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Window Work

Restoring The Windows Of The Mead Building Is A Painstaking Process To Preserve History

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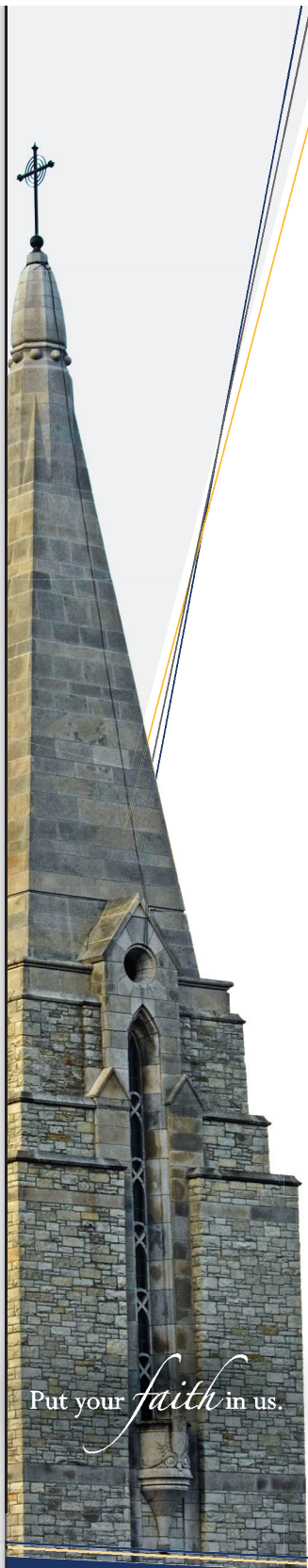
At the former campus of the Human Services Center north of Yankton, in two rooms on the east side of the historic Mead Building, Ben Brunick is busy bringing the past back to life. Brunick, who recently started Chalkstone Woodworking in Yankton, is in charge of restoring and rehabilitating the 230 original windows of the Mead Building, which was constructed in 1909. "It's an interesting project," the craftsman said. "There aren't many places where you can salvage the original windows of a 100-year-old building." The windows are a significant portion of the entire Mead Building Project, which is restoring the building for future use as the new home of the Dakota Territorial Museum. Crystal Nelson, director of the Dakota Territorial Museum and Mead Building committee member, said the topic of how to address the building's windows generated extensive conversation for the committee. However, after exhaustive research, it was clear that utilizing the original windows was a better option than replacement.

"Not only will keeping and restoring and rehabilitating the existing windows be an incredible asset for the historical integrity of the building, but it will also prove to be just as economically efficient as buying new windows," Nelson said. "Overall, we think it will be the best long-term solution to the damaged windows. We're excited about it." The windows project consists of two parts — the repair of the existing sash windows and the creation of historically accurate storm windows to protect the original structures. Brunick said he is currently focused on creating the frames for the storm windows, as the cold winter temperatures won't allow him to work on other areas. He said he could heat the two Mead Building rooms that have been set up as his workshop to a higher temperature, but doing so would not be economically viable. "We'd have to spend a huge amount of propane to get the temperature up to 65 or 70 degrees so you can get epoxy to cure or paint to cure or caulk to cure," said Brunick, who noted the main workshop room is currently kept at 50 to 55 degrees. "But I've got plenty of storm windows to make, and with the way the joints were pinned back then instead of glued, it's something we can do right

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KELLY HERTZ/P&D
Ben Brunick of Chalkstone Woodworking in Yankton displays some of the storm windows he has built for the Mead Building restoration. Using white pine, which is durable but easy to work with, Brunick is creating these windows indoors in preparation for moving outside in the spring. (The frames appear slightly distorted due to the use of a wide-angle lens in Brunick's makeshift shop in the Mead Building.)



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{JAN. 25 - FEB 1}

	SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
2:00 PM	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - DOANE COLLEGE - HOME
4:00 PM	MEN'S BASKETBALL - DOANE COLLEGE - HOME
TBA	INDOOR TRACK - WAYNE STATE INVITATIONAL - WAYNE, NE
	SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
4:00 PM	MASS - PEACE CHAPEL
5:15 PM	BIBLE STUDY - RONCALLI, SOUTH DINING ROOM
	MONDAY, JANUARY 27
8 AM - 4:30 PM	BEDE ART GALLERY: JEFF BALLARD, "DEFINING PURPOSE"
10:00 AM	COMMUNITY HOUR
6:00 PM	JV WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE - AWAY
7:45 PM	JV MEN'S BASKETBALL - NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE - AWAY
	TUESDAY, JANUARY 28
8 AM - 4:30 PM	PRESTIGIOUS ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP DAY, RONCALLI
9:30 PM	BEDE ART GALLERY: JEFF BALLARD, "DEFINING PURPOSE"
	ROSARY - PEACE CHAPEL
	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29
8 AM - 4:30 PM	TOWN HALL - ACADEMIC AFFAIRS - RONCALLI
10:00 AM	BEDE ART GALLERY: JEFF BALLARD, "DEFINING PURPOSE"
11:00 AM	COMMUNITY HOUR AND MASS - GREG HALL
6:00 PM	LIVIN LARGE WITH THE LANCERS - SACRED HEART SCHOOL - CIMPLE ARENA
8:00 PM	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE - HOME
	MEN'S BASKETBALL - NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE - HOME
	THURSDAY, JANUARY 30
8 AM - 4:30 PM	BEDE ART GALLERY: JEFF BALLARD, "DEFINING PURPOSE"
	FRIDAY, JANUARY 31
8 AM - 4:30 PM	BEDE ART GALLERY: JEFF BALLARD, "DEFINING PURPOSE"
10:00 AM	COMMUNITY HOUR
TBA	INDOOR TRACK - BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY MULTI MEET - STORM LAKE, IA
	SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1
2:00 PM	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY - HOME
4:00 PM	MEN'S BASKETBALL - CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY - HOME
TBA	INDOOR TRACK - CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY - SEWARD, NE
TBA	INDOOR TRACK - BUENA VISTA UNIVERSITY
	MULTI MEET - STORM LAKE, IA

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