

# Permission To Play: Creating Art At The Vermillion Public Library

BY SARAH WETZEL  
For the Plain Talk

Local mixed media artist Patti Roberts Pizzuto presented a hands-on mixed media workshop at the library Saturday showing participants a variety of creative techniques in hopes that the desire to continue creating would take root.

It certainly did for Vermillion resident Jonie Hook. "She kind of gave us permission to just play," Hook said. "She gave us the foundation of 'This is how I do it. You can do this or this or this and she gave us various avenues we could explore and she said nothing is wrong, you do whatever you want."

Participants in the activity had various materials available to them including different types of paper, thread, beads and even tea bags.

"I have a piece over there that's drying," Hook said. "I cut out words and made a little poem and put the tea bag over it and now in the meantime while it was drying I decided to do this."

Hook was in the process of stitching colored thread and beads onto a piece of paper she had dipped in wax.

"I have examples of my work and I just introduced ways you can use tea bags in the work," Pizzuto said. "I do a lot of dipping so a lot of the work is dipped in beeswax."

Depending on the paper, the wax had a different effect.

"She's created some little poem with cut words from books and covered the page with tea bags and is now dipping it," Pizzuto said pointing out one of her students' pieces. "Because it's on the stiffer paper it can stand up on its own like a book page. [The wax] changes the color and it just creates another finish."

Pizzuto brought exam-



SARAH WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

**No experience is necessary to enjoy creating art according to local mixed media artist Patti Roberts Pizzuto who presented a hands-on workshop at the library Saturday.**

ples of each medium.

"A lot of times we're using Japanese paper, that's what this is," she said, holding up a stiff paper. "This one is the rice paper. It becomes translucent when dipped in wax."

While some of Pizzuto's pieces are merely experiments with different materials and layers, most of them are deeply symbolic and allude to historical ideas.

"These marks here are an allusion to the way that we leave a trace behind," Pizzuto said indicating some marks resembling ancient native writing on one of her pieces. "The earth is layered with the history of humankind and the little relics, the traces we leave behind."

Pizzuto's own life history is also reflected in her work. "Because I have this history of libraries and books

as a cataloger there's a lot of my work that alludes to the book page and to writing," she said. "They sort of hearken back to writing in my mind anyway. The cup shows up in the work a lot as a vessel or container for memory, nourishment, sustenance. The hourglass is time passing."

According to Pizzuto, the history in her artwork is not only past history but what the history we make today will look to future generations.

"I'm always thinking about the history that comes down to us and there's so much that's a mystery," she said. "And I'm also always aware of what our civilization is going to look like a hundred years from now. What will they be able to tell? What mistakes will they make in decipher-

ing what we've left behind. Just this whole continuum I find fascinating. We're just one piece in this long line and we're all interconnected yet there's this thread that binds us together through time. The thread becomes a literal thread but I think of the thread as another layer of drawing. History is layered so the drawings are usually layered."

As Pizzuto and her students proved Saturday, you don't have to be an artist to enjoy expressing yourself through art.

"I'm not an artist," Hook said. "I am a quilter. I'm used to using a pattern not just doing something so it's been really fun. I was given permission to just play and given the materials to do it so it was really nice. I wouldn't have gone out and purchased all of these materials to play one day but it was nice to explore these options in this type of environment. I won't get this done but I'll take it home and I've got plenty of thread so I'll continue to work on this till I feel like it's done. It was fun. It was very educational and entertaining. A good Saturday afternoon activity."

Pizzuto believes everyone has a way to be creative.

"Everybody has an inner language and everybody can connect with things but I think that our culture has taken that away from us and robbed our confidence so we have to be some expert," she said. "You can go as far as you want. I do have a background as an artist and training but that doesn't mean anybody can't find their own way of making art."

The important thing to do according to Pizzuto is just give it a go.

"How else are you going to get good at it?" she said. "We all have to start somewhere and you're going to learn as you go."

## Dickenson Named Regional Director

Sandra Dickenson, of Vermillion, was elected the 2015-2018 North Central Regional Director of the American Institute of Architects during the organization's annual convention in Sioux Falls.

The North Central Regional Director is a post offered to and held by a South Dakota architect only once every 18 years. Dickenson, an AIA Emeritus, holds a BArch from the University of Oklahoma and practiced in several states and Europe before settling in Vermillion 25 years ago. Dickenson served several years on the AIA SD board of directors and is a past president.

At the meeting Koch Hazard Architects captured three American Institute of Architects South Dakota (AIA SD) design awards. Koch Hazard, established in 1961, was awarded a Merit award for the Howard Wood Press Box, a Merit award for the Bakery, and an Honor award for Gil Haugan Construction. AIA South Dakota's Design Awards honor the very best completed architectural projects from across the state.

The organization also honored the Rapid City firm AcV2 architecture for their renovation of The Garage - Rapid City, an innovative, contemporary co-working space for small businesses, nonprofits and freelancers.

Two SDSU architecture students won AIA South Dakota scholar awards. Pierre native Emily Heezen, a third year architecture student at SDSU, was awarded the Enrichment Award Scholarship. Levi Wager, a third year architecture student from Sioux Falls, was awarded a \$1,000 Merit Award Scholarship.

