

# MUNES

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gypsied out jazz standards and originals. It is scheduled to be released this spring.

"We're going to emphasize local foods," Munes said. "That is our main objective. It may be produce from local farmers, or local meats. We want to have those in the store, and to have less of footprint. Instead of getting goods in from far distances, we hope to rather support the community by supporting local ranchers, farmers and producers in the area."

The doors of the cooperative's Main Street business have yet to open. The space, except for a couple coolers and some other equipment, is mostly empty. But the walls boast a fresh coat of paint; the ceiling and lighting also appears to have received substantial attention.

It is a place that seems to be very, very close to have an "open" sign appear on its front door soon.

"There is no large investment; we're starting up based on the members who are pitching in \$40 for their

yearly membership," Munes said. "That is going to be what enables us to buy the equipment, the shelves, the food items that go on the shelves, and pay a small salary to a person and pay the rent."



Dylan James and Jami Lynn perform before a capacity audience in the downtown location of the Red Earth Cooperative, 108 E. Main Street, Vermillion. Their concert helped boost the ever-growing membership numbers of the co-op. (Photo by David Lias)

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# Lost & Found's goal: Lower suicide rate among teens, young adults

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Awareness is the name of the game for Lost & Found, a non-profit student group on the USD campus that aims to lower the rate of suicide in teens and young adults.

Several members of the group were on-hand in the Muenster University Center Thursday helping to carry the message to other students.

"Our hope is to spread awareness of suicide on campus and across the nation so that we can hopefully lower the prevalence," said group president Morgan Nelson.

Founded approximately four years ago by then-Mitchell High School student D.J. Smith, the organization has been at the USD campus for the past two years, and has spread to other campuses, as well.

"We're still a growing organization," Nelson said. "Currently we're just getting our name out, but we also do events where we tell people how to pick up on cues from their friends."

This is referred to as QPR training, she said – question, persuade, respond.

"We want to let people know how to reach out to their friends, and when they do, how to get them help," Nelson said. "We also want to let the people who are having these feelings know where to go, what numbers to call and that hope is out there."

It's an important message, she said, as at least two USD students have committed suicide in the past year, along with

## Spotlight On

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA



Liz Stowers, Lexy Schuman and Morgan Nelson were among the representatives of suicide prevention organization Lost & Found at an information booth in the Muenster University Center Thursday. (Photo by Travis Gulbrandson)

two from Dakota State University, one from South Dakota State University and another at Black Hills State University.

"Actually, the Midwest has had the highest rates of suicide," Nelson said. "Across the state we've had a lot, even just recently."

To assist in promoting awareness, members of Lost & Found distribute information for several hours in the MUC each week on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

"It's just to let people come and see what it is that we do, so they can come to

our meetings and learn how to help people in the area," said Liz Stowers, co-chair of connections.

Maintaining a presence on campus is important for the group, Nelson said.

"We need to show that this is not something (to be) brushed under the table," she said.

"It's to show that this is a problem that this is something we can prevent if we handle it correctly."

For more information about Lost & Found, e-mail Nelson at Morgan.E.Nelson@coyotes.usd.edu.

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