



# PLAIN TALK

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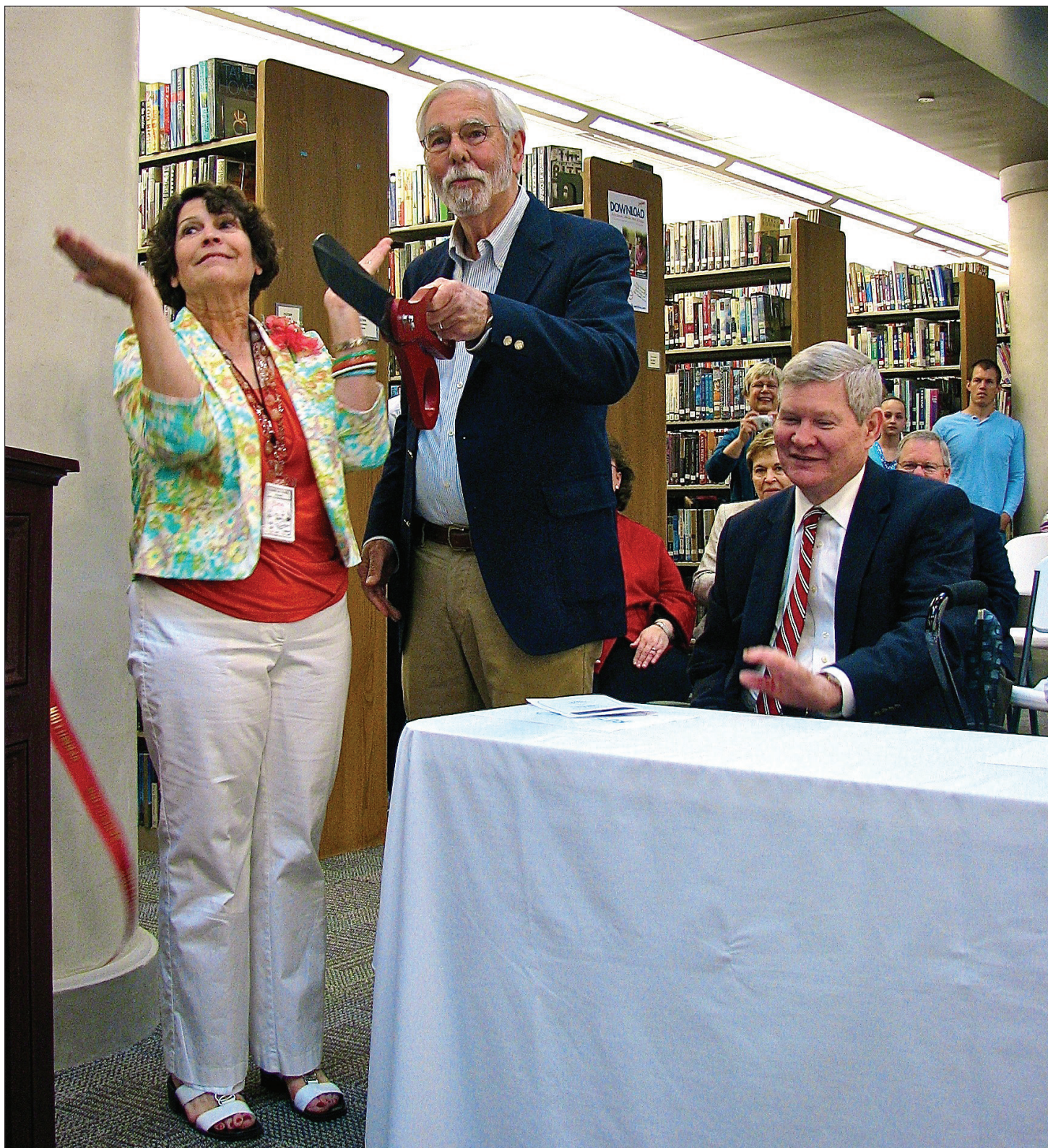
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Library director Jane Larson, library board president Jon Flanagin and Sen. Tim Johnson celebrate as the ribbon is cut during the dedication ceremony at the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library, which took place Saturday afternoon.

(Travis Gulbrandson/Vermillion Plain Talk)

# Grand opening

## Public library named in honor of Edith B. Siegrist

By Travis Gulbrandson

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It was standing room only at the newly-christened Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library, which had its dedication ceremony Saturday afternoon, the culmination of years of planning and work.

It also was a day to thank those who helped on each of the project's various stages, including those who passed away prior to its completion.

