

# National Library Week to Offer Plenty

By Alan Dale  
The Plain Talk

There are a lot of people who hold on tight to the importance of libraries in any community.

Vermillion has some of its own and that's why when National Library Week festivities kick off on Sunday, the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library has plenty in store for a seven-day run aiming to "excite" people of all ages.

This year's theme is "Unlimited Possibilities @ Your Library" and Susan M. Heggstad, adult programming coordinator and information specialist for the public library, believes that events like these are vital.

"I think that National Library Week is incredibly important to libraries across the board, but also to us here in Vermillion," Heggstad said. "It's a national effort sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) to bring attention to the contributions made by all sorts of libraries. Despite living in a digital age, we recognize that access to books, technology - and ultimately, knowledge - are an important democratic pursuit."

Heggstad believes that libraries help "strengthen the fabric of our communities and our nation" and celebrating that importance is a fine component of doing so.

"We're always looking for ways to better serve our patrons - our fellow community-members - as well as ways to highlight the wealth of knowledge that already exists in our region," Heggstad said. "We also want to help our patrons become aware of all the resources and services available to them here. National Library Week is a great time to do that."

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance supported and recognized by all types of libraries - school, public, academic and special.



National Library Week will involve plenty of artistic activities including the use of LEGOS.

ELYSE BRIGHTMAN / THE PLAIN TALK

"We also believe that the library is a place for people of all ages and backgrounds, all interests and abilities," Heggstad said. "When you get right down to it, there are very few resources or institutions that serve people in such a democratic fashion, and it's imperative that we protect and preserve libraries. Having youth involved and engaged helps ensure that libraries will be utilized and supported into the next generation."

The following is a list of what the library has planned for the week (Sunday, April 12 - Saturday, April 18) and Beth Knedler, the library's youth service librarian, spoke to The Plain Talk to give back ground on all the events.

Monday, April 13 at 3:30 pm: Description: The library will host the Teen Art Club as they share their newfound knowledge of graphic novels and skills with the public. Look for their poetic chalk creations to emerge over the afternoon out on the sidewalks in front of the library.

"They are making (the graphic novels) and it's a public art project as well," Knedler said. "People are going to come and be able to see what they do."

"I know the kids are excited to do it and they are doing another workshop on the second of May as well."

Tuesday, April 14 from 3:30-5 pm: Description: The library will host a reception in the children's area to reveal new artworks. Among the works showcased will be the new mosaic created in October

by Vermillion artist Nancy Losacker, with the assistance of area 4th and 5th graders. The creation of this work was generously sponsored by the Edith B. Siegrist Library Board of Trustees, with support provided by the South Dakota Arts Council with funds from the State of South Dakota, through the Department of Tourism and State Development, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

"(Losacker) came and worked with the 4th-5th graders and they created a big mosaic art piece that will be on the west wall," Knedler said. "There are 10-12 pieces of art that we are going to be able to display."

Wednesday, April 15: Description: The library will bring the opportunity for patrons and community members to drop in and sign the Declaration for the Right to Libraries. The Declaration is an initiative of the American Library Association designed to build the public will and sustained support for America's right to libraries of all types - academic, special, school, and public. "We declare and affirm our right to quality libraries - public, school, academic, and special - and urge you to show your support by signing your name," a Siegrist library press release states.

Thursday, April 16, from 3:30-5 pm.: Description: A LEGO party for those who attend can expect treats, lego-shaped candies, and LEGO-build challenges.

LEGO days are on the

first and third Thursdays of the month at the library.

"The kids love LEGOs and we get a pretty big group that comes in for them," Knedler said. "It's the building, it's the creating. The kids love to come in and see their stuff on the shelf. The kids are so intense about (working with LEGOs)."

They will also have candy, cupcakes and a cake that looks like LEGOS.

"Usually they just come in and build, but this time we will have the party," Knedler said.

April 17, from 1-5 pm: Description: Patrons can drop by for a 'sneak peek' of children's art exhibition, showcasing works created by area children during library 'Storytime' and 'Storytime' outreach sessions, and afterschool art clubs. The works will be up for sale during the next day.

"The kids like it and get into it," Knedler said. "It was so intense in here one day and they are like four and five-year-olds."

Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Description: The Children's Art Show & Sale, a fundraiser for the summer reading program. From 2-3 p.m. the library will honor special library volunteers during a volunteer appreciation reception, unveil a special new "#librarylove" promotion, screen the video of a teen event, and end the afternoon with door prizes.

"I feel like I still have a lot to do, but it will come together," Knedler said.

Knedler believes this week is just a celebration for how well the city supports its library.

"Vermillion has a wonderful library and it is supported very well by the community," Knedler said. "I've been in some libraries where I have seen no books. This (week) is about giving back and here people are going to get a nice piece of art. I am excited."

For additional information, please contact the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library at 677-7060.



The Vermillion Public Library is in the process of changing its data base system due to state mandate.

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## Library Affected by Statewide Changes

By Elyse Brightman  
The Plain Talk

Patrons of Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion's Public Library may have noticed a big change recently.

All libraries across the state, that have been connected since the late 1980's and early 1990's through an internet database, are being taken off that system by a decision from the state.

"We belong to the South Dakota Library Network (SDLN) with our online library systems -- cataloging, circulations, data bases and serials - since 1990 and the state is kicking all of us off," said Vermillion's Public Library Director Jane Larson.

