

A DAY in the LIFE OF... A Librarian in Vermillion

By Sarah Wetzel,
For the Plain Talk

A day as a librarian begins like you would expect many jobs to start.

"Usually I come in around 8:00, check my email and things like that," said Wendy Nilson, Technical Services Librarian at the Vermillion Public Library.

Being the Technical Services Librarian means Nilson isn't always working at the front desk checking materials in and out and shelving.

"My main function here is to get all the books into the computer," Nilson said. "Books, magazines, audio books, movies, kids books, adult books, pretty much everything."

Next to Nilson's desk in the back room of the library sits a cart full of new library materials waiting to be added to the system.

"We get new books all the time, every day," she said. "Sometimes it's just a few books, sometimes it's five boxes. It depends on the day. We usually only do one big adult order per month."

The new materials come from either research from the library director or requests from patrons according to Nilson.

"Usually whatever they want we try to get it," Nilson said. "I've got some requests on my desks for new movies that haven't come out yet."

The librarians' office space regularly plays host to field trips according to Nilson.

"When the second graders come through I always ask where they think the books come from," she said. "One little

boy said, 'You write them.' That's a perfect example of how people don't realize what goes into just walking in the door and grabbing a book off the shelf. It's not a one-minute process. It takes some time and there's a lot of people involved in it too."

Nilson herself plays a key role in making the books accessible to the public.

"It's up to me to grab the book and determine where it fits in the Dewey Decimal System," she said, picking one up. "Obviously this is a kids book and it's nonfiction so where in the system does it need to go?"

Deciding where a book belongs in the system is harder than it looks.

"If a book comes in that's a nonfiction book, I might make it a picture book if I don't think a child is going to find it over here," Nilson said. "You have to know your clientele, what people are going to read and where they're going to look for it."

Nilson said she takes readers' opinions into account.

"If they do come in and say they read this book and they really don't think it's fantasy, I really have no problem changing it to something else," she said. "I can't read every book back there."

"I have to make an assumption based on what they've written before and reading the book jacket, reading reviews online and seeing who reviewed it."

Sometimes issues arise on where a book should be.

"Our library's a little different because we have horror and sci-fi and all of our genres separated



Wendy Nilson, Technical Services Librarian at the Vermillion Public Library spends her workday making sure everyone can find their favorite books, movies, magazines and more.

SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

out," Nilson said. "We have books that are a witch detective who has a werewolf sidekick. Where do you put that? We have to kind of read people's minds to where would they look for that item. That's kind of the type of conundrums I run into."

Once genre is decided, the book needs to be logged into the computer then it's on to the next book. "It's never-ending," Nilson said. "There's always something in here to do."

Along with adding new books, Nilson keeps the catalog spic and span.

"With our migration to the new system I need to make sure all the records transfer the way they need to," she said. "That has been a lot of work but you want to make sure your catalog is as clean as possible. If there's duplicates in there they need to come out. If there's books that never did come back, those records need to come out. Also making sure the barcodes match the book, things like that."

Working with so many of the materials has definite value when helping library patrons when Nilson does work the front desk.

"I can see what's here and tell people what's coming," she said. "That helps with readers advisory."

According to Nilson, a library science degree is definitely helpful in being a librarian but in her opinion not necessary.

"We have people who have worked here for 20 or 30 years that are fantastic without a library degree so I would have to say you can do this job without a library degree," she said.

Nilson herself earned a bachelor's degree in social work then a masters in library science.

The library science degree is harder than it might sound.

"A masters degree is a lot of reading and writing, learning the resources," she said. "I think my social work degree has helped a lot because this is a helping career. It's not just sitting in the back room with the

door shut.

"I think if I had known there was a degree such as library sciences I probably would have gotten a bachelor's degree in it but I didn't really realize in high school they had it," Nilson said. "I didn't think you needed a degree to do that."

Nilson is a huge fan of books.

"I would read all day long if I could," she said. "I love historical fiction. I think it's a great way to teach people about history in a not-quite-so-boring manner. Gone with the Wind is absolutely my favorite book. I've read that book probably three or four times."

