

May
2024

Vol. 06 Edition 3

HOW TIME FLIES...

Monthly News & Events

HIGH PLAINS WESTERN HERITAGE CENTER SPEARFISH, SD



Setting the Stage

From Exec.
Director
Karla Scovell



Spring has sprung and summer is soon upon us. And there are so many positive things going on the HPWHC these days it's hard to keep up.

I'm especially glad to welcome Chet Murray back to our front desk for the summer. He'll be helping out with administrative work and doing a pretty fair amount of welcoming folks to the HPWHC this summer as the buses return this month. We are all certainly blessed that Chet's recovery from a motorcycle accident has progressed in ways we hardly thought possible! Also, we are happy to welcome our new curator, Scott Gambino! (See the article to the right).

Our May calendar is full as we welcome in a record number of school children, more than 300, who will be here from six regional schools. This fulfills our mission of being a center for education and we are excited about that.

If you can join us for *High Plains Live!* with Allen and Jill Kirkham on Sunday, May 19. General admission is \$10 and reserved seats are \$15. It's so good to see Allen 'back in the saddle' after being sidelined with a severe motorcycle accident a year ago. We are blessed to have you guys returning!

And the day before that, on Saturday, May 18th, Dick Termes will be here with author Craig Volk. They will present Dick's new book about his unique artistry and vision! We hope to see you this month!

High Plains Western Heritage Center Hires New Curator

Help us welcome Scott Gambino from Casper, WY.

The High Plains Western Heritage is pleased to announce the hiring of Scott Gambino as its new Curator. Gambino comes to the HPWHC from Casper, Wyoming. He graduated from the University of Wyoming with major in history and a minor in museum studies. Gambino also attended Casper College with an Associates of Arts degree in Museum studies and history.

"Scott has really hit the ground running, working with our volunteers, getting to know our displays, and our system of record keeping," said Karla Scovell, HPWHC Executive Director. "I'm really impressed with his love for the history represented here and how he dove right in to getting to know the people and the area."

Gambino's job responsibilities will include developing museum displays, using his extensive



Scott Gambino began work as the Center's new curator in mid-April. He is seen here beginning catalog work on a rare 19th century Hoyt's German Cologne hand-blown glass bottle.

knowledge of the Past Perfect software to ensure museum artifacts are preserved and properly documented, giving guided tours and helping with bus tours and special events.

As Gambino recalls it, his love of history was kindled by a social studies teacher he had in

middle school. Then in college, he did an internship at Ft. Casper and the Veterans Museum in Casper. "They really just took me under their wing." It was during that time that he developed a special interest in the work that goes on behind the scenes.

"At any museum there are exhibits. But what happens to make an exhibit come to life is what I'm passionate about," Gambino said. "There's the research and then the putting of the information into a database. This helps to find a cohesive set of artifacts that can be put together to make an exhibit that makes sense. I really love that."

Scott's first job out of college was working for the newly-created National Park Service at the Quebec-one Missile Alert Facility State Historical Site north of Cheyenne. He did the initial set up of the exhibits for the site. Following that prior to coming to HPWHC, Gambino worked at the National Museum of Military Vehicles in DuBoise, Wy.

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Award-winning duo Allen & Jill Kirkham Return for *High Plains Live!* May 19



Western and Gospel music will be the theme when Allen & Jill Kirkham take the stage in our Bruce Miller theater on Sunday, May 19th. They feature singer-song writer Allen Kirkham on vocals, yodels, guitar and mandolin, and Jill Kirkham on vocals, story teller, bass, and harmonica. Allen & Jill are 5-Time International Western Music Association (IWMA) Top 5 Nominees, and 2015 Cowboy Idol Winners!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday May 18 - 1:00PM

Book Presentation

Author Craig Volk will join Black Hills artist Dick Termes for the presentation of the brand new book “Dick Termes - Black Hills Artist and Visionary.” The event will feature a discussion of some of Dick’s works and be followed by a book signing. Admission by donation.

