations during the Fort Abercrombie event.

Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site near Fargo hosted the Author and Artist Expo on August 2 and 3, with regional authors, artists, and crafters displaying and selling their work. Site Supervisor Lenny Krueger called the event a success, with about 450 people attending the expo.
Under the Dakota Sky: an Exhibition Celebrating 125 Years of Statehood

The North Dakota Council on the Arts, the North Dakota Art & Galleries Association, and Starion Financial are sponsoring Under the Dakota Sky: An Exhibition Celebrating 125 Years of Statehood. This exhibition opened at the North Dakota Heritage Center during the 125th statehood anniversary event on the Capitol Mall on August 16 and closes on October 23. Ninety artworks by artists with a North Dakota connection are represented in the exhibition and include traditional arts, photography, sculptures, paintings, and pottery.

This exhibit celebrates 125 years of statehood. Under the Dakota Sky showcases many of North Dakota’s finest creative personalities, including contemporary and traditional artists hailing from all corners of the state.

“This exhibit is a wonderful way for the North Dakota Council on the Arts to commemorate 125 years of statehood for North Dakota. The works of art featured here are by North Dakota artists in many disciplines, exemplify the quality and diversity of the talent within our state.” Jan Webb, former executive director of NDCA.

Under the Dakota Sky is about sharing artwork, changing perceptions, and developing images that communicate more completely the North Dakota experience. It’s about living in and creating artwork in a rural state, which can be both advantageous and challenging. It’s about appreciating these artists and recognizing what a great asset they are to our state.

Open thru October 23, 2014
North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum
Missouri River Event Center (lobby)
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. M-F; Sat. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
What does an archaeological collections assistant do? And (even more importantly) why? Here is a whirlwind review of some of the things I am involved in and why.

I do a lot of cataloging, photographing, and labeling of archaeological artifacts. North Dakota has an estimated 12 million objects in its state archaeology collection! Unless we record these objects, have a way to identify them, and can find where they are stored, it is very difficult for anyone to study, learn from, look at, or enjoy our collections. This is my favorite part of my job. You never know what you might find next.

I also catalog paperwork relating the collections to the archaeological surveys and excavations from which they were recovered. This is important because the paperwork connects the artifacts to their provenience (where the objects were found). Knowing exactly where objects were found means we can learn things about people living in certain areas of North Dakota at particular times. And knowing exactly where objects were found in relation to other artifacts and features within a site means we can form a clearer picture of how people lived and interacted with the world around them. It makes the stories that the artifacts can tell us much more detailed.

Older collections are sometimes stored in less-than-ideal boxes and materials. In the past, objects were often stored in whatever was available at the time (including window flower boxes, cigar boxes, and old newspapers). We have learned over time that older acidic materials like these (even if they look nice) affect the objects stored in them—the writing on the boxes and bags fades away and the objects stored inside these materials start to crumble or fall apart. We don’t want to lose the collection information on the boxes and bags, and we don’t want to lose the objects themselves! So re-bagging and re-boxing artifacts in archivally stable (acid-free) materials is another big part of my job.

I get to work with the archaeology volunteers too, and volunteering involves a fun variety of people and projects. The current main project is sorting objects excavated from the Larson Village site into material types so we can send them to specialists who can tell us more about them. I usually sort some of the smaller sized material, but there are amazing things to be found even there.

There is a lot of variety in this job. The recent expansion project meant that a lot of time has been devoted to planning the layout, labeling the new shelves, and moving collections to the new storage spaces. One of the most exciting parts of the expansion process was being included in some of the new exhibits planning—there was a lot of proofreading of labels and texts, documenting conditions of objects coming off and going on display, searching for new or different display objects in our collections, tracking the locations of objects, and carting objects to and from the old and new galleries. I love this because it means bringing collections out where people can see and learn about the North Dakota’s extensive past.

