

North Platte Community College will offer a three-week Puppet Making class from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT on Saturdays beginning Feb. 12.

This fun class will teach participants how to make unique large puppets that wear size 4-Toddler clothes. The puppets can then be used to teach pre-school and church classes or can be given as gifts to family and friends.

Nancy Eisele is the instructor for the class. Eisele began making the puppets in 2003 when a friend at church asked her to help because they were in high demand. It wasn't long until she had tailored the pattern to her own liking and was sending them overseas to be used by missionaries.

"I think I've donated 108 puppets in all, with 66 of them staying in the United States and the rest going to foreign countries," she said.

Eisele said that sometimes the puppets seem to develop personalities as she makes them and she occasionally gives them a name.

"My favorite puppet was Jimmy. He was the first puppet I made on my own," she said with a smile. "I worked at a group home of mentally challenged adults at the time and there was a resident named Jimmy. He asked me to name the puppet after him, so I did."

"It's really all about helping kids," she said. "I just love to see them watching the puppets and having fun."

There is a registration fee for the class and class size is limited. Interested persons must pre-register by calling (308) 535-3714.