

2010 Legal and Public Notices

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Art

FROM PAGE 1A

“Gabe Newell is the founder and CEO of Valve,” Caleb said. “They make games, but they also made this software that allows you to download a bunch of games. Everybody loves it. His sales are outrageous. They say if you're lucky enough you can find a 90 percent off sale. I saw it once.”

Caleb's usual art medium is pencil, even using one of his own pencil sketches of Newell to model for his chalk portrait.

“I did more chalk when I was younger,” he said. “I know my mom's good at chalk.”

Elliza, 11, had a more abstract art style.

“I'm just doodling,” she said swirling multi-colored chalk over her sidewalk square. “I just like using the swirl and two colored chalk. I love drawing with chalk.”



SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Kids of all ages enjoyed a lovely day letting their imagination translate from their minds to the sidewalk through colorful chalk and vibrant starch paint as part of National Library Week activities at the Vermillion Public Library.

Elliza's everyday artwork varies according to her.

“I like drawing shadows of people,” she said. “I can't draw my own shadow though, because I move too

much.”

Elliza's imagination often plays a part in her creations.

“I like just closing my eyes and scribbling and turning it into something,”

Auction

FROM PAGE 2A

making these pieces,” she said. “I had, like, 10 kids once and no one was talking, they were so into the painting. It was incredible.”

The art auction comes at the end of National Library Week.

The auction will also take part during the National Library Week Big Bash from 2-3 p.m. at the library where the library staff will have some big announcements.

“We have some other teen programming we're going to run a loop of, but I don't want to tell what it is yet,” Knedler said. “Susan has been working on another project that we're also going to unveil at the reception. There are kids involved in it. It's something she's been working on this past week.”

For more information, contact the library at 605-677-7060 or visit www.vermillionpubliclibrary.org.

Kober Honored With National Award

By Shauna Marlette
shauna.marlette@plaintalk.net

Unlike most adults, Lori Kober found her life's calling at a young age, eighth grade in fact.

That calling, serving the public and helping them through the difficult time of a loved one's death by serving as a funeral home director later became her passion. That passion and dedication was recently honored when she was awarded the Amos Kendall Award, a national award presented in recognition of a deaf person for notable excellence in a professional field not related to deafness by the Laurent Clerc Cultural Fund.

“I got the letter last December informing me I had been chosen,” Kober said. “I was speechless. It meant the world to me knowing I can make a difference as a deaf person.”

Today, Lori is believed to be the only licensed deaf



COURTESY PHOTO

female mortician, funeral director and funeral home owner in the United States.

She is an active member of state and national organizations in her field, regularly presenting at professional conferences, as well as teaching and mentoring apprentice morticians on embalming techniques, cosmetology and mortuary science.

According to Daphne Cox, who presented Kober with the award, Lori is an inspiration because she

she said.

Brandon, 8, used history lessons from school as inspiration for his chalk art, drawing the original American flag with a few adjustments.

“It's the 13 states before the 50 states of America,” he said. “They didn't have any red, so I did a different color.”

The flag's design wasn't the only thing Brandon remembered from his history lessons.

“We learned how the king had unfair taxes, so that's how the revolutionary war began,” he said.

The variety of artwork on the sidewalk in front of the library was impressive.

From portraits to landscapes to decorative words and signatures, kids of all ages had a good time.

“I'm coloring inside the bubbles,” said Mary, 8. “Sometimes, when the sun reflects back onto real bubbles they are colorful.”

Mary also enjoys drawing with markers, crayons, pencils, colored pencils and paint of all kinds.

German

FROM PAGE 1A

summer were the first group to make the trip.

“It was kind of scary because I didn't have anyone to ask what it was like,” Westergaard said. “We went the end of May to the beginning of June. It was definitely different. I asked one of the head government officials what their thoughts on guns were, and they were like, ‘Oh, no.’ Their fishing and driving licensing is different because you have to apply, similar to paddle fishing. It was great driving on the Autobahn because there are no speed limits.”

Westergaard said that his host student, Clemens, was surprised that in South Dakota you could get your drivers license at age 14 and how cheap the cost was. In Germany potential drivers licenses can cost as much at \$1,500 and require you to be age 18.

“It was eye-opening being there,” Hackemer said. “It was very freeing being there. It feels almost more like being a grown up. They are allowed to do everything younger, like the drinking age.”

Westergaard said the students' grasp of the German language was greatly increased by visiting the country.

“I had a lot of the core stuff learned, but the slang and how to properly use it in sentences was big,” he said. “It is around you 24-7. I had two years of German and in three weeks I felt I learned so much more, because you are using it all the time.”

When speaking to the younger VHS students who will be traveling to Ratingen in the future, the current five offered a few words of advice.

“Roll with the punches,” said Fuller. “Stuff can happen a lot and it can make you not feel comfortable. But just go

with it because you will have a lot of fun.”

Mockler added that all of the German students have been taking English classes since they were very young.

In addition, Fuller and Mockler said the entire exchange program would not have been possible without the hard work of their teacher, Mrs. Dibley.

