



## Getting Creative With Comics

By Sarah Wetzel  
For the Plain Talk

The Vermillion Area Arts Council held an activity last weekend at the Vermillion Public Library to encourage local cartoonists to get creative with comics.

"He's called Eyes from Nuclear Throne," said Liam, 12, showing his drawing of a favorite character. "It's a game that I play. All you're doing is trying to get to this thing called the Nuclear Throne. It was supposed to be called Borderline Kings but due to copyright things with a new game that was coming out called Wasteland they had to change it to Nuclear Throne."

Liam was one of several older kids participating in a three-hour comic-making seminar led by Krista Scholten. Participants learned the basic skills necessary to start their own comic book including brainstorming, story boarding, visual researching, sketching and inking.

"I'm just drawing the characters for now but eventually maybe I will make a story out of them," Liam said. "Until then, I'm probably going to draw Eyes, probably not Steroids, but maybe. I'll draw Road and then Chicken or Crystal."

Liam did have some ideas should he choose to create a story with his favorite characters.

"If I were to make a story line I'd probably make it what they do on their downtime rather than going out and causing a rampage throughout the wasteland," he said. "Eyes plays with his telekinesis powers. He'd probably play by himself because most of the people in the wasteland have



SARAH WETZEL/FOR THE PLAIN TALK  
There was no shortage of creativity at last weekend's Comic Carnival at the Vermillion Public Library where kids of all ages got artistic.

short tempers as a side effect of the radiation."

In addition to the Nuclear Throne characters, Liam also completed a sketch of a whale.

"I was going to make him into a character of a different comic that I was going to make, but then I decided to do this," he said.

Other activities for younger kids included forming characters out of clay in order to draw them from different angles, creating clever flip books and collages with original captions.

Jonah, 10, came to make a flip book and is no stranger to making comics.

"I have a whole collection of comics that I've made, mostly Star Wars," he said. "I make up my own characters. I do use some characters from the movies."

Michele Mechling, leader of that area's activities, put on some internet videos of flip books to give the kids inspiration.

"I'm getting some good ideas from this," Jonah said.

After brainstorming, Jonah came up with his own idea, namely skydiving.

"That's something I've always wanted to do," he said. "I'll just do a stick figure. I'm not all that good at drawing guys. Don't want it to take too long."

It didn't take long for the creativity to flow.

"I already made the skydiving one," Jonah said after less than half an hour.

"This other one is going to make the word Star Wars."

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## (art) OF VERMILLION

### Sharing The Dream Works To Give Back

Sonia Hernandez  
for the Plain Talk

Sharing the Dream located on Main Street has been giving back to Guatemala since 1996.

Diane Nessulhuf, the store's founder and director, went to Guatemala 29 years ago to adopt a child, but wanted to find another way to give back to the people in a way that perpetuated a sustainable income.

After adopting their daughter, Nessulhuf went back to Guatemala for a month during the Guatemalan Civil War and visited a women's group in the mountains.

"We asked, 'What is there that we can do in the U.S. to help you build sustainability?'" said Nessulhuf. "No one asked for money. They said, 'Help us sell our products.'"

She brought a bag of items with her back to the United States, sold them, and sent the profits to the orphanage - but wanted to do more for the people, and began to build her organization as it is today.

The organization promotes sustainable trade by



COURTESY PHOTO  
Sharing the Dream promotes living wages and sustainability for artisans.

providing fair wages and employment opportunities to low-income artisans who use traditional Maya techniques to create unique, handmade products

The network and scope of the organization is vast, working with more than 20 cooperatives and small businesses. It is the only Sharing the Dream in the country, but has volunteers all over the U.S. who sell on the store's behalf as well as volunteers in Guatemala. Half of the store's sales come from volunteers selling these goods.

Sharing the Dream is rare among fair trade organizations because it is one of the few to sell items solely from one country - unlike many other organizations that sell products from multiple countries. Additionally, 100 percent of all donations go to directly to whomever the donors intended it for.

For example, the Dalesburg Lutheran Church located on University Road in Vermillion, donated money to construct two weaving centers and a sewing center in Guatemala.

"The entirety of their

contribution was used for these projects," Nessulhuf said. "It has made a huge difference in this community because they were then able to sustain their families. There are at least sixty families in that one group."

