

USD

From Page 3

that come and go here. A lot of people get to see it and appreciate it.”

“There’s more exposure here than in Slagle Hall,” Bennett added.

Among the items on display were a picture of Kahlo, some books and a small clay box used for storing personal articles.

“We also have a little Mexican cart with oxen and fruit. She loved fruit,” Van Damme said. “We have a clay figure of a nun with a sombrero, and that represents the importance of Catholicism in the Mexican tradition.

“And of course, her dresses were very traditional. She believed in the traditional clothes of her country,” Van Damme said.

These traditional clothes were

Welding

From Page 1

“I like to bring more things in for our students and get them more involved,” said Andes Central principal Rocky Brinkman. “Josh has done a wonderful job teaching the students and helping get this program get set up. It’s just great.”

“It’s all about providing opportunities,” said Svatos, who was joined Wednesday by fellow educator SFC Mark Roberts of the South Dakota National Guard in Wagner. “You look at career and technical education in high schools, and it’s one of the first programs that get cut nowadays, because they are so capital-intensive to run those programs. So if there’s a void we can fill, that’s what we’re trying to do.

“We’re trying to expose kids to career and technical education and highly skilled jobs, whether that be manufacturing, electricians, plumbers — careers on those types of tracks. We want to open those doors, especially with Andes Central, and help fill that niche and provide different opportunities to kids.”

Industrial technology teacher William Jamison said that while the partnership with RTEC has increased student’s interest in such careers in the past four years, the new simulator has taken that interest to another level.

“Welding is a very popular field in South Dakota, and these kids don’t have a chance to do it,” he said. “With this, we can offer them

worn by a pair of full-size skeletons.

“I’ve created altars in academic institutions in Texas and Colorado, and when I was looking for life-size skeletons — that’s what I usually use, either real or plastic — no one could lend me their skeletons,” Van Damme said. “Finally I went downtown, and Diane Nesselhuf of the store Sharing the Dream lent me her only two mannequins.”

Although the Day of the Dead is celebrated primarily in Mexico, similar celebrations take place each year throughout the world, including countries in South America, Africa, Europe and Asia.

“Scholars trace the origins of the modern Mexican holiday to indigenous observances dating back hundreds of years, and to an Aztec festival dedicated to the goddess Mictecacihuatl,” Van Damme said.

The Spanish Club’s altar was on display in the library through Friday afternoon.

a chance to explore it.”

Junior Nikayla Chytka is one such student who has benefited from the simulator, as she said she normally wouldn’t have been interested in welding without the chance to first try it on the machine.

“I think it’s cool how you get to learn how to weld and get experience, but you don’t have the heat and the worry of getting burned,” she said. “I love it.”

With her recent exposure to the skill, Chytka said she now plans on pursuing welding as a possible career.

“I’d also like to go into it to show girls can do what guys do,” she added. “We can weld, too.”

Jamison said that the chance to use the simulator has also had positive effects outside his classroom, as it has encouraged students to get caught up on their homework, as they cannot use the machine if they are behind in their classes.

“It’s been a very good motivational tool for the kids,” he said. “They’re all really excited to use it.”

Svatos will soon take the simulator to other high schools in the state, where he hopes to continue his goal of providing opportunities for students to explore new careers.

“We don’t want kids to look at career and technical education as a consolation prize,” he said. “We want them to come in and learn hands on, enjoy what they’re doing, and look at these highly skilled jobs. And this is just another step in accomplishing that.”

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Coroner

From Page 1

Association of Coroners & Medical Examiners. She is presently attending Briar Cliff University to attain a masters in nursing in order to become a nurse practitioner.

“I am a member of different associations for EMS and nursing, I do teaching for EMS and I am a critical care preceptor for student nurses,” Nickles added.

Nickles said the coroner’s office faces challenges involving a lack of training, guidelines and communication.

“Melisa stated in a Press & Dakotan article that she would like to get more training and education for the deputy coroners,” she stated. “It has been four years, and that continues to be a problem. I believe each deputy needs background education in health and death, but also experienced training in how to carry out an investigation.”

No deputy coroners have been invited to observe or assist with the autopsies Smith has been involved with this year, depriving them of a chance for training,

Nickles alleged.

“There are no present guidelines used (during an investigation),” she continued. “The information obtained from one deputy is not the same information obtained from another. There is no consistency to an investigation. Therefore, there is the potential of an inadequate investigation.”

To help address this, Nickles said she has developed a general death investigation form that would standardize investigations. She is also working on a pediatric death investigation form.

“Communication is another obstacle,” Nickles stated. “Presently, most of the communication done by the coroner is by way of texting. I would like to see the coroner’s office return to a more professional means of communication.”