In summary, being an archaeological collections assistant involves a lot of documenting, sorting, and re-housing of artifacts. All this is done to help preserve North Dakota’s state archaeology collections and make them available for present and future use.
The fascinating work of repairing a tipi, with traditional artist D. Joyce Kitson

By Dakota Goodhouse, Communications & Education docent

D. Joyce Kitson, a Hunkpapa Dakota-Hidatsa traditional artist, made repairs using traditional methods to a bison hide tipi in the Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples in July. The process provided a valuable learning experience for all visitors who had opportunities to watch her work. Since 1988 Kitson has assisted the State Historical Society of North Dakota, creating educational programs on traditional hide tanning, beadwork, and quillwork of the Plains peoples.

The bison hide tipi was made in 1990 for the State Historical Society by Larry Belitz, an enrolled member of the Oglála Lakóta on the Pine Ridge Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The SHSND at one time shone big lamps within the lodge to give it a beautiful glow, but the glow dried out the hide. According to Mark Halverson, curator of collections and Research, “The lamps served only to dry the hide,” which has made it as brittle as paper. Because of its brittle condition and its popularity with visitors, the tipi began to tear. Repair work on the tear was inevitable. The tear grew daily before it could be mended and it drew attention like bears to honey. Each touch tore at the seam, until a gaping hole developed.

Enter: D. Joyce Kitson.

Kitson is an enrolled member of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. Her traditional Lakóta name is Pehí Šá Wi (Red Hair Woman), a name carried by her grandmother. Kitson is a master quillworker with works at the National Museum of The American Indian, the North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum, and various collections in the state and abroad. She also practices the traditional methods of brain-tanning hides and collecting natural earth pigments.

Kitson offers formal classes through Sitting Bull College about tanning and smoking hides. She also works through the North Dakota Council on the Arts and apprentices two to three learners each year. Her apprentices not only learn how to quill and/or tan, but she also requires them to create personal objects for themselves such as awl and quill cases.

“I’m a lifelong learner as much as I’m a teacher,” says Kitson. She is also a mother of five and taught her children as well.

Kitson’s faith permeates her crafts. She said, “A tipi is a spiritual covering. It is spiritual protection.” According to Kitson it takes six to eight hours to tan a hide depending upon how big the hide is and whether or not she has assistance. “The work shouldn’t be laborious to mend the tipi,” she says between drawing sinew through her mouth and fingers, “It should be an honor to work on these hides.”

Kitson finished patching the tipi. The hide is still visibly delicate in various places, and the Society can anticipate future repair work on it as long as the lodge is on display and within reach of the public.

Kitson shared one more thing as she repaired the lodge, “I would like to create one.”

Party draws thousands to Capitol Grounds and ND Heritage Center

The capitol lawn and Heritage Center were filled with adults and children on August 16 for a special celebration of the state’s 125th anniversary. The party showcased the best of North Dakota with home-grown entertainment, food, fine arts, and games. Entertainment included Chuck Suchy, The Burning Hills Singers, The Blenders, Mitch Malloy, Bobby Vee, Jessie Veeder, Dakota Air, Keith Bear, Kevin Locke, Greg Hager, and Tigirlily.

Hardy North Dakotans stayed through the rain for great entertainment on the outdoor stage.
On November 2, 1889, President Benjamin Harrison signed the proclamation making North Dakota the 39th state of the union. In July the State Archives of North Dakota began displaying newspapers, documents, film, and photographs that have been collected and preserved over the past 125 years from its collections. This special exhibit is located in the Sperry Gallery, near the west entrance to the Heritage Center.

Beginning in 1889 and progressing through the past 125 years, the exhibit displays newspapers featuring important moments throughout North Dakota's history. Some headlines document the local boys leaving home to go to war in 1917, the horrible heat wave of the "Dirty Thirties," the record setting blizzard of 1966, and the population boom of today.

The display also features manuscripts such as the original draft of the state constitution, letters by pioneers of North Dakota relating to statehood, and other reports dealing with the creation of North Dakota.

Moving images of the events of 1889 do not exist, but photographer Frithjof Holmboe did capture the some events of the early 1900s on film. Holmboe's film, along with other important films from North Dakota's statehood, such as the film of the original Capitol burning, are available for viewing in the gallery.

