

I N N O V A T I O N

Section 3



Area dignitaries broke ground on the new Parshall Boys and Girls Club last fall. It will open this spring. PHOTO BY JERRY W. KRAM

New building, new opportunities for Boys and Girls Club

BY EDNA SAILOR

The Parshall Boys and Girls Club is getting a new home. It is not just that the new building is innovative. Even more significant is what the building will mean to the children and young adults in the community.

"We will be one of the first to take the initiative to provide this building to make our own space for the children. It has been needed for a long time," Coby Rabbithead, Community member said.

Currently the Boys and Girls Club meets in a small room in Red Hall. While the facility has

been generous in its support for the Boys and Girls Club and other youth of the community, it is a popular site for many kinds of activities and that means competition for the small spaces.

"It will be nice to have a place that is theirs and can support what they do and does not conflict with other functions," Rabbithead said.

No one knows that better than Jacobi Jarski, Unit Director.

"It is a 7,490 sq. ft building that will include a Learning Center with activities and

programs for youth age 6-9; a Tween Center, Activities and programs for youth age 10-12; Teen Center, Activities and programs for youth age 13-18; Activity area, an area that will be used as an open recreation area, snack time, and for larger events; Stage, this area will be used to presentations, speakers, karaoke, show & tell, etc; and a Kitchen- This area will be used for preparing snack-meals for the kids and cooking classes." Jarski said.

Aside from the building aspect. Programming innova-

tions will expand opportunities for the Boys and Girls Club and other youth.

"We will be able to do so much more including Boys & Girls Clubs of America Programming, speakers, presentations, family nights, cultural activities, cultural nights, community involvement, mentoring programs and program collaborations. Our parents are very excited that we will finally have a place of our own, Jarski said.

"This will certainly be a more positive place for our kids to be. And with more space we can serve more kids. Each age group will have its own room for their activities. I think this is a huge step forward for Parshall," said parent, Katie Moreno.

According to Jarski the building will be located west of North Country Oil. It will offer the following advantages: less crowded, a controlled entry, located on a safer road, close to the High School and a large outdoor space. If there are any disadvantage they include the new site location is farther from the elementary school and the residential part of town.

And as far as the boys and girls are concerned, "they are looking forward to more room and a safe place to go," Jacobi said.

Residents and parents see the innovation in this community as one that will no doubt touch hundreds of lives over time and leave a positive impact as it does.



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Small town classroom innovation



*Nikki Fideldy - Center-Stanton School District
NDACTE Agriculture Education Outstanding New CTE Teacher*

Nikki Fideldy uses innovative training and activity to get her students engaged in what they are learning.

BY JARANN JOHNSON
Being innovative in a small town is hard but it hasn't stopped Center-Stanton AG teacher/FFA advisor Nikki Fideldy from trying. Fideldy uses innovative ideas and training to keep her students engaged and truly interested in what they are learning.

Fideldy has completed a lot of specialized training programs. She's won several awards and completed numerous training programs. All the extra training is worth it to Fideldy because being an Ag teacher is what she loves.

"I just love it - Yes, sometimes coming to work is coming to work, but I truly love my job. I always joke that if I won the lottery I'd be done but it's so not true. Even if I had all the money in the world tomorrow I would still do what I do," Fideldy said.

"My Ag teacher growing up always told me that if I found a job that I loved, I would never

work a day in my life. It really is true and I think that's why I really do go above and beyond."

Agricultural education has changed over the years. It has cycled through a couple different trends - Ag vocation, Ag education and now Ag Science. Fideldy said she needs to stay on top of the latest trends to get prospective students interested in her class.

"If I expect my students to invest their time and money in my class when we talk about electives, then I need to be willing to invest my time outside of school to make it literally the best educational experience possible," Fideldy said.

Center-Stanton is part of a consortium, which gives students access to machines like laser engravers and 3-D printers. But Fideldy's innovation comes in a different way than tech. Her way to engage students is through the learning process.

Right now students learning hands on about aquaponics. Students are raising Tilapia at the school.

"We are raising Tilapia and we have a full system that can raise Tilapia and food all in one system. That's a form of innovation. We have hydroponics, the conventional greenhouse. I never knew things about aquaponics, I can promise you that and I still have a lot to learn," Fideldy said.