Smith said she agrees that more emphasis needs to be placed upon training if she is elected to a second term.

“Training is a big issue currently, so having more mandatory training is an area that will see change,” she stated. “We need to make sure that all of the deputies are well trained and capable of responding to all and any type of death call.”

Ensuring there is adequate cov-

erage by deputy coroners when the coroner is not available must also be addressed, according to Smith.

“There are times when the coroner is not available and a deputy needs to be paged,” she said. “All of the deputies have full-time jobs they work, which does not allow them to leave for a coroner call. Adding a couple more deputies may help fill some of the coverage gaps.”

Nickles said a call rotation would help solve the issue.

“We do not always know when Melisa will or will not be available,” she stated. “Therefore, she is not aware of who may or may not be available in her absence.”

When asked what sets her apart from her opponent, Smith said it comes down to experience.

“Having served as the coroner for the last four years, I have gained a wealth of experience for this position,” she stated. “Each year, the coroner’s office responds to over 50 calls, and I personally respond to 90 percent of those calls. I have also learned many things that need to be changed, including some procedure changes and more training for the deputies.

“I have provided families with support and information during a

difficult time,” she added. “It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as the coroner for Yankton County. I hope to serve the residents for another four-year term.”

Nickles cited her medical experience and leadership skills as things that set her apart.

“Though Melisa and I have the same number of years of being actively involved in EMS, my experience is primarily always patient care at a higher level,” she said. “I have been chief deputy coroner for most of the past nine years, and I have experience in all types of death, including natural, accidental, homicide and suicide. All of the deputies communicate openly with me about questions, concerns and ideas about the coroner’s office and investigations.

“I feel the most important part of being a coroner is consideration for the families of the deceased by providing a thorough investigation and accurately determining the cause of death,” Nickles continued. “Relationships with family and friends of the deceased is imperative, as they are a valuable resource in the investigation. As coroner, I will emphasize the importance and responsibility we have to those left behind.”

Students

From Page 1

dents about the election, they often simply groan and say they are sick of the commercials.

“We were able to show the students what the ballot looks and tell them that voting is a right we have as citizens,” Long said. “People say it’s not important and that your vote doesn’t count, but when things don’t go well, we complain. If you don’t vote, you are giving those that do vote more power.”

Even though middle school students are a long way from being able to vote, Long said they still think it’s a good idea to go through the process as if they were actually voting.

However, one big difference between the mock election and the actual election is students only voted for the president on Friday.

“We decided not to do any of the local races or questions be-

cause that would make the process a lot longer,” Long said. “We’re focusing only on the presidential race, which makes it easier for us to count all the ballots. We decided just to keep it simple.”

Social studies teachers sent home sample ballots with students last week, and had parents sign them to say they talked with their kids about the election, ballot items and the importance of voting.

“When we sent those ballots home, it also encourages parents who are eligible to vote to think about the election,” she said. “As teachers, we shouldn’t influence students’ political beliefs. We try to keep everything non-partisan and just present the facts.”

Long added that getting the election and the voting discussion started with middle school students is important.

“Some students obviously speak to their parents a lot about politics and the election,” she said. “Some have been told what their beliefs should be by their parents. Politics is certainly some-

thing that your parents influence their kids about but it’s also important that kids start thinking about voting for the future when they can vote.”

Long said she reviewed the electoral college with her students, and told them that voting is a two-step process, with the popular vote then with the electoral college picking the president.

“We tried to set this up today like it was the regular election. Students showed their student identification, with student council members checking their name off the list,” she said. “We even got to use the actual ballot boxes and students stick their ballot into the box.”

This is a change from the last mock election when students just voted in their homeroom classes

by filling out a ballot and returning it to their teacher.


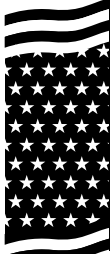

One of the goals of the mock election is for teachers to raise student awareness on the importance of voting.

“Students in middle school are often pretty self-centered and not really aware what is going on in the world around them,” Long said. “It’s important to raise their awareness on voting by telling them they make a bigger difference by voting then by not voting. So we hope students know what’s going on, and even encourage their parents to vote and we hope they will vote in the future when they are eligible.”

You can follow Andrew Atwal on Twitter at twitter.com/andrewatwal

Elect

Nickles for Coroner




Arica Nickles, RN, BSN, EMT-Paramedic
A CORONER with Goals

- Implement progressive training and retention program
- Achieve coroner availability and response time
- Timely and accurate reporting and return on death certificates
- Criminal death investigation cooperation and experience with local law enforcement

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