Historic photographs provide insight to the original and new Capitol buildings throughout the years of statehood. These images show the changes on and around the Capitol grounds.

In addition, the exhibit features an example of materials used to research a family history using items found at the State Archives. Thank you to Archives volunteer Erlys (Fernow) Fardal, who donated her time to research her family's history from the Enderlin area.

Please come and celebrate North Dakota's 125 years!
Expansion project receives $500,000 gift from BNSF and additional gifts from ONEOK and Neset Consulting

It is always a good day when you can announce new major donations to the expansion of the North Dakota Heritage Center. The development staff has been having some wonderful success as they move past $13 million in private donations towards the $15 million State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation goal for the project.

BNSF Railway recently donated $500,000 to the expansion project, with additional major gifts coming from ONEOK ($250,000) and Neset Consulting Service ($110,000).

Governor Jack Dalrymple announced the gifts on July 31 in the Northern Lights Atrium of the Heritage Center. He was joined by John Miller, BNSF vice president of Agricultural Commodities, Dick Vande Bossche, director of project development for ONEOK, and Kathy Neset, president of Neset Consulting Service. Receiving the gifts were Merle Paaverud, State Historical Society director, and Marlo Sveen and Karl Lembke of the Society’s Foundation.

“The new North Dakota Heritage Center is a wonderful gift to all North Dakotans, as well as future generations, and the success of this project has been the result of the public and private sectors working together to make it happen,” said Gov. Jack Dalrymple. “Today, we add three additional companies to the list of partners who are supporting this expansion project – Neset Consulting Services, ONEOK Partners, and BNSF. We thank them for their generous donations and for their continued investment in our great state.”

BNSF is sponsoring the Hub of History near the Northern Lights Atrium. The Hub of History is a one-stop venue for visitors seeking information about the ND Heritage Center & State Museum, state historic sites, and tourism destinations and events. ONEOK is providing $250,000 to sponsor the First Arrivals exhibit in the Innovation Gallery: Early Peoples, and the $110,000 from Neset Consulting Services will sponsor the Extinction and Climate Change exhibit in the Adaptation Gallery: Geologic Time.

“The Foundation is truly grateful for these gifts,” said Marlo Sveen, development director with the State Historical Society of North Dakota Foundation. “The participation of these three companies has pushed us above the $13 million mark. A number of other naming opportunities are still available, and we’re excited to offer other businesses and individuals a part in completing this project.”

Check it out!
statehistoricalfoundation.com
September 3
Annual Education Field Day. Area students learn more about the site through hands-on activities, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the SHSND and the Whitestone Hill Battlefield Historical Society. Whitestone Hill State Historic Site. For more, contact Diane Rogness, 701.328.3508.

September 6–7

September 8
22nd Annual Living History Field Day. $2 per student, public free. Fort Totten State Historic Site, 701.766.4441.

September 11

September 13
State Archives open Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in addition to regular weekly hours of M-F 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 701.328.2666.

September 13–14
History Alive! featuring Arch Ellwein as James Liberty Fisk at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. CDT. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

Visit our SHSND booths at the following events.

- September 4-7
  United Tribes Powwow in Bismarck
- September 17-20
  ND State Library Association in Bismarck
- September 30-October 4
  Norsk Hostfest in Minot

September 14
Flag-lowering ceremony with the 6th Infantry at Fort Buford State Historic Site, 701.572.9034.

September 15
North Dakota State Historic Sites transition to winter hours.

September 15
The Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center begins winter hours through May 15, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mountain Time.

September 15
The Former Governors’ Mansion State Historic Site begins winter hours through May 15, second Friday and Saturday of each month, 1 to 5 p.m.

September 15
The Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center begins winter hours through May 15, Wednesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. Central Time. Fort Buford closed for the season.

September 15
The Pembina State Museum begins winter hours through May 15, Mondays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. Central Time.

September 15–October 31
Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site begins new hours through October 31, Thursday-Saturday and Monday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Central Time.

