One in a Ner Million

Meet Joyce Moore

By David Lias

david.lias@plaintalk.net

When the days are getting warmer, the grass is getting greener and new flowers are beginning to appear, it's a sign that spring is in full swing.

It's also a sign for Joyce Moore to get ready. Busy times will soon await her at the Vermillion Public Library.

Joyce serves as the facility's youth services librarian. She began working at the city library in June 2006, and her original role was children's librarian.

"Here at the library I am responsible for all of the materials, books and programming for children from birth through high school," Joyce said. "We have story times for toddlers and preschoolers, we have after school events for kids in elementary school, we have a young adult book club and we have special events for young adults throughout the school year.

"And a huge part of my job," she said, "is the summer reading program, where we have story times and activities almost daily throughout June and July, and we offer parties and incentive prizes to keep kids reading throughout the summer.

In a nutshell, the youth services offered at the public library kicks into high gear right at about the time the school year ends. The learning for local kids never stops; instead of going to school, they flock to the library to read and take part in programs implemented by Joyce.

Summer is our busiest time," she said. "We work really hard to entertain the kids and give them a really good reason to come here and read."

Joyce is originally from Pierre, and received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from the University of South Dakota. She taught elementary school for 25 years and then took a oneyear leave of absence from teaching to fill a temporary staff vacancy at the school library at Dakota Valley.

"That was my first experience at working in a library, and from there, I came here. This job (at the Vermillion library) became available, and I had the one year of experience which helped," she said.

Joyce is currently studying to receive a master's degree in library science. "I'll be done in August," she said, "so I'll have the degree in elementary education and the master's in library science."

The one-on-one interaction with local youth is a highlight of the role she has played at the Vermillion Public Library for nearly six years.

"I love the kids, I love the variety, and no two days are alike," Joyce said. "It never gets dull. And, we do a lot of craft projects related to the books, and that has always been a lot of fun for me.

"I literally watch the kids grow up," she said. "Kids that I started with in toddler story time are now coming to after school events. It's really fun to get to know the kids and the families and see them as they keep coming back."

The program that Joyce oversees at the library also shows that, in a day and

age when young people may easily be tempted to spend their free time plopped in front of a television or playing video games, there are kids in the Vermillion community who would rather engage their minds creatively by reading a good book.

"My story times are all pretty full," Joyce said, "and last summer, we had over

500 registered participants in the summer reading program. Throughout the two months of the program, we had almost 5,000 people come through the door attending summer events. It's busy!'

This summer in particular will be a bit more challenging than normal, as construction crews are currently busy on the much-needed library expansion project.

"We're going to try to make the best of it and keep things running as close to normal as we can," she said. "Our very first event will be at city hall because we don't have enough room here for it at present."

Such problems as space shortages at the library will be solved once the expansion project is complete.



NO-EXCUSE SUNDAY Sunday, April 29th - 10:30 a.m. First Baptist Church, 101 E. Main

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- Grass or weeds grow taller than 6 inches on any developed lot or any lot on a block that is comprised of 50% or more developed lots
- 2. Grass or weeds grow taller than 12 inches on any undeveloped lot.

Exception: Portions of property used specifically for agricultural purposes, including, but not limited to, flower gardens, vegetable gardens, and the growing of crops as well as property that is unable to be mowed due to topographical or wetland features shall be exempt from divisions (1) and (2) above. No property shall be exempt from the noxious vegetation prohibition above.

Lot in violation of City ordinance will be tagged and assessed an administrative fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for the first offense with the fee increasing by 20 dollars (\$20.00) of every additional offense with each calendar year. If all the grass and weed have not been cut in the time

allowed. The City will cut the grass and or weeds and bill the property owner for the cost of mowing plus a \$25.00 service fee.

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