

Local artist to grace library

By Sarah Wetzel
For the Plain Talk

On Wednesday, the Vermillion library will welcome local visual artist Michele Mechling as part of an author/artist series aimed at providing something interesting for everyone.

"It has been a pretty popular series so we decided to keep doing it," said Susan Heggstead, Adult Programming Coordinator at the library.

The event is free and open to the public.

Heggstead mentioned that the only thing participants need to bring is an interest in learning from a master.

"There aren't very many people in town who can do it as well as she does," Heggstead said. "I've always wanted to learn from her. She's going to talk about her work on Wednesday night and a workshop on Saturday of that week [from 2-4 pm]. The lecture you just come and listen and join in the discussion. But Saturday is all about learning some of the technique she uses. If people want to they can bring a photograph of the landscape they want to do."

According to Mechling, this type of event is what art is all about.

"For me art making isn't just staying home in your studio and creating pieces for yourself," she said. "I enjoy going out and sharing what I've learned with other people no matter what age they are and giving them the tools to be able to express themselves in the way I do."

The ability to create art, according to Mechling, is not just for a select few contrary to popular belief.

"Most people at some point in their lives think they can't do that," she said. "But really everybody has some sort of ability that can be very therapeutic in their lives. It's just a really cool piece that I think people don't realize they have."

While the library offers a wide range of speakers on various topics, this particular series focuses on the arts.

"I try to help educate people," Heggstead said. "We often have a pretty limited view of what art is."

According to Heggstead, the library is determined to do its part to help the community by featuring locals in the series.

"Mostly I'm really interested in highlighting all the creative people in the area," she said. "There will probably be years before I run out."

Mechling, the artist to be featured on Oct. 1, is a local through and through. She graduated from the University of South Dakota with a visual arts degree and for the next 20 years, ran the Coffee Shop Gallery.

"She combined her love of hosting people, making coffee, feeding people and her love of art," Heggstead said. "She supported her passion for art by showcasing other people's artwork on her walls. She helped a lot of artists get connected in the community and sell their art."

Mechling herself said she and her husband had a great time doing this.

"We had over 100 artists exhibited over the years in the coffee shop," she said.

"Lots of students and professional artists. It was just a wonderful alternative gallery space. I do enjoy helping others in many ways especially fellow artists. It's one of my passions."

The Coffee Shop Gallery closed in 2010 when Cafe Brule took its place.

Besides being an artist, Mechling currently works as a bookkeeper for Sharing the Dream, a nonprofit organization that sells handmade products from Guatemala. You can find this store in downtown Vermillion.

For more information on library events, visit vermillionpubliclibrary.org.

4-Hers focus on diversity, invite others to join

By Katie Clausen
For the Plain Talk

Clay County 4-H will be in full swing once again as groups meet and devise plans for the upcoming year. Oct. 1 is when 4-H groups begin their new year.

The Wakonda group, the Young Producers, met on Sunday to discuss their action plan for the approaching year. This particular group of 12 youths ranges from ages 8-18.

"The next big thing in October is to walk around Wakonda and pick up trash," Andy Jensen, leader of the Young Producers said. "We will also be offering to help any elderly people who would like their leaves raked this fall." He added.

Jensen is leading the group this year after retiring from a different 4-H position for the county. He is very passionate about 4-H and is enjoying working at the local level. The Young Producers group agreed in their meeting that this year they would like to focus more on community involvement.

"As a group they decided to work more towards community involvement, more community service" Jensen said.

While the kids involved in Young Producers group happen to be involved primarily in

livestock and horse oriented projects, they want others to know that 4-H isn't just about farming, or for farm families.

"We also do a lot of other projects so there is something for everyone, such as crafting, photography, and robotics," Jensen added.

"Anyone can join. We can take kids from 5-7 years old as clover buds, and then 8-18 year olds as 4-H'ers," Jensen said.

And just because the Young Producers are focused on the Wakonda area doesn't mean they aren't willing to accept kids from other communities as well.

