

'Messy Hands' create murals for library expansion

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

When the construction work that is currently underway at the Vermillion City Library is eventually complete, the newly expanded building will have a roomier, modern children's section.

It's fitting that the art that will hang on the new walls inside that children's area is designed and created by local kids.

Participants in the Messy Hands Art Camp, held last week at the Washington Streets Arts Center, created two large mosaic murals that are destined to be installed in the children's section of the library once the building project is complete.

The mosaic project, directed by Nancy Losacker with assistance from Michelle Mechling, involved the drawing of designs by the young artists and the cutting of pieces of colored glass tiles. The tiles were then glued to large pieces of plywood to transform them into works of art.

Losacker came up with the overall design of the two mosaics, which feature landscape scenes of the prairie in the Vermillion area along the Missouri River.

The children taking part in the art camp drew panels that are set inside the murals. Each panel depicts a different animal or plant that calls the countryside or river its home.

"I designed the piece for the children, and then they have

been doing the inserts that go inside each mural," she said. "In conjunction with the painting class here, the kids all did drawings of different animals and trees."

The colored drawings that were chosen to be included in each mural were recreated using cut pieces of colored glass tiles. Each drawing comes to life, piece by piece, as a variety of colored tiles are cut into hundreds of different shapes and sizes, much like very small puzzle pieces.

All of those "puzzle" pieces are glued to the plywood and the end product is a colorful mosaic, fitting for the city library's walls.

"After we laid each drawing out in glass, we put them on the board and laid the background into it," Losacker said.

That "background" work was one of the main tasks of the youngest participants in the camp. Older kids drew and painted trees, flowers and animals that will be featured in panels located inside each mural.

One mosaic, Losacker said, is designed to represent the Missouri River with its sandbars. Farmers' large fields figure prominently in the background, reaching to a large expanse of blue sky.

Owen Mechling, Sophie Dudley, and Tom Dahlseid were busy Tuesday, June 26, gluing the cut pieces of glass tiles into place.

Once the glue holding the cut glass panels is fully dry, the



Tom Dahlseid, Sophie Dudley and Owen Mechling glue pieces of glass tiles into place to create mosaic art that will eventually find its way on a wall of the newly expanded Vermillion City Library. This art project was one of many activities completed by local youth who participated in the Messy Hands Art Camp held last week at the Washington Street Arts Center.

(Photo by David Lias)

mosaics will be grouted. They will be kept at the Washington Street Arts Center until the library expansion project is complete.

They will take up a

significant amount of empty wall space in the larger, improved library. Each mural is 5-feet 6-inches wide, and 4-feet deep.

"This is still a work in

progress," Losacker said last Tuesday. "But they should be finished soon."

The Vermillion Area Arts Council (VAAC) and individual members of Vermillion's Rotary

Club have provided financial support for the project. The VAAC encourages inquiries, and additional community sponsorship to ensure that this project is completed.

Farmers Union announces New science degrees approved at two S.D. universities

The United Nations has declared 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives to celebrate the positive impact cooperatives have had on communities and economies around the world.

South Dakota Farmers Union is joining in the celebration to teach young people about how working together to achieve common goals can benefit us all.

All children ages 6-13 are invited to attend Clay Farmers Union day camp scheduled Tuesday, July 10 at Prentiss Park - Southeast Shelter with the rain site being Jolley Elementary School, to learn about cooperation, citizenship, agriculture and leadership.

This year's camp is themed "Wild About Cooperation," and will include a wide range of fun and educational activities. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. and camp will run from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

"Cooperatives have had a dramatic impact on the economy of rural South Dakota for decades," said Bonnie Geyer, state education director. "The kids who attend camp will learn important lessons about the importance of cooperative business, about

teamwork, leadership and agriculture and they can apply these important principles to their lives. They'll learn about the cooperative spirit, and gain life skills while having a lot of fun in a safe environment."

Campers will have the opportunity to participate in cooperative games and hands-on team building activities including cooperative tic-tac-toe and a puppet show which will tell the history of Farmers Union.

The young people will also do a craft project where they will create their own garden stones.

They will also go swimming for a cost of \$4 and lunch and a snack will be provided.

All campers will receive a free T-shirt and will walk away with wonderful memories and a greater understanding of the importance of cooperation.

Registration forms can be found online at www.sdfu.org. You can also pick them up at your local Farmers Union Insurance office, or your local cooperative.

For more information contact State Education Director Bonnie Geyer at (605) 352-6761 ext. 125 or e-mail her at bgeyer@sdfu.org.

Protect yourself: Be informed about state cosmetology laws

The South Dakota Cosmetology Commission sets high professional standards for nail technicians and cosmetologists for consumer safety. Every summer, many consumers seek nail and pedicure services without being informed of salon safety requirements. Being aware of the guidelines can prevent injury, infection and disease.

Manicures and pedicures should only be performed in a licensed salon by a licensed nail technician or cosmetologist. Before making an appointment, ask questions, get referrals from the salon and review the state guidelines.

Do not:

- Shave legs 24 hours before pedicures.
- Allow cutting of calluses and ingrown toenails.
- Expect a nail technician to

perform waxing services.

Do:

- Observe salon cleanliness and sanitation practices.
- Inform the technician if you have health concerns or medications.
- Be aware of guidelines and ask questions.

"If you are not comfortable with what you see in a salon, the best thing to do is leave," said Cosmetology Commission Executive Director Kate Boyd. "Services should not hurt, injure or put you at risk of infection."

South Dakota consumers who make informed decisions about nail and pedicure services can help prevent health hazards.

For more information, visit cosmetology.sd.gov or call the South Dakota Cosmetology Commission at (605) 773-6193.

