

Art project towers in Philipp's Park



Patrick Fisher Photo

Sagan (left) and brother Cairo Shetka and their mother Kiersten Dahl-Shetka stand in front of "Towering to Our Future" Friday, May 29, in Philipp's Park in New Prague. Dahl-Shetka built the tower as part of a community art project. She plans to have local residents of various ages create bronze plaques that will fill each side of the tower.

Patrick Fisher
Staff Writer

The sides of Kiersten Dahl-Shetka's art project, "Towering to Our Future: Be the change you want to see" in Philipp's Park are currently blank, although she hopes the spaces will eventually reflect various ideas from New Prague residents.

The 8-foot, 10-inch tower near the intersection of Highway 21 and West Main Street was erected on Friday, May 29. It has room for 11 bronze cast plaques on each of its four sides.

"I want people to make something they love about the community or would like to see come into the community," said Dahl-Shetka, who is an art teacher at Holy Cross School in Webster.

The roof of the tower is made from recycled plastic and crowning the structure is a bronze lion.

Dahl-Shetka hopes to start

on the next phase of the project this fall, by getting young teens to help make the first set of plaques. From there, she'll move on to high school students, then adults and on to Mala Strana Health Care Campus residents. Each group will work with wax and clay to make the plaques and Dahl-Shetka will do the bronze work, although people may have a chance to help with that process.

The project is one of four being done this summer through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council. The New Prague Arts Council, New Prague Chamber of Commerce and New Prague Community Education worked together to secure the grant.

The tower is the second of the projects. The first was "PRIDE," created by glass artist Rose-Marie James and

wrought iron artist Pete Schoenecker. It is a stained glass window showing the community's main landmarks and other aspects of the city, supported by a wrought iron frame. PRIDE is on display at Community Security Bank, 1100 First St. NE. Eventually it will be displayed at other New Prague

businesses. Cindi Gordon and Connie Meisner will create the remaining art projects. Gordon is doing four paintings, "Seasons of Traditions" that depict each season with some Czech heritage and Meisner will restore the mural on the west wall of the Back and Neck Clinic.

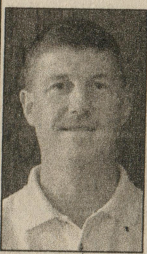
Military News

Collin Burns has joined the United States Army Reserve under the Delayed Training Program. The program gives young men and women the opportunity to delay reporting for basic military training for up to 270 days. An enlistment in the reserve gives many new soldiers the option to learn a new skill, serve their country, and become eligible to

receive more than \$7,000 toward a college education, and other bonuses.

Burns graduated in 2006 from MACCRAY High School in Clara City and will report to Fort Jackson, Columbia, SC, for basic training in October 2009. He is the son of Daniel Burns of Raymond and Cheryl Stewart of New Prague.

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