September 19–20
Quilting at the Confluence, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monthly meeting at the Confluence. All experience levels invited and instruction provided. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

September 21
Concert at the Confluence, 3 p.m. Enjoy a Concert at the Confluence featuring Open Range. Free refreshments. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

September 27
Fort Rice State Historic Site Program, hosted by the ND Archaeological Association. This day-long event will begin
at the ND Heritage Center and continue at Fort Rice State Historic Site in the afternoon. Free and open to public. For more, visit ndarchaeology.org.

October

October 5
**Sensational Sunday program: UND Department of Music String Quartet,** 2 p.m. ND Heritage Center

October 9

October 10
**North Dakota State Genealogical Society meeting,** 1-3 p.m., State Archives, ND Heritage Center. For more, contact Greg Wysk at 701.328.2541 or email gwysk@nd.gov.

October 11
**State Archives open Saturday,** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in addition to regular weekly hours of M-F 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 701.328.2666.

October 11 - 12
**Former Governors’ Mansion State Historic Site open,** 1 to 5 p.m. Free admission. Located in Bismarck at the corner of Fourth Street and Avenue B, 701.328.9528.

October 16 - 17
**North Dakota Studies Teacher Workshop** introducing the new 8th Grade Curriculum. ND Heritage Center. Contact Neil Howe at nhowe@nd.gov.

October 17 - 18
**Quilting at the Confluence,** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join the Confluence Quilters monthly meeting at the Confluence. All experience levels invited and instruction provided. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

October 18
**Fort Buford Cemetery Walk,** 6:30-9 p.m. Tours of the cemetery and ghost stories. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

October 19
**Concert at the Confluence,** 3 p.m. Enjoy a **Concert at the Confluence** featuring Pella Flutes and Renata, a female singing group from Fairview. Free refreshments. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

October 23 - 26
**Haunted Fort** for ages 12 and up. Nightly 7-11 p.m., Fee $10/adults, $5/ages 12-17, Fort Totten State Historic Site, 701.766.4441.

November

November 1 - February 28
**Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site begins new visiting hours,** by appointment only. For more, call 701.797.3691.

November 2

November 3
**State Historical Board meeting,** 9 a.m., North Dakota Heritage Center, Board Room. 701.328.2666.

November 3
**SHSND Foundation Board Meeting,** 10:30 a.m., North Dakota Heritage Center, Foundation Board Room. 701.222.1966.

November 8, 2014
**State Archives open Saturday,** 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in addition to regular weekly hours of M-F 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 701.328-2666.

November 8 - 9
**Former Governors’ Mansion State Historic Site open,** 1 to 5 p.m. Free admission. Located in Bismarck at the corner of Fourth Street and Avenue B, 701.328.9528.

November 11
**Veterans Day. State offices closed in observance of Veterans Day. Pembina State Museum, North Dakota Heritage Center, Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, and Chateau de Mores State Historic Site Interpretive Center open.**

November 13

November 14 - 15
**Quilting at the Confluence,** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Join the Confluence Quilters monthly meeting at the Confluence. All experience levels invited and instruction provided. Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, 701.572.9034.

November 27
**Thanksgiving. State offices closed. North Dakota Heritage Center, Pembina State Museum, Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, and Chateau de Mores State Historic Site Interpretive Center closed.**

November 29 - 30
**Sleigh Rides at Fort Totten State Historic Site. Each weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more contact Nick Gronseth 701.766.4441.**

December

December 6
**A Taste of Ethnic Christmas,** in conjunction with Medora’s Old Fashioned Cowboy Christmas, Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center, Medora, 701.623.4355.

