

Museum Celebrates Fall New Additions With Welcome Event

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

The W.H. Over Museum in Vermillion had quite a weekend with their annual Welcome Fall event Sunday featuring pumpkin carving and painting, face painting, cookie decorating and games during the afternoon.

The evening consisted of a soup and pie supper for a free will donation to the museum.

Live music entertained the packed house.

Along with a speech by Senator Arthur Rusch, the museum highlighted the near completion of a new project which will enhance the exterior of the museum: barn quilts.

Louise Gregoire from Wakonda, Ranah Sample, Nancy Andreson and Erlin Ellison each worked on a four by four painted barn quilt to reflect this area's agricultural heritage.

Gegoire, Sample and Andreson's quilts were completed and displayed at the event Sunday while Ellison's contribution is still in the works though a picture of what the completed quilt would look like was displayed.

"There were two things we wanted to do," Sample said of the project. "We wanted to honor Carol's memory and make something that was representative of South Dakota. Barn quilts are a big thing out East. A lot of them out East are drawn right on the buildings. Here we put them on boards and then we put them on the buildings though some people tackle putting them on buildings. They tell me that the Pennsylvania Dutch out East do round ones. It's a decorative thing. It was a pleasure to be able to do this for the museum."

The funding for the project came through the generosity of members of the Friends of the Museum group.

"We did apply for a grant from the South Dakota Arts Council," said Maxine Johnson, museum administrator and Friends of the Museum President. "They said they liked the idea of the project but I don't know if I got the words right or what it was but it didn't make the cut. So I appealed to the membership and told them our problem and we were funded way more than the Arts Council would have given us."

"Maxine came to us and asked if we would do it," Sample said. "At that point they were applying for the grant. When they didn't get the grant she said we're doing it anyway. There were things that got in the way but we finally got started."

The group has quite a bit of experience with barn quilts between them.

"Louise paints some," Sample said. "She's got two at her house that she's painted. I've got four and I'm working on the fifth one at my house. Nancy paints them and sells them. She has a



(L-R) Louise Gregoire from Wakonda, Ranah Sample, Nancy Andreson and Erlin Ellison each worked on a four by four painted barn quilt which will ultimately be displayed on the outside of the W.H. Over Museum. The designs are meant to represent South Dakota Heritage and tradition.

lovely studio."

Designs chosen for the museum's barn quilts reflect both personal and historical significance.

One, an intricate red, white, and blue pattern, was made in honor and memory of Carol Walz.

"This pattern Carol picked out to do on her barn," Andreson said. "I talked her out of it because it's so busy that when people go zooming past her house a 60 mph they would not take time to appreciate the pattern. I talked her into a very simple pattern and she loved it. It was red and white and blue. It was a very simple pattern but it was called 'True Love's Knot.' It was perfect for the two people it was made for. This one doesn't have a name so we named it 'Carol's Quilt.'"

The second quilt's design is referred to as 'Flying Geese.'

"This pattern consists, usually of three large triangles, the geese, places over smaller triangular shapes-the sky," the displayed description read. "The shape has thought to have been designed to reflect the shape of the formation in which geese fly. The pattern has been quilted since the 1800's. An internet search resulted in page after page of Flying Geese quilts, patterns, stories, quilt guides, and books which feature this popular pattern."

The third completed quilt, titled 'Corn and Beans' reflects the historical significance of the country's dependence on agriculture.

"Up until 1920, most people lived on farms, with only 2% of the population residing in towns or cities," the description said. "This quilt pattern, Corn and Beans, reflects the influence Agriculture and farming had on our

country. Corn and Beans were essential to homesteaders."

According to Sample, the group also wishes to complete a larger eight by eight foot barn quilt also to grace the exterior of the museum.

"I told Maxine that because there's so much Native American emphasis in this museum we need to do a big eight-pointed star," she said. "I've seen them done in quilts but I've never seen a barn quilt done, with the eagle coming out of the center. I can't graph it so I can't do it. Nancy says, 'I can!'"