There are about 20 Sharing the Dream volunteers located in Vermillion - half are students and the other half are locals. In addition, there are numerous volunteers in about 20 different states that sell items sent to Sharing the Dream. Store manager Michele Mechling has been working with the organization since January of 2014.

"I used to own the Coffee Shop Gallery, and we'd come here and get coffee to serve in my shop," said Mechling. "After I sold it I took some time off and when I heard there was an opening here I thought this was perfect. I'm fascinated by it."

Mechling helps with designing items to sell in store, which are not owned or controlled by Sharing the Dream, enabling artisans to sell their work elsewhere.

One of the first groups

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## A DAY in the LIFE OF...

### Clay County Game Warden, Tony Stokely

By Sarah Wetzel  
For the Plain Talk

Tony Stokely began work as the Clay County Game Warden in 2002, having spent the majority of his career in Clark County.

Stokely said he works out of his Elk Point office and covers mainly Clay and Union counties.

So what exactly does a game warden do?

"Enforce laws, investigate violations, apprehend violators and issue citations/fines/warnings, conduct surveillance, patrol assigned areas/regions/state, and coordinate and oversee educational programs for the public," Stokely said.

Some educational programs include visiting schools and presenting "critter crates."

"What this involves is having furs from a bunch of different animals and letting the kids handle the furs as we talk about the specific animal characteristics, size, where we find it etc.," Stokely said.

Other programs include open houses where the Game, Fish and Parks Department staff answers the public's questions and

hunting safety classes for kids.

"I also assist wildlife management efforts to include fisheries and land management on public and private ground, partner with other law enforcement agencies, conduct search and rescue operations, write incident reports, warrants, and testify in court, collect and process evidence, and investigate and collect data on wildlife," Stokely said.

According to Stokely, it's hard to know what his workday will look like when he arrives.

"I can't express enough that there is not a routine," he said. "As a law enforcement officer you never know what to expect. I'm not sure that any Conservation/ Law Enforcement Officer has a daily routine."

"One thing we try to do is respond to emails and phone calls to assist the public," Stokely said. "Phone calls range anywhere from a simple wildlife question, to assisting other law enforcement agencies. Depending on what the phone call is, it will formulate our daily work for that day."

Stokely said another thing that determines his

workday activities are the time of year and his priorities at the moment.

"For example, if it is summer time, we will look at patrolling the water in the area for boating safety or fishermen," he said. "In the fall, we may work the local area during hunting season or, many times, patrol in other counties. We do have our reports that need to be done consistently. It is not uncommon for all the law enforcement agencies to assist each other while out in the county."

The varying duties make for a challenge, according to Stokely.

"The toughest part of the job is trying to be prepared for the unexpected as a law enforcement officer," he said. "Also managing work time with family time."

Though challenging, the unexpected nature of the work is also Stokely's favorite part.

"I like meeting and helping people and hardly having a daily routine," he said. "Every day is different."

Though Stokely works with five other officers in the district, he pointed out that anyone in the community can help them.

"The community can help by keeping an eye out for each other," he said. "It's a big world out there and any assistance we can help each other with will go a long way."

To contact Stokely, visit the Elk Point office located in the Elk Point Athletic Club on Main St. or call 605-356-9491.

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### Library Board Opening Announced

The City of Vermillion has one term expiring on the Vermillion Public Library Advisory Board in May. The term of appointment is for three years.

If interested, complete an Expression of Interest form available on the City's website or at City Hall.

Completed Expression of Interest forms are due in the City Manager's office by noon, Thursday, May 14.

It is anticipated that City Council will make an appointment at its May 18 meeting.

### Scholarship Fund Donations Needed

The Clay-Union Foundation is seeking donations for its community service scholarship and community fund. Vermillion has had 2, \$500 award winners, and received \$250 for the backpack program in the last 4 years, but donations are less than a third of what's been awarded.

Local support will determine which scholarships and awards are available in 2016. This year, high school seniors from Vermillion, Elk Point-Jefferson and Dakota Valley were able to apply for the scholarships.

Donations may be sent to P.O. Box 665, Elk Point, SD 57025.

Call John Gille at 605-421-5050 to learn more about helping the fund.