Nilson has worked at the Vermillion Public Library for six years, having lived in Vermillion for 15.

"I stayed home with the kids when we first got here and got my masters while I was at home," she said. "A lot of people in my class were working a full time job and getting their masters and being a parent and I don't know how they

did it."

Nilson enjoys her work though parts of it are challenging.

"Just the technical parts of it are difficult with the library going so much to technical resources online," she said. "We don't have an IT person. We all just put our heads together and try to figure it out as best we can. It can be very complicated. You just try your best even when the different technologies can be overwhelming."

Nilson also works with technologies in order to help patrons one on one when figuring out how to access things like e-books on their devices.

As overwhelming as it is, Nilson still loves her job.

"I can't say I've ever not wanted to come to work," Nilson said. "I love seeing the new books come in, being the first one to open them up. It is like Christmas."

Nilson hopes that patrons enjoy spending time at the library as much as she does.

"I hope people realize there are great things going on here," she said. "We have great programming all the time. They just need to keep their eyes open."

Some of the programs at the library include story times, seminars and the upcoming summer reading program with prizes for children and adults.

For more information on library programs and available materials visit vermillionpubliclibrary.org, call the library at 605-677-7060 or check out their facebook page.

Flyers on upcoming events are also available at the library itself.

Free Concerts at the National Music Museum

By Elyse Brightman
The Plain Talk

The National Music Museum will be hosting musician Dr. Will Peebles for a free live concert with his gamelan degung on Friday at 12 noon in the Arne B. Larson Concert Hall.

Peebles is coming to the museum from Western Carolina University in North Carolina where he is a music professor and former dean of the school of music.

"(Peebles) will be bringing his set of gamelan

instruments. He'll actually be traveling with a van full of instruments and we'll be having instruments on display in the middle of the stage," said Dr. Deborah Check Reeves, curator of education and the curator of woodwind instruments at the National Music Museum and director of NMM's all-volunteer gamelan ensemble, Tatag.

The gamelan is a percussion orchestra made up of bronze type instruments played with a mallet. Bronze type instruments are gongs, xylophones, pots

and similar instruments. More specifically, Peebles will be playing the gamelan degung traditional to the Western Java province of Indonesia.

"What makes his gamelan different than the one we have (at the museum) is that his particular gamelan is from Western Java, it is very much made in the Sudanese tradition," Reeves said.

The gamelan at the museum is made in Surakarta in Central Java and comes from a different tradition than the western part of the

island. "Think about the violin," Reeves says. "We call it a violin if it's used for classical music but if it's used for folk music we call it the fiddle and yet it's the same instrument, it's just a different way of playing and a different kind of music that's played on it."

According to Reeves, the instrument from Western Java is a smaller ensemble and requires less people to play. Peebles will be joined by musicians from Vermillion's own gamelan ensemble.

"(Peebles) will be playing on one of the more elaborate instruments, one that uses a lot of notes," Reeves said. "Then to fill in the other parts, it will be volunteers from our gamelan ensemble based here at the museum so several different people will be learning how to play gamelan degung in a couple of hours."

Anyone who has seen the museum's gamelan ensemble play will notice some similarities and differences between the two instruments.

"At first look, the instruments are going to be similar, they're going to be bronze pots and bars of the xylophone type instruments and they will rest on a wood frame but if you start to look at them more carefully, you'll start to see differences in design," Reeves said. "Some of the pot instruments will be in a different configuration in-

stead of just being a couple rows, they will be in kind of a semi-circular shape."

On May 1, the museum's ensemble, Tatag, will hold a concert with the gamelan from Central Java and concert goers will have the chance to hear the differences in the two instruments.

"People have to realize it's two different types of gamelan and two different types of music. But they'll be seeing some of the same people," Reeves said.



Will Peebles on the gamelan. Peebles will be playing a free live concert at the National Music Museum Friday at noon.