Also displayed with the quilts was a book, 'Barn Quilts' by Suzi Parron with Donna Sue Groves.

"That is the master barn quilt trail book," Sample said. "Communities come together and create a trail and make it a tourist thing so people will come in and have a map. We're working on having a barn quilt trail by working with the lady who did that book."

Sample already has a good start. "I've also put together a barn quilt tour," she said. "We took a tour early last spring I think it was. Seven hours, 135 miles, I think we saw 70 quilts. I took another group on a tour and we did just the end of it, about three hours and I do have that available if people want to ask for it. I'll send it in email form."

Sample also teaches a barn quilt class through Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) and had a great response.

"In those classes we do a two-by-two so you'll start seeing a lot of two-by-two's out around town," she said.

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Getting Ready For Winter

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Contrary to the beautiful fall weather we have been enjoying this fall in South Dakota, unfortunately it is coming: Winter Weather.

In an effort to help the residents of Vermillion stay safe this winter Clay County Emergency Management director Layne Stewart offered a few tips for keeping your winter blues related only to the temperature.

"We have been pretty blessed this fall with amazing weather, but it looks like next week it is going to start looking more seasonal," Stewart said. "There are a few things that people can do to stay safe first and foremost, that first snow or ice event, slow down on the roads. There is no place you need to be that you can't take a few extra minutes to get there and be safe."

He also said that before that first snow event happens it is important to make sure your vehicle is ready for the cold, including packing a survival kit.

"If the worst case situation was to occur and you were to end up in the ditch somewhere, a survival kit could be the difference," he said. "A survival kit should include a shovel, a flashlight and batteries, any medications you may be on, water, granola bars, jumper cables, a phone charge and blankets."

He added that if you are heading out on the road and conditions are sketchy to call ahead.

"If you are going home to visit your parents and you call when you leave, if the trip is supposed to take two hours and five hours later you have still not arrived they know that something could be wrong," Stewart said.

However, he warned winter weather safety awareness doesn't just mean safety in a vehicle.

"This weekend is when the clocks are changed, which you know means that people should be checking their smoke detectors and CO detectors," he said. "Also, this time of year before it is really cold, many people choose to use small portable heaters instead of the furnace. They need to remember to turn them off if they are not in the room with them."

Stewart said as people begin turning on their furnaces they should make sure that the filters are clean and fireplaces are not blocked.

"I don't claim to be a big HVAC expert, but you want to make sure that if you turn on your furnace it is ready to go," he said.

As it gets closer to Christmas and people turn on their outdoor holiday decorations, Stewart also advised making sure you are using the correct decorations for outdoors.

"Just remember as the temperatures drop and you head outside to dress in layers," he added. "Wear a hat, you lose a lot of heat through your head, where gloves. No matter where you are going just take your time and get their safely."

For more safety tips for winter weather go to: http://dps.sd.gov/emergency_services/emergency_management/documents/Winter2015.pdf

Economy's Slow Growth Isn't Promising For State

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE - The pace quickened a tad for South Dakota's economy during recent months, after slow growth for the past year, state government's chief economist said Wednesday.

Jim Terwilliger told members of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers that state sales tax revenue was up 5 percent so far for the 2016 fiscal year that began July 1.

That was better news after a sluggish fiscal 2015 that ended June 30 with sales tax revenue up 2.2 percent.

Terwilliger is a member of the state Bureau of Finance and Management staff that is gathering information for Gov. Dennis Daugaard to make his 2017 budget recommendations.

The governor's budget speech to the Legislature is

scheduled for Dec. 8. Terwilliger said the 2017 budget would have a deficit of \$32.6 million if nothing changed from where it stood Wednesday. That won't be the final proposal the Legislature gets.

"We've got about three weeks left," he said.

Right now the 2017 recommendations call for a 2.1 percent increase in state payments to health care providers and an inflationary increase of 0.3 percent in state aid to schools.

The governor also plans to support a \$5.3 million buy-down of tuition for resident students at the state universities and public technical institutes.