"We encourage them to join from anywhere: Irene, Centerville and Vermillion kids are all welcome. You don't have to be from Wakonda," Jensen said.

Raven Jensen, 14, had encouraging words for those interested in joining "In 4-H, they are not just individual members; they grow together as a group."

Andy Jensen added that 4-H helps kids build life skills and positive attitudes.

The Wakonda Young Producers will continue to invite others to join their group. Jensen added "Our main hurdle is to educate the community that 4-H is not just about agriculture any more. While it's a good platform for agriculture, kids interested in anything can join."

VHS Double-Feature Theatre Weekend

Vermillion High School students will present a short thriller and a haunting, full-length, ghost story Oct. 3-5 at the VHS Performing Arts Center.

Audiences will be treated to a suspenseful 10 minute play, "The Birthday Knife" by Jerome Parisse and continue the evening's creepy theme with the feature production. Dorothy Macardle's classic ghost story The Uninvited by Tim Kelly, will deliver October chills with its spooky tale of the house at Cliff End.

Show times are 10 p.m. on Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 4 and 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 5.

Tickets will be available at the door and the cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and senior citizens, and admission is free to those with a Vermillion School District activity card.

LAW ENFORCEMENT REPORTS

Vermillion Police Department

09/14/2014 03:20:00 — Callers reported a highly intoxicated man walking on the roadside and falling in the roadside ditch. Officers responded to the area to check on the man and searched with area without locating him.

09/14/2014 1:46:00 — While on patrol officers witnessed a man in the street between two parked vehicle urinate on the ground. He was cited.

09/14/2014 2:19:00 — Caller reported loud music coming from a residence. Officers checked the area on foot but found no loud music.

09/14/2014 2:20:00 — A local business reported two patrons leaving without paying their bill. Officers tracked down the patrons and interviewed them. They thought someone had paid their bill for them. They returned to the business and paid the bill.

09/14/2014 2:58:00 — Sex crime reported. Under investigation.

09/14/2014 9:55:00 — Officers responded to a report of a deceased person.

09/18/2014 03:06:00 — Officers responded to a noise complaint and found a loud party in progress. Officers cited five underage people for consuming/possessing alcohol.

09/18/2014 2:13:00 — Officers received two reports of an intoxicated man trying to gain access to homes. Officers found the man who fled on sight into a wooded area and fell down a hill. Officers stopped the man before he could hurt himself more. He was intoxicated and lied about who he was and officers found a false id on his person. He was arrested for false impersonation and minor consuming/possession alcohol.

09/18/2014 2:30:00 — Caller reported a fight at a house. Officers arrived and interviewed several participants. Many of those interviewed were intoxicated and the stories were disjointed. It appears to have been the result of a misunderstanding between a group of party goers and pedestrians who were walking by that escalated after intoxicated minds were unable to maintain the peace. No one was hurt and nothing was damaged.

09/18/2014 11:58:00 — Caller reported being assaulted by her sometimes boyfriend. Officers investigated and arrested the man accused in the assault.

09/18/2014 16:19:00 — Caller reported loud music coming from a neighbor's residence. Officers responded and contacted the resident in question as there was loud music coming from the residence. The resident was asked to turn down the music and the noise laws were explained. The man co-

operated.

09/18/2014 21:05:00 — Caller reported a fight with one of the men hitting the other man with a hammer. Officers responded and secured the area. One man was transported from the area by ambulance. The man's brother admitted to fighting with the victim and hitting him with a hammer. The brother was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon.

09/18/2014 22:11:00 — Caller reported a friend was threatening suicide. Officers responded and spoke to the man and the caller. The man said he was going to hurt himself but wanted help. Arrangements were made for him to get help.

09/19/2014 23:56:00 — Bike officers saw two men drinking from beer cans while walking in the road. Both men were cited for open container.

09/20/2014 02:27:00 — Bike officers saw a man walking down the road drinking from a beer can. The man was identified and was under 21. He was cited for minor consuming/possession alcohol.

