

LIBRARY EXPANSION UNDER WAY



Work progresses on the expansion of the Vermillion Public Library, with much of the frame now in place. Crews also are taking down the existing north wall of the building. During a meeting last month, City Manager John Prescott said work on the project is "about 25 percent" completed. Signs are posted throughout the library asking patrons to forgive the noise.

(Photo By Travis Gulbrandson)

CHOIR

From Page 01

both years.

"It's a competitive audition, so there's no guarantee," he said. "Every year there are people ... who made it as juniors who don't make it again as seniors," added Dr. David Holdhusen, director of choral activities at USD and current president of SD-ACDA.

Holdhusen said that when the audition process is complete, the chosen students then have to learn the pieces they will perform at the final concert.

"They come in with their music, so they should have everything learned as they come in," he said. "So, it's Lynn's job to polish it and put it together for the concert."

"(Rehearsals are) going very well," Gackle said Tuesday. "The students have a great work ethic. They have worked very hard, and they continue to work hard. ...

"They have to really maintain a lot of focus, but they're doing really well with that. There's lots of talent in this area," she said. "They're very quick to pick up."

Other teachers at various colleges and universities also serve as section leaders throughout the week.

"It's a combined effort of a lot of people to have these kids here, and once here, to put this program together," Gackle said.

This is the second consecutive year USD has served as the host site for the choir.

"It usually moves about the

state, but just scheduling and staff changes at other universities meant that USD would have it again this year," Holdhusen said. "Last year was my first time hosting it, and it certainly made it easier just in terms of, I knew more how to run things as the week went along."

"There are a lot of aspects to coordinate, he said. "When Al has done the auditions and hired the conductor, it's my responsibility to get housing and meals and any musicians that we need, get the rehearsal spaces ready, get the concert space ready, prepare the program, all those types of things," he said.

Holdhusen said his main objective is to get all of that work done "so that when the students get here it's a seamless process for them, and they can focus on the music and really becoming a choir."

He added that the university is honored to be able to fill that role.

"We're just really excited to have 150 of the best singers in the state here, and to showcase the campus, and specifically the concert hall at AalFs Auditorium. It's a beautiful space for them to sing," he said.

The annual event is a special one for Stanga, who was one of the five-member committee that founded it 39 years ago.

While the state had the All-State Chorus and Orchestra at that time, it was only a two-day event, and it involved approximately 1,000 members.

"We felt that we needed to give some of our students a better opportunity to really dig into the music and sing with a group of people who all are as highly-motivated as they are,"

HORSE

From Page 01

me very aware that a person can do anything, that there is always a choice even when you think there are none," Delp said in a press release on her Web site.

A long-time outfitter, Delp thought this would be the perfect way to share her message and raise money, either for people, for animals or for the trip itself.

She and her companions began their journey May 8, 2011, when they left Ocean City, WA.

"I had a guy named Dan Shanafelt riding with me," said Delp, who lives in Port Orchard, WA. "He was 23. And when we got to Idaho he decided he didn't want to continue."

The trip was re-planned over the next two or three months.

"The original route was 5,000 miles, and I realized I had to make it as short as possible," Delp said.

She stopped again in November due to inclement weather, right after she reached Montana. She picked up the reins once more this April after the snow had melted, and has no plans to stop again.

"I've been on the road since," she said. "I won't turn back until I get to Delaware."

Each day begins when Delp rises near 3-3:30 a.m. and feeds Sierra. She usually is riding by 6 or 7, because of the ongoing heat wave.

"I need to be done by noon. I can't ride past noon," she said. "The other day we were out until 4 p.m. because the way I'm doing it, I don't have the option to just stop. I've got to get to where I'm going. That was a killer, with the humidity."

The trip may be hardest on Urssa, who

walks nearby tethered to a leash. Fortunately, she wears a special coat designed to keep her cool.

"All along I've said, 'I'm not going to kill my animals to do this. They're worth more to me than that,'" Delp said.

