

The Smithsonian is coming!

The Smithsonian is coming. Yes, that's right. The world-famous Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, is coming to the Hettinger area via a traveling exhibit, *Key Ingredients: America by Food*.

Such exhibits are possible, says Bonnie Smith, Hettinger Area Key Ingredients Steering Committee chair, through MoMS (Museums on Main Street), one of the Smithsonian's outreach programs to areas that may not otherwise have access to high quality exhibits of this level, and through the North Dakota Humanities Council. Support for Museum on Main Street exhibits has also been provided by the United States Congress.

It started with the sanction of the Dakota Buttes Historical Society/Museum, the official historical society of Adams County and with a grant proposal written a year and a half ago, says Smith, and will culminate in a six-week exhibit at the Dakota Buttes Museum open May 5 through June 17, 2012, highlighting the eclectic development of the cultural history of food in the United States of America.

The exhibit will be presented in five themes: Land of Plenty, Local Flavors, Dynamic Delivery, A Festival of Feasts, and Home Cooking. Each theme is presented in a multiple-element kiosk that explores the connections between Americans and the foods they produce, prepare, preserve, and present at table, giving a provocative and thoughtful look at the historical, regional and social traditions that merge in everyday meals and celebrations.

Through the support of the North Dakota Humanities Council, several MoMS exhibits have traveled across the state, but this is the first time the *Key Ingredients: America by Food* exhibit will be available to North Dakota. Six sites in the state were

chosen to host the *Key Ingredients: America by Food* exhibit, with Hettinger, one of the six. "It's an honor that brings with it much work," says Smith. The other five towns are Cavalier, Watford City, Valley City, Williston, and New Rockford.

According to Program Director Rita Becker, because of strong community and county support, the Hettinger Area Key Ingredients Steering Committee is well on its way in preparations for the exhibit.

Five general sub-committees are at work for the big event: Finance, Marketing/Advertising, Program, Education, and Exhibition Hosts. Steering Committee and sub-committee members at present are Betty Svihovec, Allen McIntyre, Jill Ericcson, Wesley Cvach, Rita Becker, Peg Gunther, Marissa Woroniecki, Pat Mattson, LaNae Kristy, Kathleen Thompson, Beth Thorngren, Ceil Anne Clement, Mark Nelson, Howard Nelson, Heather Ebert, Julie Kramlich, Lyn Hendry, Judy Johnson, Becky Holzkamm, Bonnie Smith and others. "Please contact us," says Smith, "if you can share your time or talents in this extensive project."

Some of the events planned before and during the six-week exhibit are Dakota Discussions, Soup Wars, Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies, a High Tea, coffee klatches, a Western BBQ and numerous youth projects, events and activities at the Hettinger School and in Adams County 4-H clubs and Scout troops.

Local support for this exhibit comes from the Hettinger Chamber of Commerce, the Clothes Closet, the Dakota Buttes Visitors Council and the Dakota Buttes Historical Society/Museum and others.

The *Key Ingredients: America by Food* exhibit is free and open to the public.