



## Dimick continues to leave her mark

Bringing beauty and inspiration with her latest creation

There's no doubt Wendy Dimick has left her mark.

She provided artistic direction to thousands of students during her 33-year career at Northridge High School. Her artwork, and the work done by her students, has and continues to be a source of joy throughout Weber and Davis counties.

Dimick's latest piece reminds folks that Syracuse is "The Gateway to the Great Salt Lake."

That reminder is a larger-than-life mural on the west side of the Syracuse Regional Museum located at 1891 W. 1700 South, Syracuse.

Recently, a group of history buffs, artists, friends and family members gathered there to take part in a ceremonial ribbon cutting for Dimick's creation. It reminds motorists and pedestrians that while it is winter, spring will come, and wildlife will again saunter through the long green and amber grasses and cattails along the shores of the Great Salt Lake.

The sunflowers, Dimick said, are her favorite.

Dimick began the work at the end of September after Museum Director Elizabeth Najim not only garnered

a grant through the Davis County Tourism Board and the Discover Davis group, but also started looking for a local artist.

Najim sought suggestions via Facebook from members of the Syracuse Utah Citizens Group, and five people responded suggesting she should reach out to Dimick, who resides in the city.

Conversations then took place, as did a number of sketches. Najim explained the sketches then received approval from the Museum's Board of Directors and the Syracuse City Council and the rest, as they say, is history.

As Dimick started the mural, she quickly realized one of her challenges was the weather—which included the baking western sun in September and snow in November. She also relied on a portable heater to keep her hands warm when temperatures turned frigid.

"(Weather) was a problem," Dimick said. "Several days, it was like, 'OK, I'm going to leave school and go work on it,' but then it would be snowing. We got that big snow about three weeks ago. That whole week was shot. So, I kind of had to do it around the weather."

She also took advantage of not only the four-day school district Fall Break to make progress, but also on her



Wendy Dimick poses in front of her latest piece.

**See DIMICK, Pg. 2**

### Superintendent Message

## "Empowering Diversity: Uniting to Create Lasting Change"

Diversity is the engine of our progress, and it has been crucial to making our community and school district better. As Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will." This rings true in a world where we need to embrace diversity in order to create lasting change.

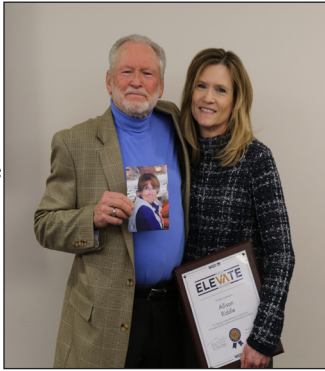
Our school district is no stranger to this concept; we have seen how much difference embracing different backgrounds, beliefs, cultures and experiences makes for us all. We know that by promoting unity among people of diverse backgrounds and identities, we can build bridges between communities that are often divided by their differences.

We must strive each day to make sure everyone feels they belong here and can access resources necessary for success both inside and outside the classroom; only then will our students feel empowered with the freedom of expression necessary for academic success. Having a curriculum that reflects real-life situations allows students from all walks of life to be

**See SUPERINTENDENT, Pg. 2**

## Employees, students honored for achievements

For her exceptional work supporting educators in the Davis School District and ensuring students have continued access to the best-trained teachers, Western Governors



Riddle and her father

University presented District Elementary Mentor Coordinator **Allison Riddle** with its WGU Elevate Award.

School Board Recognitions (for the outstanding work and dedication they have for their schools): **Becky Merri-  
rick**, West Point Elementary; **LonaMae  
Thomas**, Ellison Park Elementary.

## Shrek the Musical



Viewmont High performs Shrek the Musical. It is based on the DreamWorks animated film Shrek. The musical had great music, great performances, and a lot of laughs.

## DIMICK, From Pg. 1

vehicle's headlights and on huge portable lights provided by a neighbor to provide her brick canvas the needed illumination when it turned dark.

She estimates it took her about 100 hours to complete the mural.

Najim said Dimick was a pleasure to work with.

"She's hilarious," Najim said. "... She was great to work with. She was really enthusiastic about it."

Other murals Dimick has painted—about 40 in total—include pieces that can be seen on Hill Air Force

Base, in area restaurants and in private residences. She also painted 18 of the fiberglass horses that are seen in various locations in Ogden.

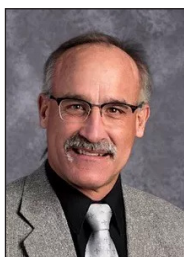
The Syracuse museum mural, however, may be the largest outdoor mural Dimick has done.

"We've received a lot of great comments about it," Najim added. "One of the things I wanted to do was to bring a lot of foot traffic to the museum and to boost morale. And she helped make my vision a reality."

## SUPERINTENDENT, From Pg. 1

welcomed into every academic space regardless of race or identity – thus leading to more productive conversations about culture at large as well as individual growth within thematic topics.

We must also recognize the importance of creating safe spaces so each student feels comfortable expressing themselves without fear of



Zurbuchen

judgement or repercussion. To quote Dr. Martin Luther King Jr, "We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools." This statement serves as a reminder that we must be united in all aspects of diversity to make our community, school district, and world a better place.

From celebrating different cultures to increasing cultural awareness and understanding, it is clear that

diversity plays a significant role in the success of our students, staff and community as a whole. Let's continue to embrace our differences, promote inclusion and work together for the greater good.

—Assistant Superintendent  
**John Zurbuchen**



# Bountiful senior takes top honors at art exhibition

**A**nchoring the corner of 26th Street and Jefferson Avenue in Ogden, the Eccles Community Arts Center has served as a hub of collaboration for generations of artist. Walking through the mansion's historic halls and permanent collections, one will see photographs, paintings and prints created by Northern Utah's best known visual artists over the last century.

