**Setting the Stage**

**From Exec. Director Karla Scovell**

One would think that with summer winding down, the Heritage Center would be also. However, for us it’s just the opposite. September will again be one of our busiest months of the year with bus groups from the Institute for Educational Travel, Diamond Tours and Collette Travel. We will enjoy more Cowboy Supper Shows for Collette, Wendt Tours and Deadwood Gulch as well. Gordy Pratt and Joyce Jefferson will perform historical characters for the Road Scholars numerous times throughout the month for guests from all over the nation and world who come for the famous Buffalo Round Up.

In addition to buses and performances, we will have the honor of hosting some very distinguished guests. These include the SD Library Association, the reunion of the “Belvoir Nukes” which is a group of veterans from Fort Belvoir, VA who will come from around the nation having served our country during the times of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

September kicks off our monthly High Plains Live Concert Series as well. On September 22, at 2:00 pm we will host Brent Morris and the Western Acoustics along with Jim Thompson as our MC! Be sure to see our Events Calendar for details and for future events to mark your calendar for.

As always, our priceless volunteers will be putting in countless hours for which we owe a debt of gratitude. Gordy, Dalyce, Joyce and Cheyenne Crossing never miss a beat with the rigorous schedule we have given them and our Staff just steps up to the plate no matter what the need is. We are so fortunate to work with every one of them!

Happy Labor Day! God Bless all of you and God Bless America!

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**HPWHC Profile**

**A “Jim” of All Trades**

Former physician’s assistant now oversees seasonal facility maintenance at HPWHC.

High Plains Western Heritage Center is blessed in many ways. Our founders chose a wonderful location with a spectacular view of Spearfish valley and three states. They also envisioned and built an impressive facility that has become something of a regional landmark.

The expansive museum boasts more than 20,000 square feet of exhibit area and a large basement for storage and a workshop. There’s also an historic one-room schoolhouse, a log cabin homestead, and a variety of farm/ranch equipment – all located on nearly 50 acres of land overlooking Spearfish.

Of course, the heart of the Western Heritage Center can be found in its diverse exhibits and artifacts that populate the main floor and second story of the museum. Maintaining our building and its surrounding property is a big job!

Leading the charge in this task is 70-year-old Jim Bohl of Belle Fourche, a retired physician’s assistant with seemingly boundless energy. Hired in May as our seasonal facilities manager, Jim focuses on taking care of the building and troubleshooting problems that occur, and “basically doing what needs to be done,” he adds.

The oldest of six kids, Jim was born in North Dakota and grew up on a ranch near Woodworth. But all of early schooling was at Pine Forest Academy, a boarding school nestled in the wooded area near Chunky, Mississippi.

“It was a great experience. I worked half a day and went to school half a day. That’s where I learned logging,” he says. He graduated in 1967.

The Vietnam War had flared up, and Jim was facing the draft. Instead, he enlisted in the Army and volunteered to be a Medic. He was sent to Fort Sam Houston, Texas to complete both Basic and Advanced Individual Training, followed by an 18-month stint at Schofield Barracks on Oahu Island in Hawaii.

“By 1972, I had married and was working as a hospital orderly in Jamestown. Our daughter Julee was born in nearby Medina.”

It was an era when physician’s assistants were gaining popularity in the medical profession. He applied to the new program at the University of Utah School of Medicine and was among the 15 selected to attend from more than 2,000 applicants. He graduated with the third class in the two-year program of the “MEDEX Demonstration Project” in 1974. The Bohl’s then moved to Colorado.

Jim Bohl’s career blossomed in southwest Colorado. The only physician’s assistant for a five-doctor group, he performed duties in ER (Emergency Room). When my enlistment ended after two years, I left the Army as a Corporal and went home to North Dakota.

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Jim returned to the Dakotas, first spending time with his ailing mother in North Dakota, and later moving to Belle Fourche. He served more than 22 years as a physician’s assistant at the Belle Fourche

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SEPTEMBER

Tuesday September 17th  6:30pm
“Our United States Constitution”
The HPWHC is hosting the Lawrence County GOP for this informative and inspiring program on our United States Constitution. This event is free and open to the public.

Sunday, September 22nd  2:00pm
High Plains Live! with:
Brent Morris and the Western Acoustics
Tickets: $10 General Admission / $15 for reserved seating. You’ll love their classic country and folk music tunes. We’ll have door prizes and refreshments as always!

OCTOBER

Saturday October 26th at 5:30pm
HPWHC Annual “Friendraiser”
5:30pm Social Hour with catering by Cheyenne Crossing
7:00pm Showtime!
Tickets: $50 / Limited VIP: $100
(VIP includes private meet and greet, CD, T-shirt -10 available)

NOVEMBER

Monday November 11th at 1:00pm
Annual Veterans Day Program
Col. Mike Kain will emcee. Orion & Stacy Potter and Company will perform. Open to the public. Minimum $10 donation suggested with proceeds going to the Spearfish Veterans Monument.
Sponsored by: First Interstate Bank

Sunday November 17th at 2:00pm
High Plains Live! with:
Buffalo Grass & Kim Plender
Tickets: $10 General Admission / $15 for reserved seating. Back by popular demand with their unique style from cowboy to contemporary. We’ll have door prizes and refreshments as always!

825 Heritage Drive  |  Spearfish, SD 57783

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Medical Clinic before retiring about two years ago.
Interestingly, medicine has figured prominently in the Bohl family. Of Jim’s three sisters, one is a nurse, one works for the Little Debbie Plant in Chattanooga, TN and the other is an optician. And of his six children, daughter Julee is a physical therapist, son Jamison is a physician, daughter Ashtyn is a physician’s assistant, while her twin sister Aubrey is a worship leader for a church in Colorado. Hallie works as a business manager for a company in eastern South Dakota, while younger son, Kuper had been in Special Forces in the US Army and is now stationed at Fort Polk, Louisiana. He is also proud to be the grandfather to 8 grandchildren!

Jim continues to live in Belle Fourche. When he is not working around his small ranch, gardening or working with his horses, you can bet he’s out hunting! We enjoy hearing about Jim’s adventures and our guests enjoy his warm personality. Jim keeps on top of our physical plant and grounds so that our many guests can enjoy their visit to the High Plains Western Heritage Center!
Be sure to say “Hello” to Jim when you come by!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Our HPWHC Annual Friendraiser
Saturday, October 26th

August Newsletter Contributors:
Western Sky Media, Inc.
Larry Miller

Thank you to Royal Elwood of Royal Electric who installed our new lights in the Transportation Room! The funds were raised during Day of the American Cowboy. A big thanks to Joe and Jan Spiller for donating proceeds of their book sale to the lighting project.