

LIL'BITS Library's Summer Reading Program Set To Kick Off

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

In an annual effort to encourage kids to crack a book even when school doors are closed, the Vermillion Public Library will kick off its annual summer reading program Monday with special activities from 1-4 p.m.

In correlation with the nationwide theme, superheroes, the library will play host to local heroes like EMT, fire and police who will have their trucks and cars in the library parking lot for kids to view and ask questions about. Snacks, a photo booth and other activities will follow inside the library.

"We'll have a photo booth and other photo things where they can dress up as a superhero," said Beth Knedler, children's librarian. "There will be another superhero thing that will look like they're flying. They pick up reading logs at that time as well."

Though the theme is nationwide, the Vermillion program will be unique.

"We were hoping to do local heroes," Knedler said. "I've kind of changed it. You're able to buy into the theme and they can send you posters and that's what was done in the past. I didn't like the pictures they had that went with it. They had like Platypus. They can't really use Superman because it's copyrighted."

Vermillion artists decided to take the theme into their own hands and decorate library windows with their own versions of popular superheroes.

Thanks to Kate Struckman-Johnson, Emily Kayl, Hope Knedler and Epiphany Knedler, library patrons can now see Captain America perusing a pamphlet entitled 'How to Defeat Ultron' and Superman soaring away to check out a book as they arrive to check out their own.

As local kids take time to devour book after book they will mark off their reading logs in 30 minute increments according to Knedler.

"As soon as they reach the two-hour goal they come in and we have different levels of prizes," she said. "We'll have things like school supplies; we're getting donations from local businesses



Local artists prep the library for a super summer of reading with the superhero-themed reading program. COURTESY PHOTO

like coupons or ice cream cones."

Bigger prizes like books come the more hours kids complete.

"There are still some things I have to put together," Knedler said. "I know it's going to be a little different than it has been in the past with prizes. The first two hours of reading is like a little school supplies. At the point they get to the four hour probably a coupon which I'm talking to Scoops about. I want to keep it kind of consistent. If you have two kids and both reach four hours they should all be able to go get the same prize. At the end we have a party with bigger prizes."

The reading program, running through July, give kids the chance to enter their names into a drawing at various stages of their reading which will give them a shot at some of the bigger prizes which Knedler said might include Tablets.

The program is for kids of all ages according to Knedler.

"We do it with the little ones as well with the 'read to me' I think that's what

it's called," she said. "There's no age requirement."

In an effort to keep the kids coming, events and guest entertainers will be hosted at the library throughout June and July.

Typically on Monday afternoons, planned guests include a juggler, magician, educational presentation, USD athletes and a songwriter.

Other events will include superhero-related science experiments, superhero movies with popcorn and Lego club.

"One of our local patrons is a Lego expert and he is coming in to make a ball out of Legos," Knedler said. "He doesn't know what day he's going to do it but I bought enough to make 20 little Lego balls. This ball you can roll it and bounce it. It's specific Legos I had to purchase for it."

Activities for all ages are planned.

For a schedule of events and more information, visit vermillionpubliclibrary.org or pick up a calendar of events on your next trip to the library at 18 Church Street.

Fallan Attends National Convention

Erika Fallan was one of three delegates chosen to represent South Dakota at the National 4-H Conference held in Chevy Chase, MD April 11-16, 2015.

The National 4-H Conference is the premier civic engagement opportunity for 4-H members who are actively involved in 4-H programs across the United States. The conference is the pinnacle experience in 4-H Citizenship, providing the opportunity for young people to connect, learn, engage, lead and impact their communities.

Erika is the daughter of David and Julie Fallan and a ten year member of the Meckling Livestock 4-H Club.



Fallan

Park Jefferson Speedway Clash Set

JEFFERSON - In a return to the days of previous owner Ted Carlson, this weekend the Park Jefferson Speedway will present some of the region's top super late model racing. Drivers from South and North Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas, Minnesota, New Mexico and more will head to the Siouxlands top speed plant for a shot at the Carlson Clash trophy.

Featuring the area's best late model drivers, the races is co sanctioned by the Lucas Oil Midwest Late Model Racing Association and the Corn Belt Clash.

"It has been a long time since we were last up to Park Jefferson. I know the track is tacky and fast, and our guys are looking forward to it." Stated Lucas Oil MLRA director Ernie Leftwich. "Fans will be treated a variety of fun as the Park Jefferson Speedway will be hosting all of the local racers in conjunction with the event."

On Friday, gates open and 5 p.m. with racing at 7:30 and is supported by Sign Master A Mods and J&J Fitting Stock Cars. On Saturday, gates open at 5 p.m. with racing at 7 p.m. and supported by Pedersen Machine sport mods, hobby stocks and sport compacts.

