



Library's Science Program A Fun Experience For Kids

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

As kids learned at the library Monday, it doesn't take super powers to do super things like move a bag of dirt with the least amount of force.

"Incline-tation, I think," said Adeline, 8. "It takes more force to pull it up and put it on than to drag it."

The kids were given a bag of dirt with a rubber band attached to it in this activity. When the bag was lifted straight off the ground, the rubber band was stretched to the max, whereas when it was pulled up an incline plane, the stretch was significantly less.

"Inclines help you carry heavy stuff," Adeline said.

The kids also got to see the difference of wedges and blocks.

"They had us push a block and a wedge to go through the rice," Adeline said. "The rice just goes to the side on the wedge and the rice stays in the front when the block goes through."

Lesson learned: wedges are easier for pushing through things.

Some of the simple machines were a little more exciting as Sver, 7, demonstrated by making a mini-catapult.

"I used rubber bands to stick the popsicle sticks on the spoon so it can catapult," he said. "They're levers. You can lift heavy stuff."

Another activity also involved lifting heavy stuff, namely cement bricks.

"We were trying to see which would be easier," Sver said. "We could roll it and would that be easier or if you pushed it."



SARAH WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Kids at the Vermillion Public Library participate in science experiments as part of the Summer Reading Program like Monday's activities on simple machines.

The kids discovered that to put rollers under the block was much easier.

"It's easier because if you just push it it's heavier because when you push it on the ground there's friction and it's harder," Sver said.

Sver said at home he could use these simple machines to move a brick.

Though the simple machines at the activity were small, that didn't stop the kids from dreaming big. For example if they had a huge catapult what they would throw?

"A torch at the sun," Sver said.

"And then it would be like a shooting star."

Sver also mentioned if he had a catapult big enough he would throw a bomb at the sun.

"So we couldn't see so we could use our inner senses," he said.

Sver also imagined how the other simple machines could help him be a superhero.

"The lever would lift a car so it would stop," he said. "Then the catapult could throw the bad guys in jail."

And what about the wedge?
"To cut the sun," Sver said.

New VHS Scoreboards To Cost \$105,000

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

Superintendent Mark Froke reviewed the cost of the upcoming scoreboard project at Vermillion High School at Monday's Vermillion School Board meeting.

According to Froke, the total cost of the two scoreboards, one located on the soccer/football/track area and one in the gymnasium, would be \$105,000.

Initially, Froke said, the cost was only \$100,000; however, the Booster club wishes to plan for certain enhancements in the future.

"The extra \$5,000 would come from a \$2,500 donation from Sanford and another \$2,500 contribution from the Booster Club," Froke said. "So the school district's share would be \$26,000, the Booster Club's share would be \$26,000 and First Dakota National Bank's (share) would be \$48,000."

An advertising agreement was approved for the new scoreboards with the clarification that the school district retains ownership of the scoreboards.

"Somewhere in one of those contracts there has to be some recitation of who's going to own that scoreboard," said school district attorney Jim McCulloch.

The board is planning on purchasing the new scoreboards from Daktronics through a purchasing co-op.

According to the board First Dakota will have a minimum of three advertising exposures at each home event.

As interpreted by McCulloch, as part of the agreement, First Dakota will be the exclusive financial institution advertised on the digital board with optional digital advertising content to be sold by the Booster Club.

During the meeting the board chose to renew the Apple lease agreement.

"This would lease 460 iPads and is a renewal of the previous (contract)," Froke reported. "The old iPads will move into the middle school and elementary classrooms."

McCulloch noted that the agreement is far from desirable, though the district does not have much of a say regarding the terms of the contract.

"There are some things in there that are very favorable to Apple and unfavorable to the school district but it's like the last time," he said. "If you want

the equipment you have to sign it the way it is. We even have to pay according to this if we don't receive the product or if we don't receive as many as we're supposed to - but I do believe that's illegal. I think we would be able to get some kind of relief from the contract in that event."

Other unfavorable aspects of the agreement include the school district still being responsible for payment even if the products malfunction and the Apple warranty only applies to Apple products.

"It's not a great agreement, at all," McCulloch said. "It's pretty much imposed on us, but there are some good things in there."

Later in the meeting, district business manager, Sheila Beerman, reported on the summer food service program's first three weeks.

"As you'll see with the exception of about a day every week, we're well over 200 (participants)," she said. "We're pretty excited about that. The backpack program is working with us on Fridays. The second week they had given out about 118 backpacks for the weekend. It's brought up our numbers to have the backpack program there. It's rolling along really well."

The food service program, though aimed at feeding children for free, welcomes parents to pay for a meal and eat with their children or simply socialize.

"We have a lot of

parents that, even if they don't eat, use it as a social event," Beerman said. "It's a really nice setting."

According to Beerman, the district has one more year guaranteed of the program.

It is unsure of whether or not they will qualify for future years.

Froke displayed a picture of a cabinet-type console Jolley principal Sue Galvin is currently working on with a cabinet maker in Sioux City using Siegrist dollars out of the foundation and help from the capital outlay fund.

"She plans to have that sitting in the middle of the Jolley Library," Froke said. "She has great plans moving forward for that library. This is kind of phase one of what she wants to accomplish. She's trying to really make it a learning center."