The organization elected new leaders at its annual board meeting held at the convention. Leap Chear, of EAPC in Sioux Falls, is the newest member of the AIA SD Board of Directors. He joins the following officers on the board for 2016:

President: Gene Fennell, Fennell Design Inc., Custer and Rapid City

Vice-President: Patri Acevedo, AcV2 architecture LLC, Rapid City

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Hurlbert, Co-op Architecture, Aberdeen and Sioux Falls

Past President: Dave Van Nieuwenhuyzen, Fiegen Construction Co., Sioux Falls

Director: Kristine Bjerke, Architecture Incorporated, Rapid City

Director: Andrew Eitrem, Architecture Incorporated, Sioux Falls

Director: Michelle Klobassa, TSP Inc., Sioux Falls

Director: Keith Thompson, Koch Hazard Architects, Sioux Falls

Director: Andrew Fett, Williams & Associates Architecture, Spearfish

Director: Jeremy Altman, AcV2 architecture LLC, Rapid City

Director: Jeremy Christopherson, RSArchitects, Sioux Falls

Director: Brian Rex, SDSU Department of Architecture, Brookings

Susie Wiswall, AIA SD's executive director, was honored by President Dave Van Nieuwenhuyzen with a special President's award for her dedication and service to the organization. Wiswall is retiring her post at the end of the year; Angela Lammers, of Sioux Falls, is the incoming executive director. Larry Crane, architect and partner in Sioux Falls-based Perspective, was honored by Van Nieuwenhuyzen with a second President's award for more than 14 years continual service to the board.

# Playing The Game: Geocaching Central Coming To W.H. Over Museum

BY SARAH WETZEL  
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The W. H. Over Museum in Vermillion is in the initial start-up phase of making a worldwide phenomena more accessible to the local community.

"It's essentially a treasure hunt by GPS," said local geocaching enthusiast Diane Leja who is helping with the project. "There will be things hidden anywhere from the size of an ammo can down to a magnetic nano that's the size of the tip of your finger. You are presented with the coordinates and you navigate by way of the compass and you get as close as you can and you start looking. Nothing is ever buried. It's either hidden kind of in plain sight or hanging in a tree. The hides are whatever someone can think of to do. The more clever, the better."

Each cache contains a piece of paper where the finder can record their find and later log it on the geocaching website should they so desire.

The W.H. Over museum is creating a central location to educate visitors and locals on geocaching and assist beginners in getting started including loaning out GPS devices.

"They're partnering with Vermillion Chamber of Commerce to make it kind of a tourism feature destination," Leja said. "We have some geocachers in town but we want visitors to know that there are a lot of geocaches around and they also hope that people will be drawn to the museum, trying to boost visits. We've been meeting and are setting up just a little tutorial, educational thing that's going to happen on October 10 kind of in conjunction with the Octoberfest that will be going on at the museum too."

On October 10 beginning at 5 or 6 in the evening, a table will be set up at the Museum to hopefully make it possible for interested

parties to begin enjoying the family-friendly activity.

"It's an introduction to geocaching if they're unfamiliar with it," Leja said. "We're actually going to be loaning out devices where they can go out and do some searching and I think it's possible that they might have some dummy hides right on the property because a cache can't be within a tenth of a mile from the next cache. Planting some on the WH Over property makes it so people can go out and practice. They're not official caches that would be published on the website or anything. We're going to have both kinds available."

"It's going to be a lot of question and answer and pointing people to the website and handing out literature more about what the game's about and how they can participate," Leja continued. "Just kind of an introductory thing. There's going to be a display case at the WH Over and we hope that visitors that come through town that aren't from the area will see this and know if they are cachers then that gets them around Vermillion and if they're not then we can introduce them to more spots around town too."

Pointing seekers to historic or interesting locations they might otherwise miss is a big part of geocaching according to Leja.

"This is the whole point of it, is to feature historic or interesting places," she said. "Not all caches are like that but those are the best

ones where you're actually going to a neat place that you didn't know about."

An experience Leja has had first hand.

"We were driving on a trip west and we found one," she said. "We were on a back road and pulled off. We went to this tiny town. We would have never stopped in this town. They had a cache near this 85-foot high replica of Van Gogh's sunflower painting. So here's this painting on this easel that's 85 feet high. This town has this touristy feature that was really cool to see."

Searching for the caches themselves can be quite an adventure according to Leja.

"There's all sorts of levels you can play this game at," she said. "There are puzzle caches where you actually have to solve something to get the correct coordinates. There are earth caches which is a really fun feature. I hope that the Over museum can put some earth caches out. Those take you to a geologic site of some sort and then you have to answer questions of some sort or take some measurements and do some scientific work to find the find on that."

One of the best parts about geocaching is you can play how you want according to Leja.

For example you can choose the type and difficulty level (ranked on levels 1-5) of caches you attempt to find.

"Each cache is rated in difficulty and terrain and size," Leja said. "You know

## LEADING THE BEAT



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

**The Pride of Vermillion Marching Band under the direction of John Alpers, Director of Bands and drum majors Abby Van Peurse and Rob McFall performed at Friday night's football game.**

## GOT NEWS?

CALL THE PLAIN TALK AT 605-624-4429

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



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