

# Giving And Forgiving: Library Fine Forgiveness Program Ends Thursday

BY SARAH WETZEL  
For the Plain Talk

Time is running out for the Vermillion community to take part in the "Forgiving for Giving" campaign going on at the Vermillion Public Library, which will end Thursday.

The public is encouraged to donate personal care items in exchange for forgiveness of overdue fines.

"The campaign in going well so far, with a few donations coming in each day," said Susan Heggestad, Adult Programming coordinator at the library. "We are very appreciative of our patrons who are willing to do something out of the ordinary, and contribute to the effort."

According to Heggestad, up to \$15 of overdue fines can be waived in exchange for donations. Damage and replacement fines are not eligible to be

waived.

"We'd like to take this chance to remind everyone that we are looking specifically for full-sized personal care products, as these are what the Vermillion Food Pantry and Domestic Violence Safe Options Services are most in need of," Heggestad said. "We are receiving a wide range of personal care products, but we could always use more. In general, there seems to be a great deal of shampoo, soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes coming in. There is still a need for paper products, women's personal care products, household cleaners and diapers."

The response in general has been very good according to Heggestad.

"After the success of last year's campaign (Food for Fines), as well as this year's efforts, it seems obvious that this is worth every bit of effort and is well received by the com-

munity," she said. "It is a small, but important thing we can do to support our area service organizations and fellow community members during the season of giving. I don't think there is any doubt that we will make an annual tradition of our amnesty campaign."

Looking forward there will be a slight lull in library events though more activities are on the close horizon.

"It's going to be fairly quiet around the library in the coming weeks, but children's afterschool programming and Storytime sessions will resume the week of January 11," Heggestad said. "Specific times can be found on the calendar at our website, vermillionpubliclibrary.org."

The library will be closed today and tomorrow, reopening on Sunday at 1 p.m.

## Christmas Tree Drop-Off Set

The Christmas Tree collection site is open from December 11th to January 18th and accepts real trees. The site is located on the south side of Broadway Street just west of Dakota Street. Please remove any plastic that you might wrap the tree in for transporting it as well as lights and decorations. The site will accept trees until January 18th.

## Recycling Center To Be Closed

The Vermillion Recycling Center will be closed on Saturday, December 26th and Saturday, January 2nd.

## USD Expert: Holiday Drinking Spikes Heart Problems

Excessive alcohol consumption during the holidays, especially by occasional imbibers, sends a higher number of people to the hospital with heart trouble than any other time of year, a USD expert said of the condition known as "holiday heart syndrome."

John Korkow, Ph.D., an instructor at the University of South Dakota's Department of Addiction Studies, said hospital admissions for serious cardiac trouble immediately after the holidays can be double or even triple the normal rate because of excessive drinking. The reason: Heavy alcohol consumption can trigger severe heart rhythm disturbances that can cause stroke or heart failure. These heart disturbances can occur in drinkers who have no history of heart problems.

On the roads, 41 percent of fatal vehicle crashes are usually related to alcohol, but that jumps to 57 percent this time of year, Korkow said.

"Over holidays like Christmas, people who aren't normally drinkers are more likely to drink, and these people have less tolerance for alcohol and they don't understand their limits. That puts them at risk for dangerous behaviors," Korkow said.

He encourages people to pay attention to the size, potency and number of drinks they consume.

## State Treasurer Has \$344.6 Million In Unclaimed Funds

PIERRE – Santa isn't the only one keeping a list. State Treasurer Rich Sattgast has \$344.6 million in unclaimed property he's looking to return to the rightful owners and you may be on his list.

Unclaimed property refers to accounts in financial institutions, businesses and government agencies that have had no activity for three years or longer. The State of South Dakota acts as the custodian of lost property until it can be returned to the rightful owners.

Since July, the Unclaimed Property Division has received \$71.7 million in forgotten funds and returned over \$7.5 million to claimants.

"As a father of three, I understand how important the holidays are for families. A little extra cash can make a big difference, especially this time of year," said Sattgast.

To check for unclaimed property, visit [www.sdtreasurer.gov](http://www.sdtreasurer.gov) or call the unclaimed property hotline at 1-866-357-2547 to talk with an unclaimed property representative.

Farm Bureau Members Donate to Feeding South Dakota HURON – Farm and ranch families who belong to the South Dakota Farm Bureau (SDFB) are paying it forward this holiday season, making a donation of \$2,421 to Feeding South Dakota.

"Farmers and ranchers are in the food business, and we are dedicated to showing people the positive story of how that food is grown and raised today," said Cindy Foster, who farms with her husband near Fulton, S.D., and serves as Chair of SDFB's Women's Leadership Team. "We also want to help get that food to those who need it most, especially during this Christmas season. Feeding South Dakota is a wonderful organization, and it's our pleasure to help in this way."

The donations were collected through a freewill offering during the "Sharing Our Harvest" luncheon, held during the SDFB 98th Annual Meeting. The donations came from individual farmers and ranchers who were in attendance at the meeting, and from County Farm Bureau organizations across the state.

The SDFB Women's Leadership Team heads up the organization's efforts to educate people about modern agriculture and to reach out to those in need. In addition to this annual donation to Feeding South Dakota, donations from Farm Bureau members and county Farm Bureaus makes it possible to provide year-round delivery of milk to the refrigerators at both of the Ronald McDonald Houses in Sioux Falls, plus about \$1,000 worth of groceries to stock the Sanford house's pantry. Rapid City Regional Hospital is also a recipient of Farm Bureau donations to provide food for families with children receiving medical care.