December 6 - 7
**Sleigh Rides** at Fort Totten State Historic Site. Each weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas. For more contact Nick Gronseth 701.766.4441.
State Historic Board met in New Town

The State Historical Board, following their July 11 meeting in New Town, ND, visited the Crow Flies High State Recreation Area. Visible in the background is Beacon Island, a Paleoindian site dating to 12,000 years ago. The Beacon Island story can be found in the Adaptation Gallery: Early Peoples exhibits. Some of the meeting attendees, l to r, are: Sara Otto Coleman, North Dakota Tourism director and Historical Board member; Merl Paaverud, State Historical Society director; Chris Johnson, Museum Division director; Ann Jenks, state archivist; Dave Skalsky, State Historical Society assistant director; Diane Larson, Historical board member; Calvin Grinnell, Historical Board president; Fern Swenson, Archaeology and Historic Preservation Division director.

Senator Heitkamp honors SHSND director

On August 11, 2014, United States Senator Heidi Heitkamp presented State Historical Society Director Merl Paaverud with a copy of the US Congressional Record she submitted to recognize Paaverud’s thirty years of service to the agency. He will retire on November 14, 2014, leaving a legacy of progress with the agency. Senator Heitkamp referred to the ND Heritage Center & State Museum as the state’s “epicenter of education and history.” Paaverud stated, “I’ll be moving on in November, but part of my heart will be here.”

Two tour active Air Force missile site

On July 24 staff from the Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile State Historic Site traveled to an active Air Force missile site near Minot, ND. Site Supervisor Guinn Hinman and Assistant Site Supervisor Nathaniel Clifton were taken via Blackhawk helicopter with the National Guard to the Delta One Missile Alert Facility. “I’ve wanted to do this for years,” Clifton said.

“It’s amazing how much the sites are the same,” said Hinman. “In some areas the only differences we could spot were the newer computers and flat screen TVs.”

After touring the grounds and topside facilities, they toured the launch control center below ground and spoke with the missileers on alert. Hinman said the best part is “knowing that at Oscar Zero we are telling the story of what really happened and what is still out there in Minot. We really provide a unique glimpse into a very integral part of the Cold War and our current missile defense system.”

Expanded store offers new merchandise

Since the Museum Store opened in its new space in the expanded ND Heritage Center & State Museum, Store Manager Rhonda Brown has added a plethora of new merchandise: “Our new space has almost doubled, so now we can showcase many more North Dakota artists and products.” Among the new selections are items promoting the 125th anniversary of North Dakota statehood. You can also shop in our museum stores at the following places managed by the State Historical Society: Chateau de Mores Interpretive Center, Ronald Reagan Minuteman Missile Site, Missouri-Yellowstone Confluence Interpretive Center, Gingras State Historic Site, Fort Abercrombie State Historic Site, Fort Totten State Historic Site, and the Pembina State Museum.
GRAND
ND Heritage Center & State Museum
OPENING!

Sunday, Nov. 2
10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

View 600 million years of history on display in FOUR NEW GALLERIES!

Join us for a roaring good time.

November 2 Events
ND HERITAGE CENTER & STATE MUSEUM

12 p.m.
RIBBON CUTTING & CEREMONY with ND Governors

12:30 p.m.
Gov. Jack Dalrymple opens two new museum galleries

FREE entertainment all day
Including Chuck Suchy, Debi Rogers, Steve Stark, Greg Hager, Kevin Locke, Virgil Benoit, Arch Ellwein, David & Gabe Brien, Elks Chorus, Heritage Singers, children’s activities, and more!

2:40 p.m.
Special tribute to North Dakota’s 125th anniversary of statehood

6-7 p.m.
Free Concert with Jessie Veeder and Gene Veeder

Find a full event schedule at history.nd.gov/125

State Capitol Grounds, Bismarck

HISTORY FOR everyone.
Our Mission:
To identify, preserve, interpret, and promote the heritage of North Dakota and its people.

Heritage Center’s copper architecture wins North American award

The North Dakota Heritage Center & State Museum is the recent recipient of a 2014 North American Copper in Architecture Award, sponsored by the Copper Development Association, Inc. and the Canadian Copper and Brass Development Association. The expansion project includes beautiful copper panels outside of the new entrance and on select interior walls. While the interior panels have been sealed to remain in the color variations of copper pennies, the exterior pieces are unsealed and will naturally oxidize to a dark patina.