Delp also has access to her truck and horse trailer, which is most often driven to her stopover points by people she encounters along the way to her destination.

"I've actually had a couple of offers for this next leg," she said Friday. "I've only had to hitchhike twice, which is pretty crazy for 1,300 miles."

Overall, the trip has gone well, although you can't plan for everything, Delp said.

"There is a huge learning curve," she said. "It's funny because you anticipate things. Before I got into a state I'll look up what are the toxic animals, but if you ever told me I'd walk over the top of a rattlesnake, I never would have believed that."

This particular incident occurred north of Rapid City.

"When I heard it rattle I was already over the top of it," Delp said. "I ride with eight-foot reins and a big popper, and it spooked me. I must have jerked, because that popper hit me on the ankle."

"I got a few steps out and I sat and looked at my leg and I thought, 'I don't think I got bit,'" she said.

The weather is another aspect for which she could not plan.

"I've been waiting for three weeks for it to cool off," Delp said. "I finally thought, 'Just face it. It's not going to cool off.'"

But she has gotten used to it, in a way, after having spent so much time outside.

"I found if I go to someone's home, it's actually harder on me the next day," she said. "If I can stay in the heat I do better

than if I go in and come out."

A more pleasant surprise is the consistently positive response Delp receives from the people she meets.

"People step up pretty fast when they find out what I'm doing, and more than anything people want to help," she said. "People want to do something. They want to take part in something, and I think we've been conditioned to think that it's got to be on a grand scale."

"But for me to have a place to put my horse where she isn't tied to something, that's a big deal. A shower? A shower is a big deal," she said.

And thanks to the publicity she has received through her Web site and social networking, Delp said she has found friendly people everywhere.

This kind of support is exactly what people who are fighting cancer should receive, she said.

"You can't let fear dictate what you're going to do," she said. "You can say, 'OK, what am I going to do?' and take your power back. You just do it. You might have some choices to make, but you just do it."

"We always hear about the bad people, but I'll tell you what," she said. "I've had three since I left Ocean City that were questionable. That's it. And for the amount of people I've had contact with, that's pretty amazing."

Delp said she is grateful for everyone she has met, and everyone who has made a donation through her Web site - no matter the size.

"Someone said, 'What would you say if I only gave \$2?'" Delp said. "I would say, 'Thank you.'"

For more information about Coast 2 Coast for Cancer, visit <http://coast2coastforcancer.webs.com>.

Stanga said.

Holdhusen said it was a great decision, since "this was something the state really needed at that time, and continues to need now. (The committee's) vision and their putting this forth every year is a really great thing for vocal musicians in the state of South Dakota."

Every five years an anniversary program is held for

the alumni of the honor choir, and as next year is the 40th anniversary, plans are already underway to ensure its success.

"We're in the process of notifying those people and inviting them to come back," Stanga said. "When we did our 35th anniversary we had 150 or so alumni come back, and they had a wonderful time."

"One of the people that I know is a doctor, and he said,

"There's only one thing wrong with this reunion choir - we don't do it every year,'" Stanga said. "He loved the experience, and I don't know anyone that didn't love the experience."

Gackle said she hopes this week will encourage all of the choir members to make music a part of their lives.

"It's a basic part of the human experience," she said. "It's something they do well,

and it's something they've been gifted to do, and it can be a part of the rest of their lives, whether they become doctors or lawyers or music teachers."

Tickets for tonight's performance are \$10 for general admission seating, and will go on sale beginning at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact the USD Department of Music at (605) 677-5274.

Thanks For Another Great Round!



Thank you for supporting Dakota Hospital Foundation and for making the 7th Annual Sheri Ellis Memorial Golf Social another truly successful event.

Thank you to the participating teams, hole sponsors and to all those who made this event possible. Special thanks to the Bluffs Golf Course staff and to all Sanford Vermillion employees and DHF Board members who volunteered their time to help guarantee this year's success!

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