Froke also reported that the high school project is moving along well.

"I think the high school principal is probably the most nervous of anyone," he said. "The (project supervisor) told me this morning that he expects in three weeks that we can start occupying rooms as far as getting the floors cleaned and moving things back into some of the rooms."

Froke also mentioned that the ventilation system is virtually installed and the grid system in the ceiling is going up. Lights, fire alarms and electric upgrades are currently taking place.

"Most of the painting is done and it looks really clean and fresh," Froke said. "It will look modern."

Retiring soon? Let's talk.



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Boston-based, Senscio Systems Announces Expansion To Vermillion

BY SHAUNA MARLETTE
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Senscio Systems, a Boston-based provider of artificial intelligence-based complex care management technology, announced on Friday its intent to create a regional hub in Vermillion.

The company, which Systems was founded in 2010 in Boston, has already begun operations in Vermillion as Senscio director of Midwest operations Bill Anderson is currently working out of the Vermillion Chamber and Development Corporation (VCDC) offices.

Senscio, created by PhD physicists - Dr. Piali De and Dr. Hugh Stoddart - committed to helping older adults age in place and ensuring that acute episodes - unnecessary hospitalizations due to complex medical conditions - are minimized through behavioral coaching, industry-leading artificial intelligence, and individual and population health management.

"It was a pleasure meeting with Dr. De in Philadelphia at the BIO Convention earlier this week," Gov. Dennis Daugaard said. "As our population continues to age, comprehensive healthcare and services will be in high demand. I appreciate that Dr. De and her team see the value of expanding to South Dakota, and it's a privilege to welcome such an innovative company to Vermillion."

The partnership reflects Senscio's intent to explore growth in South Dakota in both the manufacturing and service sectors.

"We are delighted to bring a forward-thinking technology company to Vermillion to create a strong base for operations and growth," says Nate Welch, executive director of the VCDC. "Senscio Systems and its Ibis technology represent the future of caring for older adults, especially those in rural and remote areas where access to care and services may not be easily accessible."

"Vermillion is an ideal regional hub for Senscio Systems because of the University of South Dakota, its medical school and social work programs, and the Vermillion community. Our goal in Vermillion is to recruit innovative businesses, and Senscio Systems is an ideal partner for us," notes Welch.

Welch told the Plain Talk that discussions with the company have been ongoing for several months.

"They have actually been looking at South Dakota for even a number of months prior to that," he said. "We were very excited, after the CEO and I meet with the governor, as well as discussions with their director

of Midwest operations Bill Anderson, we were all able to come to a great agreement to bring them to Vermillion and South Dakota."



De

Welch said Senscio plans to grow into the both the community and the state.

"Very early on, we identified that South Dakota was an ideal place to deploy the Ibis system and to grow our sales and operations presence," De said in a press release issued Friday. "We believe that our technology is truly revolutionary and allows people in rural and remote areas to age in place, live healthier and put providers in closer contact with their patients."

"They are very excited about Vermillion because of the opportunities in South Dakota, and Vermillion really represents that," he said. "It is a great opportunity to put stakes down here, and as they continue to grow in their distribution in the Midwest and across the country, they are going to be able to continue to grow their operation right here in Vermillion."

Welch said that while they are currently located out of the VCDC offices, they plan to move to a larger facility when the company's needs demand it.

"As they continue to grow, their plans are to grow accordingly with their staff," he said. "One of the nice exciting parts of that is the possibility of that staff growing. They do have a person in Vermillion right now; as there operation grows they will be able to grow that."

While Welch said he could not speak for the company, he understood that all future employees would be hired locally rather than transferring from the company's Boston location.

"We believe that our regional hub in Vermillion and some early and large-scale partnerships we have with providers in South Dakota will be a springboard to building a manufacturing and customer service base in South Dakota," De said. "Our system includes hardware and back-end service components - such as call centers - that need to be built and staffed, respectively. Vermillion and the I-29 corridor in South Dakota position us perfectly to do that."

For more information about Senscio Systems and its Ibis system, please visit www.ibiscare.net or www.sensciosystems.com.

No Landfill Charge To Residents For Tree Debris From Storm

Vermillion residents can bring their tree debris from Monday's Storm to the Vermillion Landfill located at 31426 Bluff Road, Vermillion.

There is no charge for this service. The Landfill is open 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday and can be reached at (605) 677-7059.

**WE
NEED
YOUR
HELP!**



WE NEED A NEW POOL AND IMPROVEMENTS TO OUR PARK.

- ⊕ The mark-up is essential for us to get a much needed new pool and improvements to our park.
- ⊕ The vast majority of the cost of park improvements is being covered by other city funds.
- ⊕ 23 other SD communities already use the mark-up to allow their communities to flourish.
- ⊕ The malt beverage mark-up means no increase to property or sales taxes.
- ⊕ The mark-up is only 5% and only applies to the wholesale cost and freight of malt beverages. Wine and liquor would not be affected.
- ⊕ Brookings has an 11% mark-up and its bars and restaurants still thrive.

Vote "NO" on the repeal of the Malt Beverage mark-up.

Our kids are worth it!

Vote "NO" on June 30th at the Armory!

