Hobbyists hone creativity

Growing demand for woodworking skills attributed to people's desire to see and sand their ideas into reality

By Emily Moody

A year ago, Jordan Dinwiddie built a wooden box. But the joints were off, glue was everywhere, and the surfaces weren’t smooth enough.

So he built another. And then another.

Now 21, Dinwiddie had stumbled into his first Introduction to Woodworking class at Bench public workshop in Omaha looking to pick up a new hobby. He didn’t realize it would change his life.

“It was just the outlet I’ve always wanted,” he said. “I’ve heard woodworking described as heart, mind and hands. It’s kind of the perfect triad of everything I needed.”

This month — almost exactly one year later — Dinwiddie joined the founder of Bench, Ben Petersen, in teaching Intro to Woodworking. Petersen holds the course every month as a way of introducing new hobbyists to his chosen craft.

And since he first launched Bench in 2012, Petersen, 28, has seen demand grow. More and more people like Dinwiddie, he said, are endeavoring to be makers — to take nebulous ideas and saw and sand them into reality.

See Woodworking: Page 2

‘OUR TOWN’ The Blue Barn play is the top winner at the Omaha Entertainment and Arts Awards. PAGE 2E