South Dakota Farm Bureau is the state's largest general agriculture organization, representing more than 16,000 farm, ranch and rural families across the state.

## HELPING THOSE IN NEED



JACKIE WILLIAMS/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Eighty holiday baskets were prepared for families in need in Vermillion and the surrounding area last Friday and delivered to the families on Saturday. Four different groups provide the money and volunteers to make it a reality. The two largest groups in terms of volunteers are the Rotary Club and the Lions Club. The baskets contain a wide array of nonperishable food products – pasta, soups, vegetables, cereals, etc. – as well as toiletries – soap, facial tissues and bathroom tissue. Each basket also contained an envelope with a certificate to buy meat and dairy products.

## HONORING A JOB WELL DONE



COURTESY PHOTO

### Dennis, SESDAC, Inc. December Employee of the Month

Meghan Dennis, Direct Support Professional, was selected as the SESDAC, Inc. December, 2015 Employee of the Month. Meghan has been a part of our organization since May, 2014.

Meghan was nominated for the award by her fellow co-workers, based on her dedication to her job and the people she supports.

Co-workers had the following compliments written in their nominations for Meghan... "Meghan always comes to work with a positive outlook and smile. She is energetic, hardworking and has a fun personality. She is a great co-worker."

Meghan currently resides in Vermillion.



COURTESY PHOTO

### Gannon, SESDAC, Inc. November Employee of the Month

Brittany Gannon, Direct Support Professional, was selected as the SESDAC, Inc. November, 2015 Employee of the Month. Brittany has been a part of our organization since March, 2013.

Brittany was nominated for the award by her fellow co-workers, based on her dedication to her job and the people she supports.

Co-workers had the following compliments written in their nominations for Brittany... "Brittany knows and understands what each person on her caseload needs. She does a great job at balancing everything and even on hard days, she still carries her smile. Some of the words that describe her are her smile, dedication, drive, understanding, flexibility, good listener, great advocate, someone that steps up and a leader."

Brittany and her family currently reside in Alcester.

# Initiated Measure Approved To Send To The Voters In 2016

PIERRE – Secretary of State Shantel Krebs announced that an Initiated Amendment to the South Dakota Constitution to Expand Rights for Crime Victims was validated and certified to be on the November 2016 general election ballot as a ballot measure that the citizens will vote on. The sponsor turned in 53,687 signatures to the Secretary of State's office. An Initiated Amendment to the Constitution required a minimum of 27,741 signatures from South Dakota registered voters. Once the signatures were delivered to the Secretary of State's office, a 5% random sampling was conducted. It was determined that 64% of signatures were in good standing.

Secretary Krebs stated that "South Dakota has a long and rich history of citizens taking issues directly to the voters. After serving 10 years in the legislature it is an enjoyable role for me to act as an impartial official in the initiated measure process and ensure that the citizens of South Dakota have a chance to voice their concern in regards to the ballot measures that meet the signature threshold."

Video link and Audio attachment update from Secretary Krebs: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/irv81f139a361k/>

Marcy's%20Law%20Krebs%20Video%20Update.MOV?oref=e&n=167349120

This is the first initiated measure to be approved by Secretary of State. A total of 8 measures were submitted for review. This office will continue the signature validation process of the remaining 7 measures in the order they were submitted to the Secretary of State. A total of 275,000 signatures were submitted among all petitions.

Those looking to challenge the Secretary of State's certification of a ballot measure have 30 days from the date they are certified.

Challenges to all state-wide initiatives and referendums must be brought within 30 days after the petition has been validated and filed by the Secretary of State (SDCL 12-1-13)

1. When does the 30 days start to run?

The 30 days starts to run once the petition is officially filed with the Secretary of State's Office; the petition is only filed after the Office goes through the petition validation process and determines that the petition contains a sufficient number of signatures to be filed.

2. How will potential challengers know when their 30 days begins to run?

Once the Office makes a determination that there

are a sufficient number of signatures such to file the petition, the Secretary of State's Office will make that information publically available through social media, including twitter updates that are available on the Secretary of State's website.

3. How is each petition labeled or marked? How should challengers make arrangements to review the petitions?

The Secretary of State's Office runs each self-con-

tained petition through a scanner, which places the date, time and a sequential number on each petition. Challengers seeking to "research" the signatures pursuant to SDCL 12-1-13 should contact Kea Warne at the Secretary of State's Office (605) 773-5003 to make the necessary arrangements.

4. How much does it cost for copies of the petition sheet?

The Secretary of State is required by state law to

charge \$1.00 per page for copies. Copies of petitions are two pages due to the petition being printed front and back side which would calculate to a copy fee of \$2.00 per petition. This fee applies to both paper and electronic copies.

5. What order do you process the petitions in?

The Secretary of State's office will process each petition one at a time, and in the order in which they are received.

6. The petitions are not public documents until after the Secretary of State's Office has completed the validation process and either filed or rejected the petition. No copies can be purchased until this process is completed for the particular petition of which copies are being requested.

SOS Website: <https://sdsos.gov/elections-voting/upcoming-elections/general-information/2016-ballot-questions.aspx>