“She is the one that contacted the other school and got all of this going,” Fuller said. “It has been incredible. She has been like a second mom.”

THE GERMAN EXPERIENCE

“It has been amazing,” said Clemens. “We live in a city where they live in a town. It is much bigger, 90,000 people. I have never been on a farm before. Here, everyone lives in a house, in Germany most live in flats.”

Lihn, who is staying with Mockler, commented that the roads are much larger here in South Dakota. She also noted that the foods are very cheesy.

“People here are so open minded,” Lihn said. “They try to include everybody. Sports and extra curriculars are a very important part of school here.”

She added that the new experiences have been fun. She also noted that the relationships between teachers and students are better in Vermillion because the class sizes are much smaller, allowing them to get to know each other better.

Aline, staying with Freidel, said in some ways, she doesn't want to go back.

“It is amazing to be here,” she said. “We have the chance to try and see new things. I really like it.”

Christina, staying with Hackema, said she has enjoyed the car rides and the food in Vermillion.

Since being in Vermillion, the students have visited Sioux Falls, the Missouri River and they have traveled to the Black Hills and Mount Rushmore, among other field trips in the area.

The 10 students who will

be hosting next summer say they are looking forward to sharing their community and school with their new friends.

A TEACHING IDEA

“GAPP, for me, is the ideal program for language learners,” said Dibley. “It is funded by both the German and American government. The majority of the money comes from the students and parents and any fundraising we do. We, as teachers, do get stipends to cover some of the expenses like the flight.”

She explained that part of the program requirements is that you have a partner school.

“I had known about the program for a few years, but I had waited until I had some contacts in Ratingen,” she said. “That was my goal to start the long-term relationship with another school. In 2009, it was our sesquicentennial and a group of 35 musicians from Ratingen came. I helped find hosts for them and became friends with their director. The next summer, I was going to visit Germany and I emailed the director of that group and said I was coming to visit and I would love to make contacts there. He set up the meeting with the school.”

From there Dibley and teachers Tanja Blum-Campa and Mona Jung worked with GAPP to develop the exchange program between the schools.

Dibley said the excitement of planning for friends to come visit, after they opened their homes and school to her last summer has been an enjoyable experience.

“I want to reciprocate and give them a similar experience, and make them feel as welcome as we did when we were there,” she said. “I told the five students who went last summer, and the 10 students who will go next year, when the year started that we were going to be the central committee of planning this event. It has been very

exciting to see the parents and students come together and try to show them what our community is.”

Campa-Blum said the trip has been inspiring.

“We were honored to give them new experiences,” she said. “It is kind of like a déjà vu because we learned a lot about Vermillion last year from the students who visited us, and we came here with very high expectations. Now it is like coming to a place we have talked about for such a long time. Every little detail is very exciting, not just the big things, the little things like how it smells and looks and sounds.”

Campa-Blum added that as a teacher the entire trip has been a learning experience.

“It has been very inspiring for us because we come to American and we get to see how our students develop and how the American students develop,” she said. “It is very rewarding for a teacher to see them making friends with other people like this.”

Jung added that the welcome of the teachers at VHS has been incredible, as well.

“The teachers are so nice and want us to share our differences in cultures,” she said. “The best thing for me is it was as if I came to a second home. For us teachers, not only our students, we are learning a lot we can tell our students in Germany. The students are bound together so we can relax and enjoy the experience.”

Both teachers said that even while in Vermillion they are engaging with their students in Germany.

“It is a big deal for the schools,” Jung said. “At home, we have a blog where everyone wants to participate. We are getting a lot of messages asking for us to please show them this or that. It is really an experience for everyone.”

Campa-Blum noted that the parents both in Vermillion and in Ratingen, have been very supportive.

“It is very important for me because we are from a school where parents have to save money to afford this trip,” Jung said. “Because we are sister cities, the (Ratingen) City Council supported us with 400 euros for each student.”

Support that Dibley said was likewise received in Vermillion.

“The Vermillion City Council and the Rotary Club supported us, as well,” she said. “It has really been a community effort. The goal of this program is to build long lasting relationships and through the culture and friendships you pass a lot something larger than itself. We are already talking about what we are going to do in the future.”

However, with all the trips and learning opportunities, one experience will be remembered most, said the teachers.

The German students will get to attend Vermillion's Prom.

“One of the students had a fashion show at her home and the girls were able to pick out dresses,” Campa-Blum said. “The students are so excited. They will never forget this.”

The VHS students who are hosting this year and will travel to Ratingen in the future are Daniel Fuller, Annika Berseth, Madelyn Zevecke, Jared Iacino, Dawson Daniels, Kaleb Blue, Leah Murphy, Gabe DeJong, Ashley Schultz, Nick Svendsen and Cooper Williams.

The exchange students are Aline, Simon, Christina, Clemens, Denise K., Lihn, Sabrina, Julia, Gina, Linda, Denise M., Ebru, Niklas and Phillip.

VHS will be hosting a German Night Sunday, April 19, from 6:30-9 p.m. at the Lumber Company. They will hold a short program introducing the exchange students to those in attendance. The community is invited to attend.

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