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main standing.

The one she just made did, even on the rough wood of the building's porch.

They last a long time too. "I have one that's 13 years old," she said. "It looks new."

There's a secret to that. "I don't sweep a lot," she joked.

Actually, it's because she takes care of them. A broom, she said, should never rest on the bristles. Hers come with a loop to hang them up.

Bardole will be leaving some of her brooms behind, and they'll be available in the Fort Museum gift shop.

"Just in case somebody is dying for a handmade broom," she said.

The one thing they don't do, even on Halloween, is fly.

Jon Bos, of Des Moines, is learning to be a furniture maker the old-school way. He's the apprentice of Robby Pedersen, co-owner of RVP-1875 in Jefferson.

Unlike the those old days of yore, Pedersen does not make Bos sleep in the barn.

"I wish it was that bad," Pedersen joked. "It is the old system though, he's trading labor for knowledge."

Bos was enjoying the experience of showing visitors his skills. It was his first time interpreting outside Pedersen's shop.

"It's nice to work in a period building," Bos said.

Up the street a few buildings, Joerg and Aubri Rochlitzer were demonstrating their skills in the print shop. The couple had set up a small press for visiting children, and curious

adults, to try out. Each printed sheet said "Fort Museum" on it and could be folded into a hat.

"The little press is for the little kids," Joerg Rochlitzer said. "The big press is for the big kids."

Elleena Dunn, 8, of Fort Dodge, visited the museum with her mom, Natalie Dunn.

A visit to the Fort Museum meshed nicely with Elleena's interests.

"She likes to learn this kind of stuff," Natalie Dunn said. "She brings all the history books home from school."

Eric "Doc" Anderson, of Ames, made an impression on Elleena.

"He's doing magic with a foam ball," she said.

She liked the history lesson too.

"I like it," she said. "Cause' it's learning about your past."

She was also learning to play Graces, a ring toss game where two sticks are used to send a ring flying and also to catch it. Her teacher, Sandy Gimpl, of St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, was spending the day teaching children the games of their great, great, and perhaps another great, grandparents.

"What better way to spend a Saturday than to play historic games with kids?" she said.

She finds that quite frequently, their parents didn't know the historic games she teaches even existed.

"It's been a long time since these games were the norm," she said. "They don't exist in most people's living memory."



-Messenger photo by Hans Madsen

'WHO ARE YOU GOING to believe, me, or your lying eyes?" Eric "Doc" Anderson, of Ames, seems to be appealing to the heavens as he shows Angie Pedersen, of Jefferson, some of his shell games, card tricks and other flim flam during the opening day of the 2015 season at the Fort Museum in Fort Dodge.

Randy Fisher, of Fort Dodge, was impressed with the number and quality of the artisans demonstrating their crafts.

"It's fun to see people doing what they do best," he said.

Among the things he watched was Dan and Deb Kramer, of Fort Dodge, slicing cabbage in an antique hand-cranked cabbage maker. The results: either the start of a big bowl of coleslaw or if aged with vinegar, sauerkraut.

"I think that has to age first," Fisher said as he eyed the results of the slicing.

While Kramer's clothes are modern reproductions of period styles, one thing he carries, is not.

"It's an 1898 pocket watch," he said as he wound it up. "It keeps perfect time. This was a prize

possession then."

Jim Kimpell, executive director of the Fort Museum, was happy with the turnout and the artisans.

"We have a great group of volunteer artisans," he said.

He is hoping to continue the artisan demonstration during the upcoming season.

"My goal is to have two weekends a month with one or two artisans to demonstrate and give classes," he said.

He wants those to run as a folk school where the students take an active part in the class, and actually produce what the artisan is demonstrating.

He's also a fan of the way the hand-crafted brooms made by Shannon Bardole sweep the floor, doing a better job than modern brooms.

"I think they do," he said.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY

Whittemore Fire Department and EMS Pancake Breakfast: 8 a.m. to noon, Whittemore Fire Station.

A.A.-Alano Club: 10:30 a.m., 12 N. Seventh St.

Harcourt Shelter House Expansion Fundraiser: 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Shelter House, Harcourt. Serving brat and pork patties, baked beans, potato salad and bars for a freewill donation.

A.A. Third Tradition Group: noon and 7 p.m., 1308 First Ave. N.

Al-Anon Peace of Mind Meeting: noon, Al-Alano Club, 12 N. Seventh St.

N.A.: 12:30 p.m., Alano Club: 16 S. 10th St. (Wahkonsa Building).

Depot Museum and Information Center: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Wilson Brewer Historic Park, Webster City. For more information or to schedule a tour please contact Fuller Hall at 832-9193.

Grief Support Group: 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., First Congregational United Church of Christ, 1000 Willson Ave., Webster City. This is a support group people who have lost a loved one, it is a non-denominational group, anyone needing grief support is invited to attend. Pre-enrollment is preferred but not required, you can enroll by calling the church office at 832-2232.

Gospel Jam: 6 p.m., Otho Kalo Community Church.

St. Edmond High School Coffeehouse Art Show: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., St. Edmond High School, 501 N. 22nd St. Students in grades 9-12 exhibit their best pieces from the year. The event is free.

King Ringers Handbell Choir Spring Concert "Music for Everyone": 7 p.m., Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1436 21st Ave. N. The concert will feature music from "Frozen," ABBA, "Addams Family," "Here I Am Lord" and more. Freewill offering, refreshments will be served.

To have an event listed in the Community Calendar, send the information at least two weeks in advance to:

Community Calendar

The Messenger

713 Central Ave.

Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Fax: (515) 574-4529

E-mail: calendar@messengernews.net

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