Sunday May 19 - 2:00PM

High Plains Live! - Allen & Jill Kirkham

An Afternoon of Cowboy & Gospel Music
\$10 General / \$15 for Reserved
Sponsored by: South Dakota Arts Council and Perkins Family Restaurant

For additional events check our website:
WesternHeritageCenter.com/upcoming-events

Tues. June 11 & Tues. June 25 5:30PM

Cowboy Supper Show 2024!

Chuckwagon buffet and cowboy music
Featuring Orion & Stacy Potter
\$35 Call (605) 642-9378 for reservations
72 hours in advance.

Sunday June 23 - 2:00PM

High Plains Live! - Carol Markstrom

Award-Winning Western Singer-Songwriter Carol Markstrom performs. Her songs tap into Americana, Western Roots, Folk, and Country.
Admission: \$15 for Reserved, \$10 At the Door

Sunday June 30 - 1:30PM

Debra Christofferson Movie Career Presentation & Reception

This will be a day to highlight the movie career of Spearfish’s own Deb Christofferson. Hosted by Paul Higbee. Includes the showing of “Mouse Hunt.”

Sunday July 21 - 2:00PM

Annual Day of the American Cowboy

Featuring cowboy musician Paul Larson and cowboy poet Ken Cook.
Sponsored by South Dakota Arts Council
Admission by Donation

Tues. Sept. 10 & Tues. Sept. 17 5:30PM

Cowboy Supper Show 2024!

Chuckwagon buffet and cowboy music
Featuring: Allen & Jill Kirkham (Sept 10)
Orion & Stacy Potter (Sept 17)
Tickets are \$35 Adults Youth \$17.50
Call (605) 642-9378 for Reservations

Sunday Sept. 29 - 2:00PM

HPWHC Annual Fundraiser

Featuring Kerry Grombacher & Aspen Black
Tickets \$50 | Dessert Bar by Cheyenne Crossing



825 Heritage Drive | Spearfish, SD 57783

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Since coming to Spearfish in mid-April Gambino has enjoyed meeting the volunteers and getting to know the museum and the rich history of the five-state Black Hills region. “It’s so beautiful here and to be able to be a proper steward of the history here is amazing,” he said.

For Gambino, history in its most basic form, is the telling of stories through artifacts and preserving them for future generations. “I see museums kind of like libraries,” he said. “They are a pillar of education in the community. A place where people can come and learn.”

This month the HPWHC will see a record number of school children from across the region visiting the Center on schoolyear ending field trips. He is espe-

cially looking forward to that.

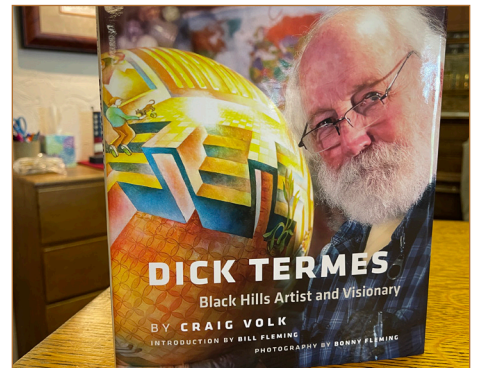
“The kids may not understand the history just yet,” he said. “But if we give them the spark of history to say, ‘oh yea, that was cool,’ maybe later in life that spark will give way to an even greater interest.”

Just like what happened to Scott. Indeed, history can, and does, repeat itself.

SUMMER HOURS IN EFFECT!

We have resumed summer hours. We are open Monday through Saturday 9am until 4pm. And we are open Sundays from 1pm until 4pm. Come see us soon!

May Newsletter Contributors:
Western Sky Media



Dick Termes Book Signing May 18

Join us for the presentation and book signing with Black Hills artist Dick Termes at 1:00pm on Saturday May 18. The book “Dick Termes: Black Hills Artist and Visionary” is written by Craig Volk who will also be on hand on the 18th.