The big question Fideldy tries to answer is how do I enhance learning in a non-traditional way. She's done creative things like using a crime scene activity to teach animal science. Students had to visit different stations to investigate the crime, which reinforced classroom lessons.

Another example of Fideldy using innovation to teach is gaming. Fideldy said instead of a lecture on different farming

SMALL TOWN
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SMALL TOWN continued from page 2

environments she had students play a game. The game had simulations to show students some of the different challenges of farming in different parts of the country and world.

She also uses escape rooms. During an escape room activity students have to work together to find clues leading to the escape key.

Fidely said education innovation doesn't have to be strictly tied to technology. She gave an example of an innovate glue and paper idea.

"Sometimes innovation isn't as hard as we think," Fidely said. "It's just enhancing a dissection by having students do a 3-D dissection on paper. I have a document, which I didn't make. It's pieces of paper they cut and glue on top of each other. It's basically flip book. They open it up and it's the pig they dissect in class but on paper."

Fidely said she mixes teaching styles and education ideas

to do her job and focuses on a few different keys – Try not to lecture, make it hands on, be a guide, give students tools to learn and mistakes are chances to learn. She also uses some technology to improve the learning environment.

Fidely uses an app called Flip Grid to create classroom discussions and reflections. Flip Grid is similar to Snapchat.

"Students record themselves, reflecting on something. It's kind of like Snapchat. They record themselves or take a picture then it uploads. They can respond to each other. I'm just trying to find a way to do what we've always done differently," Fidely said.

Fidely uses her training and innovative ideas to engage students in the learning process. Students can always depend on the teacher they affectionately call Mrs. F to challenge them in a new way.



Fidely helps students set up to farm tilapia. Right now she's teaching students about aquaponics.

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Exhibits built for the senses

Interpretive Center invites people to touch, taste history

BY ALYSSA MEIER

Often, museums design their displays for people to learn about the subject matter in one way -- through sight. At the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Washburn, staff work to give visitors a way to experience history through all of their senses, hoping these connections will help keep pieces of the past alive.

“Where a museum would put conservation first, then preservation and then interpretation, we would put interpretation, then conservation and preservation as our priority,” Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Site Supervisor Kevin Kirkey said.

Kirkey and Interpretive Coordinator Robert Hanna took some time this month to explain how the center works to not only protect historical items, but to let visitors make memories with those items.

Kirkey said the center has several garden hoes made from the scapula of bison. Several, he said, are packaged in acid-free boxes in a dark room to be kept in pristine condition. Another is hanging in a display, enduring light and temperature changes, but safely out of reach. One item, though, is still getting some use.

“We have a buffalo scapula



Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center Site Supervisor Kevin Kirkey demonstrates how one exhibit works during this year’s Insider Tour. Kirkey and Interpretive Coordinator Robert Hanna gave the tour this year, showing visitors not only how artifacts are protected, but how they work to help people experience history in unique ways. (ALYSSA MEIER)

hoe that we hand to the visitor and say, ‘Let’s go outside and till this garden,’” Kirkey said.

“And now, it’s no longer a museum artifact. It’s something that they have an experience

with.” This emphasis on not only protecting history, but giving

people a chance to live it was a

EXHIBITS

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Innovation: the key to success

Creative minds help diversify the operation of the Dakota Gasification Company’s Synfuels Plant, expanding from producing primarily natural gas to 13 products from coal.

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EXHIBITS continued from page 4

constant theme during a recent interview with the Interpretive Center employees, who had just put on the annual Insider Tour in March. The tour welcomes visitors to explore the ins and outs of the facility, showing them the mechanics behind exhibits and the effort put toward protecting artifacts.

But, Hanna said, protecting the historical items with consistent temperature, lighting and humidity is only a small part of the job. The main focus is displaying and interpreting those items in a way that will engage visitors.

"They physically come to our museum, so they should physically interact with stuff, whether it's by seeing the real thing in a display case or taking something ... and using it, playing with it, eating it," Hanna said.

Kirkey and Hanna said the Interpretive Center offers history in unique ways in order to capture the attention of their visitors. This means interactive displays that people can touch, move, listen to, wear or even eat.

