

CHECK IT OUT

At the Vermillion Public Library
By Anne Marshall

Best Selling Authors – New Adult Fiction

When Napoleon Bonaparte died in exile in 1821, he took to the grave a powerful secret. As general and emperor, he had stolen immeasurable riches from palaces, national treasuries, and even the Knights of Malta and the Vatican. In his final days, the British hoped to learn where the loot was hidden. Even in his will he made no mention of the treasure, or did he? Check out award winning author Steve Berry's latest novel, *The Paris Vendetta*, to find a treasure.

Iran is weeks away from acquiring nuclear weapons and has every intention of using them to strike first. Only Tommy Carmellini and Jake Grafton can stop a nightmare. In author Stephen Coonts' new novel, *The Disciple*, Iran has twelve nuclear warheads mounted on twelve missiles and Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, will make his country a martyr nation with a holy war against the nonbelievers.

Upcoming Events at the Library

If you have nothing fun to do over the school break, visit the library on Tuesday, Dec. 29. The Children's

department is hosting a Movie Day starting at 1 p.m. in the Community Room. The featured film is a Disney Pixar comedy/adventure story called *UP*. This film runs for 1 hour and 36 minutes and is rated PG for action.

For the Young Adult readers, the library has scheduled a Game Day on Wednesday, Dec. 30 from 1 to 3 p.m. Stop by to play a variety of board games and a Nintendo Wii will also be set up. Snacks will be provided.

Discovery Center Kits are available in the Children's Department for use in the library. These learning kits contain books and activities that focus on math and science skills and concepts. They are designed to make learning FUN!

Have you read a new book or an old book that over time still remains a favorite of yours? The library has a "Share a Good Book" box and cards located at the circulation desk. Stop by to collect a card and write the name, author, and a brief description of your favorite, along with the reasons you love this book.

The December edition of Book Page: American Book Review is on the circulation counter. Please stop by to pick up a free copy, compliments of the library. Included this month are great gift ideas for the upcoming holidays.

If you have a special collection you

would like to share with the community, the library has a display case located behind the circulation desk just waiting for your treasures. Please stop by or call the library at 677-7060 to inquire about scheduling a date.

The Vermillion Public Library will be open on Sunday, Dec. 27 from 1 to 5 p.m. The library will be closed at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 31 and remain closed through Friday Jan. 1. It will open again on Saturday, Jan. 2 at 10 a.m. Materials may be returned to the book and AV drops located on the south side of the building.

Winter/Spring Story Time Sign-up

If you are interested in the winter/spring session of Toddlers and Preschoolers Story Time, please register at the Circulation Desk. Story Time will resume in January.

Preschool Story Time, for 3-5 year olds, is scheduled for Mondays from 6:30 to 7 p.m. or 7 to 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m., and Thursdays from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m.

Toddler Story Time, for 1-3 year olds, has four time slots on Tuesdays. The morning schedule is from 10:30 to 11 a.m. or 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. The evening times are from 6 to 6:30 p.m. or 6:30 to 7 p.m.

DearReader.com Book Club

The DearReader.com Book Club offers many selections to Internet patrons. Each book runs for five days, Monday through Friday. Some genres offer selections every other week. Check out this service by registering at the library's Web site, <http://vpl.sdl.net> and clicking on the book club icon. Online patrons can also find the club at www.supportlibrary.com/su/su.cfm?x=470596. The following selections for the week of Dec. 28 are:

AUDIO BOOK: My Abandonment, by Peter Rock.

BUSINESS: Escape from Cubicle Nation, by Pamela Slim.

FICTION: The English Major, by Jim Harrison.

GOOD NEWS: Jessie, by Lori Wick.

MYSTERY: Spade & Archer, by Joe Gores.

NON-FICTION: Unexpected Blessings, by Roxanne Black.

PRE-PUB: The Creation of Eve, by Lynn Cullen.

ROMANCE: A Kiss to Die For, by Claudia Dain.

SCIENCE FICTION: When Duty Calls, by William C. Dietz.

TEEN: Sovay, by Celia Rees.

THRILLER: Immortal Laws, by Jim M. Hansen.

Hubert receives wildlife scholarship

Kyle Hubert, a wildlife and fisheries student at South Dakota State University, received a \$400 scholarship at the annual Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Buffalo Banquet. Over \$33,000 in scholarships and awards was presented based on academic achievements and professional service.

The Vermillion native received the 34th annual award on behalf of the Lake Campbell Wildlife Club Scholarship.

Founded in 1881, South Dakota State University is the state's Morrill Act land-grant institution as well as its largest, most comprehensive school of higher education. SDSU confers degrees from seven different colleges representing more than 200 majors, minors and options. The institution also offers 23 master's degree programs and 12 Ph.D. programs.

The work of the university is carried out on a residential campus in Brookings, at sites in Sioux Falls, Pierre and Rapid City, and through Cooperative Extension offices and Agricultural Experiment Station research sites across the state.

Morrison receives \$500 scholarship

Kelli Morrison, a wildlife and fisheries student at South Dakota State University, received a \$500 scholarship at the annual Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences Buffalo Banquet. Over \$33,000 in scholarships and awards was presented based on academic achievements and professional service.

The Wakonda native received the award on behalf of the McCook Lake Izaak Walton League Scholarships, awarded to SDSU students since 1993.

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service was my strong point with my business, too."

Monique noted that Lori is very good at handling all of those details that are needed to keep things on track, and to make sure that families' needs are met.

"She is very good at all of those details," Monique said. "We make a pretty good team."

Lori is the only deaf funeral director in South Dakota. "It's a very unique opportunity for me to get to work for her," Monique said. "The business part and the interpreting are the parts of my job that I really enjoy. I'm pretty good with the customer service, and I can handle the technology and take care of the behind-the-scenes work. I enjoy that, and I'm glad I get to stay in the business community."

