



Have A Photo?

Submit it to River City for publication in this space: RiverCity@yankton.net. (Photo: Brenda Koller)



The change in seasons has turned much of the attention of Yankton's Mead restoration project to exterior work. KELLY HERTZ/P&D



Ben Brunick of Chalkstone Woodworking demonstrates one of the new storm windows that are being built and installed at the Mead Building ROB NIELSEN/P&D

Mead On The Move

A Change In Seasons Means A Change In Priorities For The Mead Project

BY ROB NIELSEN
rob.nielsen@yankton.net

In roughly three years, you'll be able to visit the Dakota Territorial Museum and the offices of Yankton College in the Mead Building on the campus of the Human Services Center (HSC). In the meantime there's a lot of work to be done with the 106-year-old structure — both inside and out.

Mead Building project coordinator Gregg Homstad said a lot has been going on over the last six months.

"Through the winter, we were primarily focused on the central staircase and balcony area, plaster restoration and doing the decorative painting on the ceiling areas," he said. "After that, we started doing work in the upstairs parlors, more plaster restoration, fabricating moldings."

But with the transition from winter to spring and summer, Homstad said the focus has shifted.

"That's on hold right now as we transition operations outside for tuck pointing," he said. "While we've got the warm weather, that work we can continue into October and maybe November. That's definitely a window of opportunity we need to take advantage of is exterior work to help with the weatherization of the building."

Additionally, utility work is also set to continue this summer.

"Hopefully we'll have some utility work coming in," he said. "We've got water and sewer that's supposed to happen this summer. We'd like to time that so we can have some running water in the building."

Homstad said once winter rolls around again, they'll return to the plaster work and other interior projects.

Another section of the renovation taking advantage of warmer weather is window installation.

Ben Brunick of Chalkstone Woodworking has been helping build and refurbish windows for the building.

"The last six months, we've restored the sash that are in the east wing," Brunick said. "We worked on that through the winter. We took those sash out, restored them, replaced parts."

He added that they didn't need to make a full replacement of any of the windows.

"I don't think we had any sash windows that we had to completely remake," he said. "We just ended up making parts for the windows. Because the windows aren't glued together, we can take them apart and we can just replace pieces that need to be replaced. The pieces that mainly got replaced are the bottom lower rails of the upper and lower



ROB NIELSEN/P&D



ROB NIELSEN/P&D

LEFT: Mead Building project coordinator Gregg Homstad shows off some of the paint and plaster work that has been restored on the Mead Building entrance's ceiling. ABOVE: Mead Building project coordinator Gregg Homstad shows some of the progress that has been made on one of the second-story parlors at the Mead Building. Most interior work has been suspended for the summer in order to take advantage of warmer weather and work on outdoor weatherization items. BELOW: A view of some of the exterior window work under way at Mead.



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

sash — they're the ones that the water comes down, sits on and rots it out. I would say that's probably 85 percent of the parts that were replaced."

He said the goal is to repair as much as possible, rather than replace everything.

"We only try to replace the pieces that are too far gone," he said. "If we can repair them, then we try to repair them."

Brunick said currently they're focused on storm windows and painting.

"We've got some trustee labor that's painting the restored windows for that east wing," he said. "We've been working on these large windows in the front parlors. We've been pulling those windows out, doing the same restoration process on those windows and making these large storm windows."

The storm windows are new and being installed on the outside with the original windows on the inside. Brunick said after the lower level windows are complete, they'll move on to the upstairs windows.

While the project has steadily moved along towards its goal for more than two years now, Dakota Territorial Museum director Crystal Nelson said she hasn't seen

Friday & Saturday, June 12th & 13th

PARKING LOT
SALE

ONE-OF-A-KINDS

SCRATCH AND DENTS

DISCONTINUED ITEMS

OVERSTOCK PRODUCT

Bring Your
PickUp-
Some Items
starting at
\$1.00

slumberland®
FURNITURE
slumberland.com

it's a
good
life.™

920 Broadway • Yankton
605-665-3719

M-F 9-8 • Sat 9-5 • Sun 12-5