

Children

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Haakinson said. “We’re also here to help the community. It’s not just local businesses doing things for the community. I have been here my whole life and it has been nice to see the community and businesses take pride in the community.”

Volunteers worked cleaning inside and preparing an outside area for an outdoor classroom.

“We split into two groups,” Haakinson said. “One group stayed inside and cleaned the walls the kitchen, the carpet and the bathrooms. My group went outside and we tilled the side where they’re going to have the outdoor classroom. We tilled up the ground, we put down gardening fabric and then laid some pea gravel and the mulch for the kids. We also planted trees in the front. It was really fun to work with the employees outside the workplace.”

Sherlock said she was immensely pleased with the work done.

“The future Outdoor Nature Classroom will be a place for children to explore and connect with nature with gardening, building and constructing, music/movement, science/discovery, and much more,” she said. “We are excited to begin phase two now that the Alleviant Volunteers have helped transform this area into a quality space for more than 40 young children to benefit from each day.”

The help received was more than Sherlock had hoped for.

“They asked what we needed them to do so, I came up with a wish list of things they could help inside and out,” she said. “They were supposed to be here five or six hours but a lot of them stayed eight hours. It was just amazing because they helped keep me on track because I had a lot of other things going on.”

While part of the funds from the project came from an enhancement grant that the previous director of the center had written, there was still a lot of help needed.

“There were things that were purchased for it like a natural looking bench and stumps of varying heights, a natural log balance beam and some other magnifying glasses and discovery table, things like that,” Sherlock said. “But there wasn’t anything to help get that area ready and there wasn’t an actual plan for that space. We came up with a plan of what we wanted and I came up with a list of things that I wanted for this volunteer day to happen.”

“WalMart gave us a \$50 gift card, which helped for sure. Alleviant told me they could give \$500, which was awesome. Their monetary donation made it possible to get playground certified rubber mulch out there. We never would have been able to do that without that donation, which was huge. Some of the things I needed was wood pallets for some gardening projects and things like that. They rounded up the number I asked for and dropped them off, not even on their volunteer day.”

Now that the outside area is prepared, Sherlock said they are ready to make it usable.

“There will be a second phase to the project, getting the bench and stumps, the balance beam and we have a pergola,” she said. “The guy that does our construction came in and cemented it in for free. I’m really hoping in the next few weeks to get it to be a usable space. And we’ll start planting the garden

out there where the kids will be planting and taking care of the vegetables and fruits and then we’ll use them in our cooking here because we do all our cooking on site. I’m really excited about this phase in general.”

Each room in the center made a thank-you card to give to the volunteers from Alleviant from the tiny Caterpillars to the Busy Bees and Gummy Bears.

“They were amazing, hard workers,” Sherlock said. “Some of them brought their spouses. One was a farmer who helped plant bushes and haul the pea gravel in the wheelbarrows. They were an amazing help.”

Sherlock said there is plenty left on the wish list should the \$5,000 donation be secured.

“I would use part of it for finalizing that outdoor nature classroom to be certified and really it won’t need a whole lot,” she said. “We got a really good start. Another thing is this side of the building is a new addition in the last 7-10 years and there are two rooms unfinished currently. I’ve gotten quotes on how much it would cost to finish those rooms. I just presented to the Vermillion Area Community Foundation (VACF) on receiving a grant for finishing those rooms and I just found out last week we are receiving \$1,000 for that project from the VACF. That’s exciting. That will help go towards that but we need about \$8,000 to finish those two rooms so I would put some money toward that, as well.”

According to Sherlock, the Center began in the 70s as Vermillion Daycare, combining with ‘Little Yotes’ in the 80s to create what is now the Center For Children and Families.

“CFCF has been an actual organization for 15 years,” she said. “Our infant teacher has been working here since before that. She has been working here for 30 years. Most of our head staff has been here a number of years. Our head toddler teacher has been here 10 years and our head preschool teacher has been here 15 years.”

There is a lot that makes the center special according to Sherlock, starting with the staff.

“We don’t do it for the income,” she said. “We do it for the outcome which is obviously children. We do it because we love what we do.”

According to Sherlock the center also cooks all food fresh on site, providing three meals-a-day.

Though Sherlock said the center serves many low-income families, there is quite a bit of diversity in enrollment.