Monique first became associated with Lori approximately four years ago through an interpreting agency she once operated. "After that, I came to work with her on staff," she said. "It's really a privilege because Lori is very, very good at what she does, so I really enjoy it."

"We do work really well together," Lori said. "It's like a blessing from heaven that Monique is here with us, to help with the families. It's just been a very good experience."

Monique's role as a licensed pre-needs counselor gives local families the opportunity to get much, if not all, of a loved one's funeral planning completed in advance.

"Any time someone wants to plan their funeral, they can come in, and we can go through everything, and have

everything planned before it happens," she said. "That's an ease of mind for their family, because when it happens, the family has a lot to do."

"By planning ahead of time, people get to pick the funeral that they want, and they get to take the burden off of their families," Monique said. "We can go through and pick everything, when there is no stress."

Monique is also an agent with Homesteader's Life Insurance. "The benefit there is people can make payments to pay for their funerals, or they can make one payment. They get extra benefits for signing up with Homesteader's as well. That's something that's very nice to have," she said.

In situations where no prior funeral arrangements have been made, Lori and

Monique work together to serve families' needs.

"We actually have our own areas now," Monique said. "Lori will start by meeting with a family, and she'll take her areas of the things that she'll discuss with the family, and I have a couple of areas that I will discuss with the family, so we have a nice team effort."

"I enjoy helping with things like the flower arrangements, and there are other areas of the process that I enjoy," she said, "and she gets to take care of others things that must be done. Together, it's a good team effort."

Monique lives in Sioux Falls, and commutes to Vermillion. "If a family needs to talk to Lori during the night, then there are other interpreters in the area that she can use. And, if she knows

members of the family that needs assistance, they often communicate by writing back and forth. Lori is also an excellent lip reader."

"I really enjoy Vermillion; I really enjoy the people," Monique said. "I've been on staff here for about a year-and-a-half, so I'm getting to know people here, and getting on a first-name basis with them."

"One thing about Monique is she is definitely a people person," Lori said. "One thing I've noticed about her is that she is very compassionate, like me. She works very well with people and makes them feel comforted. That's one of the things I like most about her, and it's so rewarding. The families are so thankful, and it's a good feeling at the end of the day to be able to help."

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

State's percentage of overweight students up

The percentage of South Dakota students who are overweight or obese rose slightly in the state's latest school height and weight survey. For the 2008-2009 school year, 33.6 percent of students were either overweight (17 percent) or obese (16.6 percent). That compares to 33.1 percent of students who were overweight or obese in the 2007-2008 school year.

"We know that kids who are overweight or obese are at higher risk of heart disease, diabetes, liver disorders and other complications," said Kristin Biskeborn, state nutritionist for the Department of Health. "That's why it's disappointing to see even a small increase in the rates. Schools, parents, communities – we all have a lot of work to do if we're going to reduce child obesity and its health risks for our children."

The annual South Dakota School Height Weight Report is a cooperative effort of the Departments of Health and Education to track child overweight and obesity. Schools have submitted student height and weight data for the survey each year since 1999. The survey defines obese as above the 95th percentile body mass index-for-age when compared to kids of the same age and gender; overweight is between the 85th and 94th percentiles. A total of 223 schools participated in the latest survey, accounting for 29 percent of students in the state.

Participating schools receive reports of their own data to use in improving nutrition and physical activity in their settings, for example, providing exercise equipment for students and offering healthy foods for snack time and parties.

See the full report on the Web at <http://doh.sd.gov/SchoolWeight>.

Bake sale is successful

Past-president Marvin Tronvold opened the meeting leading the group in the national anthems of the United States and Norway, accompanied by Phyllis Neilsen, and the Pledge of the Allegiance of the United States of America. Phyllis introduced the song *Skaaere*, *skaaere havre* (Cutting Grain), appropriate for the harvest season. This was sung in English and Norwegian.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Gene Iverson presented the financial status of the Lodge. Report approved.

A thank you letter was read from Helping Hands for Haiti.

Helen Severson asked members to share *Opdahslag* books from 1921, 22, 23 and 25 if someone in their family would have them. Evy Kuecker is search-

ing for copies of these to have them translated into English and then would be available for purchase. Some of the other years' books have already been translated and are available for purchase.

Wayne Knutson is recovering from some heart problems.

A report on the bake sale was very good and members that could not bring baked items for this were encouraged to contribute cash for their part of support. Carol Broderson gave a big "thank you" to Marlys List for her help at the bake sale – every item was sold. Thanks were also expressed for the member's contributions of baked goods, which were well done and beautifully packaged, too. The Center reported that 225 were served, lutefisk leftovers to be sold as 400 meals were planned. A lady that cooks lutefisk for the Centerville Café cooked the fish for the Center and invited all to come to the Centerville

Café for lutefisk on Monday nights.

The December meeting will be a potluck noon meal at 1 p.m. on Dec. 19.

New officers will be needed for 2010 and all are asked to look through their membership books for ideas for new officers. Gene Iverson also requested someone to audit the financial records for 2009.

For the program, Carol Broderson read an article written by a young man from North Dakota about taking part in preparing and serving a traditional lutefisk supper at his church. This led to lots of reminiscing led by Ray

Strunk about lutefisk suppers members had attended and assisted with in their years of growing up in the local Scandinavian communities and churches.

A closing song, *Hvor I verdon jeg jar*, (Though I Roam O'er the World) was sung in English and Norwegian.

The birthday names were read and the birthday song was sung.

The Norwegian table prayer was prayed by the group led by John Grindvold and the meeting was adjourned. A delicious lunch was served by the November committee.

Carol Broderson, secretary

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