



**By Sarah Wetzel**  
For the Plain Talk

As part of National Library week, kids, teens and adults joined together to turn ideas and sketches into sidewalk chalk and starch-paint art Monday afternoon.

"I've drawn since I was little, so it's always something that I've liked," said Tate, 13.

Tate's sidewalk square showed a lovely oak on a hill.

"I love trees to death," he said. "They are my favorite thing of all time. Oak and willow are the prettiest trees I've ever seen."

According to Tate, more should be done to save trees and stop deforestation.

"It bugs me when people chop them down," he said. "There are other things you could be using like brick or concrete."

Tate's love of art has fueled this passion for trees.

"There's this picture that really spoke to me where these lumbermen were cut-

ting down these trees," he said. "As they were cutting them down, the roads that they made looked like a giant tree. I thought that was very ironic."

Also on Tate's square was a depiction of BMO.

"It's from 'Adventure Time,'" Tate explained. "It's a show kids watch. I might do another drawing but I'll wait till everyone does one just so everyone gets a square."

Tate also enjoys doing artwork in oil pastels.

Caleb, 13, also chose the subject of his chalk art based on a personal passion.

Caleb's portrait of Gabe Newell came to life on the sidewalk in front of the library.

"Gabe Newell is the founder and CEO of Valve," Caleb said. "They make games, but they also made this software that allows you to download a bunch of games. Everybody loves it. His sales are outrageous. They say if you're lucky

enough you can find a 90 percent off sale. I saw it once."

Caleb's usual art medium is pencil, even using one of

his own pencil sketches of Newell to model for his chalk portrait.

"I did more chalk when I was younger," he said. "I

know my mom's good at chalk."

Elliza, 11, had a more abstract art style.

"I'm just doodling," she said swirling multi-colored chalk over her sidewalk square. "I just like using the swirl and two colored chalk. I love drawing with chalk."

Elliza's everyday artwork varies according to her.

"I like drawing shadows of people," she said. "I can't draw my own shadow though, because I move too much."

Elliza's imagination often plays a part in her creations.

"I like just closing my eyes and scribbling and turning it into something," she said.

Brandon, 8, used history lessons from school as inspiration for his chalk art, drawing the original American flag with a few adjustments.



**Kids of all ages enjoyed a lovely day letting their imagination translate from their minds to the sidewalk through colorful chalk and vibrant starch paint as part of National Library Week activities at the Vermillion Public Library.**

SARAH WETZEL / FOR THE PLAIN TALK

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