“We have all kinds of kids,” she said. “We have kids whose parents are university professors that are medical doctors, that are nurses that are students, that work at Alleviant, that work at places downtown, that work in Sioux City. We have just such a variety of parents and children.”

The focus is not just benefiting the children but the whole family.

“Our goal here is to do the best we can in supporting children and their families to reach their maximum potential so we really support parent education, as well,” Sherlock said. “They rely a lot on us to provide that nurturing care and inform them of what’s going on with their child. Just providing quality care and education to the children with developmentally-appropriate activities. It’s not just glamorized babysitting. You need to be comfortable leaving your child in a place. If this is not the place, you need to have a place where you do feel comfortable so you have peace of mind at work.”

To vote for the CFCF service project, visit <http://bit.ly/1F3Tako>.

Circa 1530 Harpsichord To Be Played At NMM Open House

Visitors to the National Music Museum’s free Open House this Friday and Saturday will have the rare chance to step back into musical history and hear the live sounds of a priceless harpsichord that was built within 40 years of Columbus’ voyages to the New World.

Throughout the two open house days, international harpsichordist Catalina Vicens will be demonstrating the NMM’s famed ‘Neapolitan’ harpsichord (ca. 1530), playing it for museumgoers while she prepares for her upcoming recording of the instrument.

“Vicens performed on the Neapolitan last year here at the NMM during the closed conference of the Historical Keyboard Society of North America, but the harpsichord has never been performed on for the general public. Don’t miss the opportunity to hear it, live,” says Museum Director Cleveland Johnson. By year’s end, the first-ever full-length recording of the Neapolitan will be available on CD and in electronic formats.

The Museum’s Open House means free admission for everyone both Friday and Saturday (Fridays are free at the Museum, otherwise).

The NMM Open House also coincides with University of South Dakota’s commencement weekend, so parents and other graduation visitors are invited to come see the treasures of the National Music Museum.



This weekend will also be a chance to get up close to the ‘Mona Lisa’ of the NMM’s collection — the Amati ‘King’ cello (the world’s oldest cello, ca. 1500’s, made by the master-inventor of the stringed-instrument ensemble,

Andrea Amati) — before it travels in late May to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City for a very royal summer residency. The ‘King’ will return from the Met after Labor Day this September.

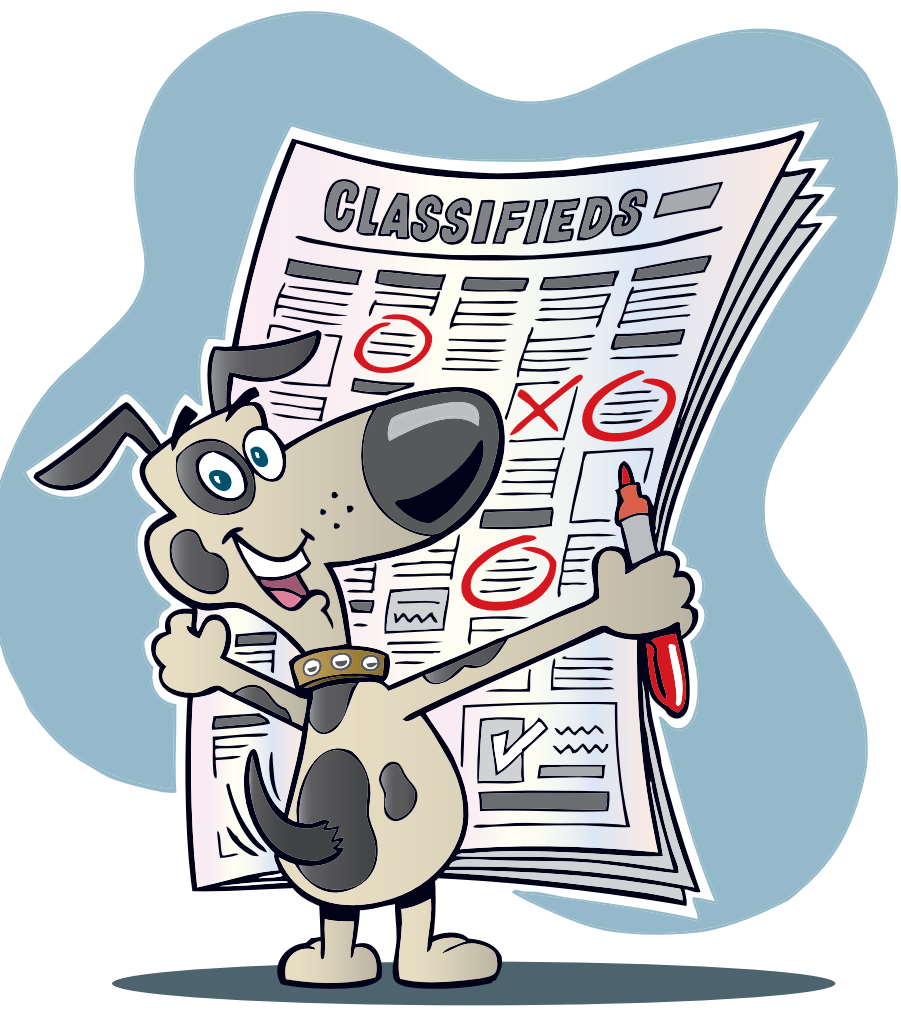
Coming up in the meantime this summer at the NMM: On Saturday, May 23, the NMM will open a special exhibit, “Banding Together – The American Soldier’s Music Arsenal,” which will showcase rare historic instruments issued to or used by U.S. soldiers throughout American military history. It will also feature rare wartime photos, posters, sheet music, uniforms, and other fascinating artifacts.