For the month of January, however, the gallery looks forward, hosting the annual Northern Utah High School Arts Competition, an art exhibition highlighting the finest work by high school seniors in Box Elder, Cache, Davis, Rich and Weber counties. Students from public, private and charter schools are invited to submit their artwork and a juried panel of judges awards scholarships to the contest winners.

In the 2023 showcase, 43 students from Davis School District had works on display. Representing all nine high schools and a variety of mediums, including ceramics, digital painting, graphite, acrylic and oil painting, the contributions from DSD students highlighted a breadth of talent and skill.

**Amanda Brown** of Bountiful High School was awarded "Best of Show" and a \$7,500 scholarship to go towards her college education for her piece, "Reflection."

"I love drawing portraits and catching the expression on a person's face," says Brown. Following graduation

this spring, Brown plans to earn a degree in fine arts with a minor in animation or psychology.

Brown was not the only DSD student recognized by judges. Six other students were awarded the following accolades:

- **Averie Neil** of Clearfield High won an Award of Merit and a \$2,000 scholarship for the piece "Navie"

- **Nelia Mislang-Darden** of Northridge High won an Award of Merit and a \$2,000 scholarship for the piece "My Nkisi Power Figure"

- **Anna Stephenson** of Woods Cross High won an Award of Merit and a \$2,000 scholarship for the piece "Faceless Daisy"

- **Tommy Potter** of Northridge High won an Art Center Award and a \$1,000 scholarship for the piece "Dragon Celadon"

- **Ellie Fowers** of Northridge High won a Juror's Award and a \$1,500 scholarship for the piece "Inevitable End"

- **Hannah Taylor** of Farmington High won a Juror's Award and a \$1,500 scholarship for the piece "My Still Life"

A reception to honor the student artists was held in early January as part of Ogden City's monthly Art Stroll. A virtual tour of the Northern Utah High School Arts Competition can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/3WC03W3>.



"Reflection" by Bountiful High student Amanda Brown



"Topographical Map" by Northridge High student Alli Hilliard



"Under the Bludgeonings of Chance", (left) by Viewmont High student Mia Allen  
"Woman in Paint", (right) by Woods Cross High student Sadie Allred



"Greed" by Northridge High student Kali DeJong



# Patriot Closet opens at Hill Field



Students from five different schools fill boxes and bags with clothing donations and load them on to a bus to be taken to Hill Field Elementary to fill their Patriot Clothing Closet.

Hill Field Elementary School is used to having students move in and out all year round. Especially since 90% of its student population come from families who are in the military.

“Here at Hill Field our student population is always changing,” said Olivia Jackson, Hill Field Elementary counselor. “We register students every week and they come at all different times of the year. A teacher here at Hill Field can expect at the end of the year to have one third to half of their original class.”

That being the case, many of the students may be unprepared for the cold winter weather because they have come from warmer climates such as Texas, California, and Florida. They may not own winter clothing or it still may be packed up and hasn’t arrived yet.

With this in mind, Hill Field Elementary came up with a way to help meet the needs of their students with the Patriot Clothing Closet. Through the past couple of months, administrators have organized clothing drives gathering coats, jackets, winter boots, shoes, socks, gloves, and knit hats to have in stock at the school and help these students keep warm.



Students gather winter items for the Patriot Clothing Closet

The school was not alone in its efforts, as it was also supported by five other schools: Oak Hills, Windridge, Kays Creek, Heritage, and Buffalo Point elementaries. Each conducted clothing drives benefiting the Patriot Clothing Closet.

Hill Field Elementary Junior Hope Squad and Anchored 4 Life team leaders recently visited each of the schools to collect the items and have a short meet-and-greet with other leaders at the supporting schools.

The response to the new initiative was overwhelming. Boxes and boxes of clothing, shoes, and winter attire were loaded on to the bus headed back to Hill Field.

The response even left a few administrators teary-eyed from the out-pouring of support from the students and surrounding communities.

“The bus was extremely packed. The first six rows all were full,” said Mason, a fifth-grade

Hill Field Elementary student. “I was sitting on the second one (row) trying to stop stuff from falling. . . The fact that we got so much from just five schools makes me feel good because that means a lot of people are going to have stuff to wear.”



# HOLIDAY SERVICE

*Your Impact*



The holidays were merry and bright in Davis School District. We are grateful and humbled by the generosity and compassion shared by our incredible community.

We could not do this important work without you. From all of us at the Davis Education Foundation, **WE THANK YOU.**

**4,000+**

STUDENTS SERVED

**\$450,000+**

DONATED IN  
CASH & GOODS

## HIGHLIGHTS

**841**

Served through  
Salvation Army

**598**

Served through Jr. High  
Spree Sub-for-Santa

**500**

High School Students  
provided with gift cards  
for clothes & gifts

**143**

Kindergarteners provided  
with new shoes at Elves  
& The Shoemaker

**400**

Filled Stockings  
Donated

**600**

Blankets Donated

**2,100**

Hygiene Kits & Food Packs Donated

**\$62,425**

Raised by students at Northridge, Layton  
High, Windridge El., and Centerville El. for  
new teen resource centers.

**\$29,725**

In Food Gift Cards Donated



### THESE EFFORTS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT OUR PARTNERS

America First Credit Union, Big West Oil, Call Foundation, Cyprus Credit Union, Dottie Angel Tree, Family Community Christmas, Hogan Construction & Associates, KSL Quarters for Christmas, Larry H. Miller & Gail Miller Family Foundation, Layton City Police Department, Lindquist Mortuaries & Cemeteries, Mountain America Credit Union, Orchard Community, Tanner Clinic, VCBO Architecture, Watson Management, Young Caring for our Young and hundreds of individuals and family donors.

*Thank you!*