"Congratulations to you," said Jon Flanagin, president of the library's board of trustees. "It is a great thing to have the Vermillion Public Library expansion and remodeling, and we are ready to move into the new world with the new public library."

Sen. Tim Johnson echoed these statements, noting, "At a time when libraries across the country are facing budget cuts and difficult decisions, I'm pleased to see the Vermillion library growing and thriving."

"It's been a long time planning for our community with the library board and the library staff. It's a project we've been working on for many, many years, and it's nice to see it result

in this sort of ... community celebration," added City Manager John Prescott. "It's been a truly community effort of funds, staff and people to make this happen."

Thanks to the expansion and renovation, the library has more than doubled its size, with 22,890 square feet, as opposed to the 11,000 it was previously, said library director Jane Larson in a prior interview with the Vermillion Plain Talk.

Among other upgrades, the library has a new circulation desk, a lounge area complete with a fireplace, an expanded community room, automatic doors at the southern entrance and separate areas for teens and technology.

The project was a long time in the making, remembered Vermillion Mayor Jack Powell.

Even after the city council set aside more than \$1 million to aid in construction and a Community Development Block Grant that brought in \$192,500 was awarded, the project was still "dead in the water," he said.

That is, it was without the aid of Edith B. Siegrist, longtime Vermillion resident and professor

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## Noem: Say 'yes' to opportunity

By Travis Gulbrandson

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Live your life as if you're driving without the emergency brake compressed.

This was among the advice Rep. Kristi Noem had for the attendees of the 67th annual South Dakota Girls State, whom she met during a presentation in Aalfs Auditorium Thursday, May 30.

"For a lot of us, we have our emergency brakes on our lives," Noem said. "Maybe you're feeling really insecure, maybe you think you're not a very good public speaker. I'm not a good public speaker ... but I realized (people) really just want to hear what's on your mind and in your heart, and have you state it to them like a normal person."

Self-doubt is the most common of these "emergency brakes," she said.

"What I want to encourage you (to do) today in your mind and in your heart, when you leave here, that you take your emergency brakes off and stop letting them control you, slow you down, make life more difficult ... so that you can take advantage of all the other opportunities that you're going to have," she said.

Noem said that just saying "yes" to those opportunities is a big part of living a successful life.

"When you see an opportunity in front of you, don't ask yourself why you should do it," she said. "I want you to ask yourself, 'Why would I not do that?' Say yes to it. So many times people miss opportunities and don't grab them when they're in front of them, and I don't want you to ever turn around and look at a situation and see it was a missed opportunity that you should have jumped on."

One of the opportunities that Noem took was going into politics, an idea she first considered when her father died and her

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## Daugaard encourages Girls Staters

By Travis Gulbrandson

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Gov. Dennis Daugaard had some advice for the attendees of the 67th annual South Dakota Girls State: Get involved.

"You're here because you have been identified by your school as the best," the governor said during a presentation Friday morning. "I hope you will recognize that as something that should encourage you to see yourself as a leader, and see yourself as having the potential to become involved in your communities and in public service."

Daugaard acknowledged that this message is not a new one, particularly in commencement speeches where the orator encourages the audience to "dream big."

"We hear that so often that we sometimes drift off ... but I do think that it's especially relevant to this audience, to you, because you are the best and brightest young women that we have in South Dakota," Daugaard said.

He added that much as made of those who achieve great things despite obstacles, be they economic, social or personal.

Daugaard told the audience that while most of these obstacles are out of their control, the biggest one they face is often in their own head.

"What we believe we're capable of is probably the greatest

constraint on our ability to achieve," he said. "So, I encourage you to recognize that and refuse to be constrained, refuse to let those self-doubts or your beliefs about what might be possible for your own life. Don't let them hold you back."

A former Boys Stater, Daugaard said that if someone asked him when he was a teen if he would ever be governor of the state, he would have told them, "No way. I could never do that."

"We tend to think of other people as the doers in the world, even those of us who have achieved," he said. "We still tend to think of other people as being those who can achieve elective offices or economic success or community leadership roles, and really, there is every reason why you should see yourselves as that future governor, or that future mayor, or community leader, or high school superintendent - whatever your aspirations are."

You do not have to be the leader, either, to be successful, Daugaard said - you just have to be "productive and outstanding."

"You just have to decide what it is you want, and go get it, because you have the qualities that allow you to achieve almost anything you choose," he said.

Daugaard alluded to this sense of achievement later in his presentation, when he was asked

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Gov. Dennis Daugaard addresses the attendees of the 67th annual South Dakota Girls State Friday, May 31.

(David Lias/Vermillion Plain Talk)



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