The National Music Museum’s hours, until Memorial Day weekend, are 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. From May 23, through September 6, the Museum is open every day, with Sunday hours added, 1-5 p.m.

The National Music Museum is located in the middle of Vermillion, on the corner of East Clark and Yale streets, on the campus of the University of South Dakota.

More information is available at nmmusd.org.

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Vision

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think is possible, but rather what do community members really want.

“The idea behind visioning is that it is important to articulate what you would like to see and not worry about the logistics of getting there,” she said. “First think about what you would like to see. Then once you know what you want, then you think about how can we get there. So, it is a slightly different way of doing community planning.”

While the group has been organized since last November, they do not have a staff hired to run the program and Jarchow said the grant will be used to fill that need.

“Most of what the grant is for is paying people,” she said. “It will allow us to hire a facilitator to help do these visioning workshops and an undergraduate to help with it. There are not a lot of equipment and things that are needed, it is more getting out and talking to a lot of people. So, the grant is providing money to have a facilitator that will be part of Greening Vermillion to go out and work with a large number of different stake holders in Vermillion to do these visioning forums and the final workshops.”

Jarchow said, as with most nonprofits, the biggest key is providing the funding to support the people doing the work.

“There is only so much one can do by volunteer work,” she said. “Most of what we do with Greening Vermillion is by volunteers, but it was great to receive this grant because this is something that will take hundreds of hours of meeting with different people. There is just no way we could find someone to volunteer hundreds of hours to do it. So, without the grant we wouldn’t have been able to do it. Now, we will be able to pay someone to meet with a lot of different people and

get their ideas on what they want to see.”

She added that Greening Vermillion is in the process of looking to hire a coordinator to help with the process, which may allow the group to link the visioning facilitator position and the coordinator position, depending on the applicants the group receives.

Once the key personnel is in place, the group will then move forward with public meetings.

“There will be some smaller meetings and then larger meetings where everyone can work together,” Jarchow said. “We are going to be very active in going where people are rather than asking them to come to us. If you go to them they are more likely to participate.”

As for what results they collect, Jarchow said she isn’t sure there is an expected result.

“Hopefully we will get a sense that a lot of people want the same thing,” she said. “Or, maybe we will

find that everyone’s vision is very different, depending on who you talk to. Unless you really talk to them, and get beyond what is likely, we won’t know where we can go.”

She also noted that the timing of the grant was critical.

“We will start the grant here soon so we can do our planning, but really launch things as far as having meetings and things in the fall because it will include USD staff and students who are only here during the school year,” Jarchow said. “The timing allows us to get the methods down before the fall.”

The members of the Board of Directors for Greening Vermillion include: Jarchow, Maggie Pettersen, Morgan Appley, Jim Heisinger, Alice Alexandrescu, Phyllis Packard and Rich Braunstein.

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