Libraries are supposed to be off the system by the end of 2015, but if a library petitions, it can get a six month extension and starting July 1, 2016, all libraries affected by the change will need to be off. Vermillion has been off since March 21.

This change eliminates 152 libraries across the state and only seven will continue to operate on this system. This database accessed around 3-4 million books including the Library of Congress.

"The university libraries that are governed by the board of regents, like University of South Dakota, Dakota State, they're the only ones that are going to be on it now," Larson said.

This system allowed anyone with a Vermillion Public Library, or other towns, card to search a consolidated database of all the libraries in the state. That person would then be able to borrow what they find using their card. Without that system, patrons will need to search each individually library websites and won't be able to borrow using their card.

"So, if I want to see what Sioux Falls Public (Library) has, I won't be able to do it. I can go to their website, but I can't borrow it from them, so it cuts out a lot of resources," Larson said.

The database was acces-

sible from anywhere with an internet connection.

This change also affects the public school libraries meaning students won't have the same number of resources to work on class assignments.

"I just think it's a bigger impact than they think because libraries are part of the education circle and they just cut out a big chunk there and it'll take years to get back to where we were," Larson said.

"We've been on since 1990, that's 25 years, and some of the libraries have been on 30 years."

The libraries covered the cost to keep this system running, so the state wasn't paying which makes this decision even more confusing.

"We each paid a pro-rate fee for 70 databases which, for our small library, is like getting 50 more than we normally could because of the price."

The Department of Education is responsible for making the final decision of cutting these resources and has yet to provide an explanation for the change.

"We weren't given any real reason except the fact that they don't want to offer it to anybody else in the state, even though we were self-supporting, all of us were."

"We paid our own way so it wasn't like the state was spending any dollars, so I'm not really sure what the real reason was," Larson said.

Since 1988, the libraries had a memo of agreement with the state that would be renewed every 10-15 years.

"Last time we tried to renew it, they sat on it for a couple years, didn't want to renew it and then they finally said 'we won't renew it, we're just are not going to have you on anymore'," Larson said.

According to Larson, this integrated system took five years to fully develop, so the new software has already been put into place to allow it time to become fully operational.

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## MARKET, From Page 1A

had the vendors and the people, which was always a struggle."

The market moved to several locations before it finally took root at the 4-H Building, located on High Street. It struggled to retain customers and vendors prior to receiving the Farmers Market Promotion Program (FMPP) Grant, which provides funds to promote local food.

"Now we're feeling pretty good because the public is finally educated and there are more vendors," says Freeman.

"There's a different attitude towards the market now," says Schweinle. "Commissioners and businesses are supportive, and the market has grown amazingly over the years. It just keeps growing."

In 2005, the small market had about four diehard vendors. Today, it boasts 25-30 vendors during the summer market. Despite the relative growth of the Vermillion Area Farmers Market, the board members continue to look for ways to urge community members to become involved.

"We want to encourage more backyard gardeners," says Schweinle. "It's only ten dollars a booth and up

to four vendors can share - and their first time is free. I also really want to see some local non-profits who serve a meal at the market for donations."

Freeman agrees that the market could use some expanding.

"We have committed and unique individuals, but we are missing music, food vendors and artists," says Freeman. "Hopefully that will come soon."

Despite what the market seemingly lacks, it has acquired a valuable reputation as community oriented place to buy and sell locally - providing an authentic atmosphere that fosters a feeling of camaradery.

"We have vendors who report on what is different here," says Schweinle. "We have a sense of community among vendors and customers - you get to know each other - and it's wonderful to know where your food comes from. There's more of a community than you find or feel in other markets."

Sherrie Huot of Fresh Fixins has sold bread and produce at the market for a couple of years.

"They seem to care more about local food," says Huot. "The vendors are also more knowledgeable and personable - I learned a lot from them."

The number of visitors to the market changes

depending on the season. During the peak of the summer, the number of frequenters is 300-400 people. During the winter market, which is held monthly, witnesses about 100 visitors.

"People go for produce," says Schweinle. "Produce is the staple, but there is a following for cheese, local meats and bread."

The Vermillion Area Farmers Market has a board comprised of five members: Vice President Mike Gaidellas, Secretary Grace Freeman, Treasurer Linda Land, and Member-at-Large John Jordre.

"Everybody on the board is active," says Schweinle. "We hang up posters, make connections, work on locations to set

up, and write grants. We really want to celebrate this bounty and all the beautiful things in the area."

The Vermillion Area Farmers Market annual meeting is coming up on April 18 at 1:15 p.m. at the 4-H Building, and is open to anyone.

The summer market begins May 14 from 3-7 p.m. at the fair grounds. In addition to selling local goods, the market provides education related to growing, picking, preparing or preserving local foods during the summer. It also accepts EBT as payment. You can find the dates & times of events, a list of vendors and other information by joining the Vermillion Area Farmers Market Facebook page.

## Retiring soon? Let's talk.



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Rosalyn Westre Stormo will be celebrating her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday with an open house on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:30 at the Gathering Room at First Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. First Lutheran is located at 327 South Dakota Avenue (near 12<sup>th</sup> and Minnesota). No gifts. Greetings may be sent to:  
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