09/20/2014 2:15:00 — Caller reported being assaulted by her boyfriend. Officers responded and investigated. The boyfriend was arrested for domestic assault and charges of violating court conditions were also referred to the State's Attorney.

09/20/2014 7:54:00 — Caller found a man sitting in the back seat of his vehicle while driving to town. The man had apparently gotten into the truck some time in the night and had awoken on the drive to town. He was intoxicated and confused and had lost his friends he had been drinking with.

09/20/2014 11:03:00 — Complainant reported his truck had been stolen by person(s) unknown sometime in the night. The vehicle was entered as stolen in the national database and officers were notified.

09/20/2014 15:50:00 — Officers contacted two men urinating on a tree in public. Both were intoxicated and underage. Both were cited.

09/20/2014 22:46:00 — Bike patrol officer found several people walking down the road drinking from beer cans. Five of them were underage and were cited for underage possession/consumption of alcohol.

09/20/2014 22:50:00 — Caller reported unknown person(s) had just stolen his pickup. Officers searched the area and found the pickup several blocks away from the caller's residence. No one was around the pickup. No suspect information has been developed.

09/20/2014 23:16:00 — Caller reported a boyfriend had pushed her down after be-

coming angry. Officers responded. The suspect had left the caller claimed she was not hurt. Under investigation.

Clay County Sheriff's Office

09/14/2014 1:34:00 — A deputy responded to the Clay County Park Campground to a report of a camper with loud music playing. The camper had quieted down prior to arrival.

09/14/2014 9:23:00 — A deputy responded to a medical emergency southwest of Meckling.

09/14/2014 9:55:00 — A deputy assisted the Vermillion Police Department with a death investigation in Vermillion. The death was found to be of natural causes.

09/14/2014 12:38:00 — A deputy assisted a motorist who's vehicle had broken down on highway 50.

09/14/2014 15:47:00 — A deputy completed a car/deer crash investigation. The accident happened in Minnehaha County. A state report was completed.

09/15/2014 8:58:00 — An inmate wanted in Maricopa County, AZ was transported from the Buena Vista County Jail in Iowa to the Clay County Jail to be transported along via a prisoner transport shuttle system.

09/15/2014 10:21:00 — A deputy responded to a medical emergency in Meckling.

09/15/2014 12:14:00 — A deputy investigated a dispute between two men regarding a box coming out of one vehicle and striking another. Charges are being considered.

09/16/2014 13:02:00 — A deputy responded to a report of an ATV driving recklessly in Burbank. The vehicle was gone upon arrival. Deputies will patrol the area as time permits.

09/16/2014 19:03:00 — A deputy responded to a dispute on Highway 50 where one driver was angry that another vehicle threw up a rock which cracked her windshield. Insurance information was exchanged. Neither driver was at fault.

09/16/2014 20:44:00 — An inmate was transported to the Yankton County Jail to meet a transport shuttle for extradition to Arizona.

09/16/2014 22:04:00 — A deputy responded to assist a Highway Patrol Trooper with a non-injury rollover accident north of Wakonda.

09/17/2014 13:22:00 — An inmate was transported to a dentist appointment and then was returned to the jail.

09/18/2014 5:56:00 — A deputy re-

sponded to a report of a nursing home patient in Irene becoming combative and assaulting staff. The woman was committed to the Human Services Center in Yankton.

09/18/2014 9:16:00 — An inmate was transported from the Charles Mix County Jail in Lake Andes to the Clay County Jail after being arrested there for a Clay County warrant.

09/18/2014 11:45:00 — A deputy took a man into custody after he was sentenced by the court. The man was booked into jail to await transport to the State Penitentiary.

09/18/2014 13:46:00 — A deputy located a wanted person in Vermillion. The man was arrested and transported to the jail.

09/18/2014 14:02:00 — A juvenile on probation was transported to the Juvenile Detention Center in Sioux Falls at the request of his probation officer.