"You can come in and you can taste corn that the Mandan grew and try on clothes that Lewis and Clark would have worn," Kirkey said. "It's about giving visitors what they want."

To figure out what exactly it is that people want, Interpretive Center employees do thorough research on different technology and exhibits.

"From market research, we follow studies that are done nationwide in museums or in

similar organizations like zoos, botanical gardens and so on," Hanna said.

Hanna said that in recent years, more museums have tried to incorporate technology into displays through new phone apps, which have been poorly received by the public.

"Market research actually shows most visitors don't use that and the ones who do say it didn't actually improve their experience," Hanna said. "Museums spend tens of thousands of dollars developing these, and we kind of saved ourselves the time by looking at this and saying, 'That's not necessarily the most important thing we could be doing.'"

Hanna said he also looks to the actual visitors for feedback through social media, graphing comments made on review sites and looking for patterns.

"If I see something a lot of people are having an issue with, then the following year, we make adjustments based on that," Hanna said, noting that this kind of research is invaluable to a business. "It's free advice from the people that matter most."

The men said the Interpretive Center is constantly looking at ways to improve the experience for visitors, even if it means taking some items out of storage and putting them into the hands of the people.

"We are trying to provide innovative experiences with the resources that we have by putting them to use and making them available to those people," Kirkey said.



Hanna offers some traditional dried corn to attendees of the Insider Tour. It is one of the ways that the Interpretive Center aims to keep history alive through its visitors, who are able to buy corn of their own to plant at home.

Innovation Idea



"What I truly think sets Washburn apart from other communities is that no matter who needs help, we all come together. If a family loses a loved one, we come together. If a family loses a home in a fire, we come together. If a family needs help moving into their new home, we come together. Washburn is filled with friendly, hard-working, thoughtful people who are all working together to keep this a safe community for the young and old alike."

- Kayla Buckley, Washburn

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Horses bring healing in Parshall



Zach Folden takes his turn learning the basics of horsemanship at the Healing Horse Ranch.

BY EDNA SAILOR

When members of the Three Affiliated Tribes sought solutions to some ongoing problems, they turned to an innovative way to approach them. And so far the plan seems to be working.

With the support of Mervin Packineau, North East Segment Councilman, Jim Baker, Healing Horse Ranch Director knows that all too well.

"We do Equine therapy with people in Drug and Alcohol treatment once a week at the ranch. We have been doing this for about three years and have reached many people with this program. Interacting with horses can have a calming effect with people. A horse can take a person outside of themselves and it engages them with the horse. We have worked with Tribal Court juveniles as well," Baker said.

And those are not the only groups that benefit from the innovative approaches at the

Healing Horse Ranch. The Boys and Girls Club from Parshall and other groups of children and families attend the Horsemanship Classes offered at the ranch.

"Our classes offer the opportunity for kids to have contact with a horse. Many only see horses on TV or rodeo. Here at the HH Ranch they get to touch, feel, handle, ride and groom a horse. It is an opportunity to make a good memory that could last a life time," Baker said.

Aside from the basic horsemanship and safety, Baker feels there are plenty of other take aways as well.

"Culturally, we teach our children that horses are sacred and they carry life in them. Horses can tell us when danger is near or when the weather is going to change. Horses will always remember their way home," he said.

Baker wants children and adults to carry their experiences along with them, long after they have departed the ranch.

"We want them to experience the outside of a horse is good for the inside of a person. We want them to have fun learning about horse with hands on experience and feel good about themselves," he said.

Baker sees how the innovation is working.

"Every class ranges from 10 to 20 children from different communities. We have families that come out at different times to ride their horses in the indoor arena," he said.

He has had the opportunity to see children's reactions first hand.

"They react with excitement most of the time. The child either likes it or is afraid. We never force a child to ride or touch a horse," Baker said.

The Healing Horse Ranch approach is as ambitious as it is innovative. Services include: "Monday is Barrel Racing Practice; Tuesday is Team Roping Practice; Wednesday is the Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College Class; Thursday is Team Roping; Friday is Open Barn Day and Saturday & Sunday are reserved for events," Baker said.

And at the end of the day when the horses are groomed and bedded down for the night, there is a lasting impact that this special type of innovation produces.

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