### Youth/Members Sought For Foundation

The Clay-Union Foundation is seeking one boy and one girl in Vermillion, age 7-12, to match with volunteers who are ready to go. More youth, age 5-17, and adult volunteers are welcome throughout the two counties.

The program does year round matches, and is funded by donations.

To apply, go to [www.clay-unionfoundation.org](http://www.clay-unionfoundation.org) or call John Gille at 605-421-5050.

### Sievers Named Purchasing Manager

Bulk material handling equipment manufacturer, Masaba, announced the appointment of Purchasing Manager, Justin Sievers.

Sievers, is a 2001 graduate of The University of South Dakota where he earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and brings with him more than 14 years of purchasing experience across various industries.

### State Investment Council Seats Open

PIERRE - The Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council is seeking applicants to serve on the State Investment Council. The Investment Council is responsible for investing state revenues and pension funds, and determining state investment policies.

Individuals who are trained in the field of investment and finance but who are not engaged in the sale of marketable or public securities to the state may apply for this appointment. Statute requires that no more than four of the appointed members may be of the same political party. This year, the appointment may be of any political party.

Applications may be obtained at the following link: <http://legis.sd.gov/docs/legsession/InvestmentCouncilApplication.pdf>. The deadline for submitting applications is May 25, 2015.

### Professors Honored With Cutler Award

Three USD professors are the 2015 winners of the Richard and Sharon Cutler Faculty Awards in Liberal Arts - Jacob Kerby, Ph.D., Department of Biology; Darlene Farabee, Ph.D., Department of English; and Timothy Schorn, Ph.D., Department of History.

Each will receive a \$4,000 cash prize through the University of South Dakota Foundation. The Cutler Awards are presented annually to faculty who advance liberal arts education through teaching and research over a three-year span.

Kerby was honored in the Mathematics/Natural Sciences Division of the College of Arts & Sciences. An associate professor of biology and member of the USD faculty since 2008, Kerby also received the Belbas Larson Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2014. His classes include Introductory Biology, Ecology, Ecotoxicology and Disease Ecology as well as Foundations of Ecology and Proposal Writing graduate seminars.

Kerby's research focuses on the conservation of amphibian species. He is the lead coordinator of the Great Plains Chapter of FrogWatch USA, which trains citizens to recognize frog calls in order to identify species. Kerby earned his Ph.D. from the University of California at Davis, his M.S. from California State University, Northridge, and his B.S. from Pepperdine University.

Farabee, chair and associate professor of English, receives the Cutler award for the second time in the Humanities Division. She has taught courses on British literature, Shakespeare and drama at USD since joining the faculty in 2008. Her research interests include early modern drama, early modern narratives of travel, and theories of movement and perception.

In 2014, Farabee published her latest book, "Shakespeare's Staged Spaces and Playgoers' Perceptions." She is also the project director for the March 2016 exhibit of Shakespeare's First Folio, the first complete collected edition of Shakespeare's plays, which will take place at the National Music Museum on the USD campus. Farabee earned her Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Delaware and her B.A. from Temple University.

The award in the Social Sciences Division goes to Timothy Schorn, associate professor of political science. Schorn joined the USD faculty 20 years ago and directs the International Studies Program. He teaches Governments of the World, World Politics, Genocide in the Modern Era, Middle Eastern Politics and International Law.

Schorn has also led 14 study trips with students to locations including Cuba, Israel, and Turkey. Schorn received his Ph.D. and M.A. from the University of Notre Dame, his J.D. from Notre Dame Law School and his B.A. from Mount Marty College.



Wesley Koehne and Tristen Upward

Tristen Upward and Wesley Koehne announce their engagement. The bride-to-be currently resides in Denver, CO. She is a 2007 graduate of Vermillion High School and 2011 graduate of Black Hills State University.

She is employed as an Operations/Marketing Manager at ASCENT Mobility. Tristen is the daughter of Mark and Marianne Upward of Vermillion, SD.

The future groom also resides in Denver. He is a 2007 graduate of Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls, SD and 2011 graduate of Black Hills State University.

He is employed as a Personal Banker/Loan Specialist at US Bank. Wesley is the son of (Dad) Darren Koehne of Denver, CO and (Mom) Barbie and JR Hinks of Sioux Falls, SD.

The couple will exchange vows at 3:30 p.m. August 8, 2015 at the West Kauai United Methodist Church in Kaunakani, HI.

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