Helping offset slow growth in the economy would be a \$21 million reduction in state government's share of Medicaid payments.

A task force appointed by Daugaard to study K-12

teachers and students holds its final meeting today (Thursday). Some panel members seem intent on a tax increase to provide more funding to schools to spend on teacher pay.

The state sales tax rate is 4 percent. An additional one-half percent would generate upward of \$110 million.

That would allow for approximately \$30 million of additional property-tax relief and about \$80 million more for schools.

Gross domestic product for South Dakota hasn't been strong in recent years, according to Ralph Brown, a retired professor from the University of South Dakota.

He told the council that South Dakota GDP fell 0.9 percent in 2012 and grew by 0.9 percent in 2013 and 0.6 percent in 2014.

Non-farm employment numbers show South Dakota hasn't fully recovered

from the 2009-2010 recession.

Brown said manufacturing jobs are above their pre-recession level and construction is even again but financial services haven't caught up.

Yet South Dakota ranked twenty-third nationally in personal income per capita and twenty-second for disposable income for 2014.

The explanation might be farms and ranches. South Dakota is coming off a seven-year run of the highest agricultural income in its history.

The bad news there is farm income is forecast to fall to about \$1.5 billion in South Dakota this year, down by 40 percent from two years ago and the lowest since back in 2007 when the big run began.

"Obviously the low commodity prices are having an effect," Terwilliger said.

USD Hosts Free Showing Of Film About Lakota Language

The University of South Dakota will host a free public showing Thursday, Nov. 5, of the film Rising Voices/Hothanjinpi about linguists and members of the Lakota community working together to save the Lakota language.

The Language Conservancy and Florentine Films/Hott Productions, with major funding provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, are sponsoring the 7 p.m. showing at the Al Neuharth Media Center conference room.

Told through the voices of a wide range of Lakota people who share their feelings about their language and the myriad challenges facing their community, the film also incorporates four short films created for Rising Voices by Lakota filmmakers and artists, each one giving a perspective on how finding one's authentic "language" connects a person to a deeper sense of culture. Rising Voices offers a snapshot into a day-to-day struggle of one of the biggest Native American nations and illuminates the devastating problem of ancestral language loss to Native American people.

Rising Voices is presented and distributed nationally by American Public Television (APT) and will premiere on public television stations nationwide beginning Nov. 1.

ROETMAN/MOORE



Tiffany Moore & Justin Roetman

Tiffany Moore and Justin Roetman announce their engagement.

Tiffany is the daughter of Todd and Suzann Moore of Vermillion. Justin's parents are George and Teri Roetman of Vermillion.

The bride-to-be currently lives in Vermillion, and attended Vermillion High School graduating in 2009. She is employed at the

Vermillion Middle School as a Special Education Assistant.

The future groom is a graduate of Vermillion High School graduating in 2005, and is currently employed at Sturdevant Auto Parts in Vermillion.

The couple will exchange vows at 3:30 p.m., April 16, 2016, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Vermillion.

DENR Announces New Interactive Permitted Solid Waste Facilities Map

PIERRE - The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) has added a new interactive permitted solid waste facilities map to the department's interactive database maps online at <http://denr.sd.gov/datagis.aspx>.

The permitted solid waste sites map features searchable data for more than 200 permitted solid waste facilities statewide.

Data includes location information by city or county, contact information, potentially acceptable waste materials at the different categories of solid waste facilities, and road map or aerial photo options with zoom capabilities.

"As part of DENR's continuing efforts to implement Gov. Daugaard's priority of making state government more open by expanding e-

government, these interactive maps provide information from huge databases that can be searched online by the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said DENR Secretary Steve

Pirner.

The interactive maps can be accessed from the department's homepage at <http://denr.sd.gov> under "One-Stop Shops" and "Data & Mapping."

USD Jazz Ensembles
Concert
Friday, November 6, 7:30 PM
Colton Recital Hall
Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts
Free Admission

Have 403(b) questions? Let's talk.

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