

# RiverCity

TV Listings  
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SECTION B | Friday, May 7, 2010



Lita Stucky instructs Studio Art Center student Case in the art of transferring a drawing onto a canvas to paint. The technique is one that Stucky uses to help her students in creating their art. The theme the students have been working on this year is Nature and Wildlife. (Shauna Marlette/P&D)

Studio Art Center student Jon works on his painting of an elk in preparation of the upcoming "Nature and Wildlife Art Show," being held at the Studio Art Center in Yankton. The show is open to the public with an open house and picnic celebrating the beginning of the show from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, May 15. (Courtesy Photo)

## BEST IN SHOW

Local Student Artists To Display Works At Studio Art Center

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When you walk in the door of the Studio Art Center, you instantly know that you have walked into an artists' haven. Paintings of every skill level, color and size greet you, and you know that you are in a place where students enjoy learning about art.

That opportunity to learn and share what these students have learned will be on display throughout the summer with the "Nature and Wildlife Art Show," on display through September at 412 Douglas Avenue. The show will kick off with open house and picnic from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, May 15.

"I knew from a young age that I wanted to be an artist and teacher," said Lita Stucky, owner of the Studio Art Center. "I was fortunate to study under a very wise instructor who told me if I was going to do this — make it my life's career — then I needed to start collecting photographs of inspiration. I still have those first pictures I collected. The photos I have collected over the years now take a truck to move."

Having taught art for her entire life, Stucky said she believes in the incredible creativity inside everyone, which lies sometimes dormant until it is brought to life through a series of art lessons.

"Everyone's an artist who expresses from their heart and soul something that has meaning to them," she said. "In this light, children are natural artists and adults just need to rekindle the flame."

Currently more than 50 students take advantage of the instruction that Stucky provides in classes ranging from students as young as 4 to the young at heart, and everyone in between. She also takes great pride in the talent she has the privilege to instruct with her students from the Ability Building Services.

"When a student comes in, we will begin with drawing classes, then will move on to colored pencils, pastels, painting in all mediums, as well as illustration, fashion art, decorative painting and crafts applications," she said. "Everyone who walks in the door to take a class — be they trained or a beginner — has one thing in common: They love art. Some will be very skilled, some are just beginners, but part of the joy of instructing is seeing how they progress and tracking their growth from one work to the next."

Stucky said that she and her husband frame and mount all of the students' works, because she has discovered in the past that it is just too difficult to expect the parents to find the time to get it done at home. She also noted that most of the displays at the studio are prints of the original work.

"The students, especially my younger students, can't wait to take their work home," she

said. "We get prints made of their work so they can take the originals home with them."

Because Stucky does not believe art should be a competition, the works on display for the show will not be judged against each other; rather, she will pick one work from each artist to be their own personal best in show.

"Some students will have more work show-

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ing than others, but everyone will get a ribbon," she said. "The students have been coming in looking to see if I have judged their work yet, excited to see which piece I think is their best. They have abundant talent, and it is astounding to see how much they have grown throughout the year. I think anyone who comes to see the show will be very surprised what they find."

The display is open to the public. If you are not able to attend the May 15 open house, Stucky asks that you call 605-665-4686 to arrange a time to view the show, so as not to interrupt classes.

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