09/18/2014 17:04:00 — A deputy responded to a report of a semi loaded with hay and a tractor tipping over into a road ditch northwest of Meckling. There were no injuries.

09/19/2014 8:08:00 — An inmate was transported from the jail to the State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls to begin a sentence. A juvenile was then picked up at the Juvenile Detention Center and transported to Yankton for a hearing and then to the Human Services Center for inpatient treatment.

09/19/2014 15:55:00 — A deputy investigated a two car non-injury accident on Highway 50 east of Vermillion. One driver was cited for following too closely.

09/19/2014 17:48:00 — A deputy mediated a dispute between two people over money owed.

09/19/2014 23:29:00 — A deputy attempted to locate a teenage girl who had not come home from a football game at the time she was supposed to. The girl was entered into a national database as a runaway. The girl was later located and the record was canceled.

09/20/2014 3:30:00 — A deputy responded to a report of a man staggering in traffic on the Highway 50 Bypass. The man was not present at the time of arrival.

09/20/2014 5:50:00 — A rural resident reported suspicious vehicles near his residence northeast of Vermillion. The vehicles were no longer in the area upon arrival.

09/20/2014 17:00:00 — An inmate was transported from the Yankton County Jail to the Clay County Jail to be held on a Clay County warrant.

ORGAN

From Page 1A

University. They have written papers. It's very fascinating. We had it cleaned and it's beautiful, you can see the details now," Aakre detailed.

The Schuelke Organ came in May of 1888 and is what is known as a tracker organ. It was built in Wisconsin and arrived 16 feet high, 12 feet wide and 10 and 1/2 feet deep. "They have had recitals here" Aakre said.

The Organ at Trinity Lutheran Church also has a unique history, according to Christy Kimball, Director of Music.

"It's very old. It originally went to Yankton on the wagon train in the 1800's, and then was shipped back down to Vermillion on the river," Kimball said. "It doesn't have many markings, so some of the



Chris Larson demonstrates the organ at the First United Methodist Church.

Katie Clausen/For The Plain Talk

history is a mystery."

Kimball knows quite a bit about the organ, as a 2003 graduate of USD with a Master's in Organ Performance, she has done her fair share of research. "The first organs were water powered." She elaborated. Kimball has been playing the

worship; it sets the tone for the type of service." She said.

Spencer Smith, a Hermosa, South Dakota native, started playing the piano when he was six and eventually added the organ to his repertoire. Smith added to the sentiment of the organ's importance to worship. "It adds another perspective to worship, helps them [the congregation] voice their part of worship."

Smith is starting his second year playing the organ at the United Church of Christ. He is a Piano Performance Major at USD. "This organ was built in 1928, and it's very big" he added.

The organ is a unique instrument, and according to Larson, it is because of its diversity.

"There are a lot of different sounds you can get with the organ. Medal pipes and wood pipes have different sounds, you have reed sounds and trumpet sounds." Larson said.

Larson has been playing organ for church services since he was a freshman in high school.

"You have the opportunity to play with a whole orchestra, so to speak, when you play the organ," Larson said.

Kimball had a similar sentiment "The organ is a stunning instrument. You have myriads of pipes to make myriads of sounds. It's like an orchestra. Every organ is different; it's just a gas to play them." Kimball said.

These large instruments do take some upkeep in order to keep them working properly.

"We do maintenance twice a year" Kimball said of the Trinity Lutheran Church organ.

Pastor Aakre emphasized that there are people who come from all over the United States to clean and

maintenance the First Baptist Church organ.

"They're a knowledgeable group of guys," he said "they have to know what they're doing."

Spencer Smith said that the United Church of Christ has some maintenance scheduled as well. "It will be really interesting to see and hear," Spencer said. "They are going to work on the pipes and the wind chests."

Organists and their organs contribute to the experience of worship, but playing the organ can also have an impact on those playing the organ as well.

"In playing the organ for church services, I am able to connect better with the service" Larson said.

With talented organists, the organ will continue to be a part of local worship. "It's just a beautiful instrument to play," Kimball said.



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