COURTESY PHOTO

■ DANCE, From Page 1A

amount of money raised has been kept a secret, even to the executive team. The only person who knows the amount is Doug Wagner, assistant director for student programming and who oversees the planning for Dakotathon.

"You don't want anybody to just sit back and throw their hands up and be like 'well we've achieved our goal and we can stop fundraising,'" said Wagner. "I think it's to help keep people motivated throughout the day of the event and help keep that anticipation and excitement and to help keep that energy high and the emotion high."

The amount of money raised is revealed immediately following the conclusion of the event at 9 a.m. Sunday, April 19.

The theme for this year's Dakotathon is also a secret and will be revealed the Wednesday before the event, but past years have included Disney, holidays and Candyland. This year the executive team wants to steer away from such specific themes.

"Our theme is more general so that people don't get distracted," said Peitzmeier.

Participants are limited to only USD students and right now over 350 dancers have signed up.

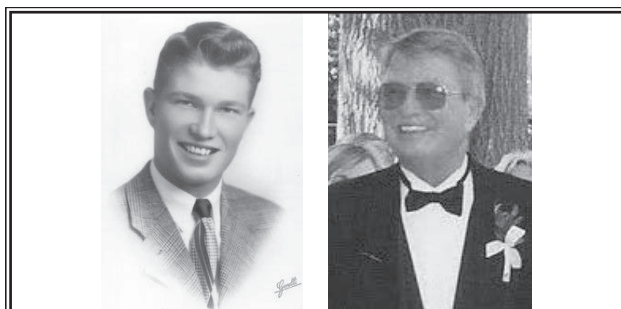
Executive team mem-

bers and morale leaders need to apply and interview for their positions, but it's one of very few organizations on campus where the applicant doesn't need to be part of another group. Immediately following this year's event, executive team members and morale leaders will begin to plan for next year.

"They will make the decision on who the next overall chairs will be and then we'll start meeting and trying to set up what

the new executive board looks like and starting to set some goals over the summer and so on and so forth," said Wagner. "Then we come back and we hit the ground running because it's a surprisingly short amount of time between when school starts and when Dakotathon actually happens."

For those who aren't USD students and want to contribute, there is a donor drive at dakotathon.org.



Fritz Bartels

He was an American during the American Century.

He grew up at a time when a 12th-grade education set you up for a career and to be able to support your family.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in the Korean War at a point in time when the Pacific Fleet had just defeated Japanese imperialism, the U.S. military had defeated facism and we were taking a pivot to defeat communism.

He delighted in being a freckled German-Irish kid who, with his wife, brought his own large Catholic family into the world right alongside a president from a large, Irish Catholic family.

He loved being a Midwesterner and, in particular, he loved this little corner of the world.

-Eulogy from Kitty Bartels Di Martino

THANK YOU
for honoring the life of Fritz Bartels
Dec. 14, 1931 - March 14, 2015
The Bartels Family

Now Accepting Sealed Bids For Sale of Commercial Building & Property



2800 Broadway Ave.
Yankton, SD 57078
Tract A in Lot 8, Block 2
Airport Acres
City & County Yankton
as per plat recorded in
Book S15 Page 120

Includes the real property and building (greenhouse will be removed)

- Consisting currently of Retail Shopping/Full Garage/Office Space
- Building Size: 66x55 • 3630 Sq. Ft. • Lot Size: 183.00' x 104.00'
- Utilities: Electricity, Gas Heat, City Water/Sewer

Viewing inside/outside available by appointment.

To schedule, contact:

Julie Fischer at 605-665-6885 (office) or 605-660-0339 (cell)

Bid packet available at 2800 Broadway

Bids due by April 30, 2015 at 2800 Broadway Ave., Yankton, SD Private Auction Date: May 8, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

TERMS: All taxes prorated to possession date, 10% of selling price in the form of a cashiers check due at end of bidding day. Owner has the right to refuse any and all bids. Purchase agreement will be signed on site at end of bidding day with details to be worked out between buyer and seller.