The newest undergraduate degree offerings in the public university system focus on science fields. The South Dakota Board of Regents this week approved a bachelor's degree in medical biology at The University of South Dakota and an associate degree in biotechnology at Northern State University. Both will be available to students starting this fall.

At USD, the B.S. degree in medical biology is designed to prepare students for admission into medical school and other healthcare professional programs such as dentistry, physician assistant, physical therapy, and podiatry. The new program, reflecting the latest national trends in medical education, was developed collaboratively between the Sanford School of Medicine and the university's College of Arts and Sciences.

The degree will deliver a pre-medical curriculum that is more relevant in preparing tomorrow's physicians and other professionals in the healthcare workforce, while also providing students with a strong background in the biological sciences, university officials said.

At Northern State, university officials have been working closely with industry

leaders in the Aberdeen area to develop the associate of science degree in biotechnology. It will prepare students for entry-level positions in the growing biotechnology industry in South Dakota and the region.

Biotechnology combines the fields of genetics, molecular biology, biochemistry, microbiology, and cell biology and links them to applications in such fields as chemical engineering, information technology and bio-robotics. University officials said a strong background in biotechnology is becoming a necessity in clinical and research laboratories across the nation.

The regents also approved four new minors at USD, each requiring at least 18 credit hours of study. The minors are:

- Conservation and biodiversity, equipping non-biology majors with an enhanced set of academic and practical workplace skills in the field of conservation.
- Finance, offering business majors additional expertise that is recognized by current or prospective employers as having completed specific training in finance.
- Marketing, which will train students to implement marketing actions in support of

for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

• Sustainability, which positions graduates with increasingly prominent and in-demand skills that respond to population growth, consumption of natural resources, and climate change.

In other action, the board approved a request by South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to begin offering its existing master's degree in construction management via the Internet. Offering this program online will contribute to development of the state's construction industry workforce, by allowing students to earn an advanced degree while remaining employed and living in their home communities.

A new certificate program in journalism was also approved at Black Hills State University. Certificates usually require fewer credit hours to complete than a minor. They are developed by packaging a small set of courses that allow students to develop expertise within a focused area of study, addressing market and workforce development needs. The primary audience for this certificate is self publishers and others involved in mass media careers.

Jones named to Postsecondary Education Committee

District 17 State Rep. Tom Jones has been appointed to the Postsecondary Education Interim Committee. This committee will meet during the summer to study and come up with suggestions for the next legislative session on higher education's purpose and funding. The 15-member committee made up of state senators and representatives will meet four times this summer.

The first meeting was held in Pierre. They stated that the purpose of postsecondary education was basically four fold: educating leaders for the 21st century, raising the educational attainment in South Dakota, growing the South

Dakota workforce, and enhancing South Dakota's economic development.

The first to testify were Dr. Jack Warner, executive director of the South Dakota Board of Regents and Kathryn Johnson, president of the Board of Regents. A good portion of their testimony was directed at the purpose of postsecondary education. They also addressed the importance of our state to invest in postsecondary education. A brief history of funding was presented and they did discuss the outcomes and changes they would like to see as a result of this committee.

Next, Deb Shepard, president of Lake Area Technical Institute

in Watertown and Greg VonWald, president of Mitchell Technical Institute testified with the relationship that the technical schools have with postsecondary education. In addition to replying to the initial four questions, they also reported that in a 2010 survey, 96 percent reported either being employed, continuing their education or entering the military. A great statistic they pointed out was that 86 percent were employed in a training-related career field.

Dr. Melody Schaap, our Secretary of Education for South Dakota, spoke about preparing K-12 students for entry into postsecondary

institutions. We need information earlier in high school to better prepare students. A strong data system is necessary to get this done.

A general agreement was made that the three groups today all compete for the limited monies available from the state. But rather than competing for these dollars, it will help students by working together to better prepare students entering the work force.

Then next meeting will be in August. It was suggested that each of the reaming meetings be located across the state in communities where these schools are located.

Innovation comes in all shapes and sizes.

HOME COMFORT SYSTEMS
Innovation never felt so good.®

Whatever the size of your home or budget, Lennox has a home comfort system that's right for you. And because our entire line of products is designed to provide efficient heating and cooling, you could enjoy lower energy bills without sacrificing comfort. Now that's a beautiful thing.

Save Up To \$2575 Now!

Hurry! Rebates will not last as long as your Lennox Comfort System
©2012 Lennox Industries, Inc. See your Lennox dealer for details. Lennox dealers include independently owned and operated businesses. One offer available per qualifying purchase.

HEATING & COOLING

920 Broadway Yankton, SD • 665-9461 • 1-800-491-9461

HOME FOR SALE

325 S. University, Vermillion, SD

This spacious home has a prime location being close to the elementary school, University campus, City pool, parks and bike path. A wonderful place for children to grow up! Bedrooms: 3 (master bedroom w/walk-in shower and deck/Jacuzzi entrance); Baths: 2 full; main level laundry; Floors: 1.5; front covered open porch; Square footage: 1947; Lot size: 1.5. Amenities: Handicap accessible; beautiful gas fireplace w/remote; central heating (95% efficient); central air (13 Ser); energy efficient on demand water heater; carpeted, wood & tile floors; ceiling fans in most rooms; Rainbird sprinkler system; utility shed; attached garage (ac/& heated; floor drain; automatic door opener & running water). Upgrades: remodeled living room & dining room; kitchen floor; refinished wood floors; new wiring throughout. Fully furnished optional: Less than 2 year old appliances and furnishings; Jacuzzi.

BEST OFFER

For inquiries contact Tim Hannahs at (605) 670-2030 or (605) 670-3157

SIOUX FALLS AIRSHOW.com

JULY 21-22