For more information visit Park Jefferson Speedway online at www.parkjeff.com or call 712-202-5540.

Two Training Scholarships Available

The Yankton Regional Aviation Association (YRAA) announces the opening for applications for the YRAA Pilot Training Scholarship and the Bud Becker Memorial Scholarship. The YRAA scholarship was established in 2005 and is for \$750. The Becker scholarship was established in 2013 and is for \$1,000. The YRAA scholarship is one way the YRAA promotes general aviation in southeastern South Dakota and northeastern Nebraska. The Becker scholarship carries on the aviation legacy of Ramon "Bud" Becker of Hartington and his life-long passion for aviation. The YRAA has 114 members from several towns in SD, IA, and NE.

The scholarships will be given a "wannabe student" pilot or student pilot. The success of this program is in part dependent upon the receipt of good quality nominees. The deadline for submitting an application for the scholarships is July 1, 2015. The application forms for the scholarships can be requested from Steve Hamilton, 303 Golf Lane, Yankton, SD 57078-1727; or email skyhawk@w.net or call 605-665-8448.

Mabee To Direct NSF Division

The National Science Foundation has appointed USD Professor Paula Mabee, Ph.D., to its leadership team as director of the Division of Environmental Biology, which supports fundamental research on populations, species, communities, and ecosystems.

"I am very strong believer in the National Science Foundation's mission, which is to promote fundamental science," Mabee said. "As someone whose research has been funded by NSF and who has served previously on a number of panels, I am interested in helping shape the vision in the Division of Environmental Biology."

Mabee will join NSF in August for an assignment that will last from 1-4 years. The position falls under the Intergovernmental Personnel Act, which allows individuals from colleges, universities, and other organizations to hold temporary positions in the federal government. She will continue her research program at USD while serving in the NSF position.

"These temporary 'rotator' positions bring in fresh vision from scientists who are active in their fields," said Mabee, whose research focuses on connecting data on organism phenotypes (like anatomy) to genes in order to enhance knowledge of development and evolution. "My research is pretty broad and has touched on core pieces in the division—evolutionary biology, developmental biology, and databases. I bring in a cross disciplinary perspective."

Mabee's position will include directing the activities of the Division of Environmental Biology and developing breakthrough opportunities for scientific advancements in the field. She will supervise program officers who review about 3,000 grant proposals per year.

"Our nation depends on the science that's done at the National Science Foundation," Mabee said. "And my division will deal with some of the critical issues facing society, such as climate change."

Mabee will reside in Arlington, Va., the site of the headquarters of the NSF, while she completes her temporary assignment. She said she sees her new position as a way to give back to her professional field.

"This position is federal service and also serves science," Mabee said of her assignment. "I'm especially excited about developing new opportunities for scientists in the Division of Environmental Biology."



Mabee

USDA Reminds Growers To Certify Conservation Acres

BY KATIE CLAUSEN
For the Plain Talk

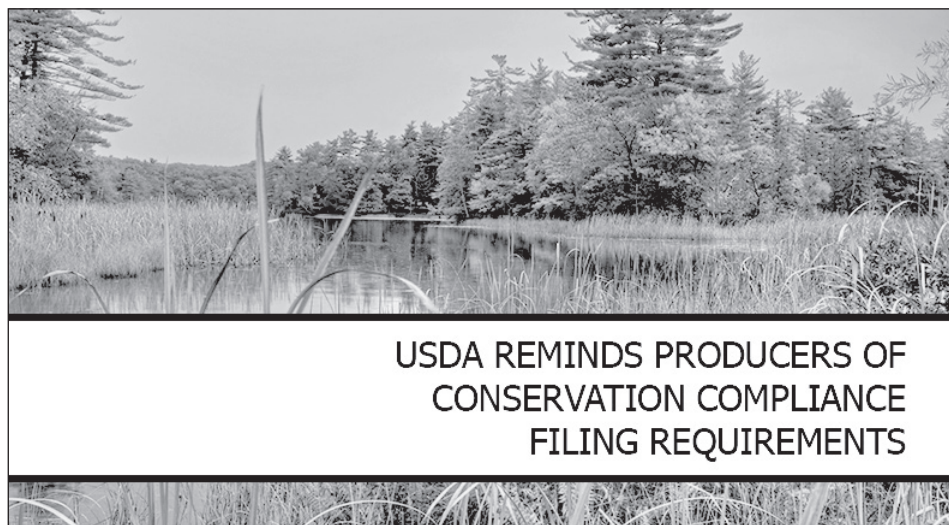
Local farmers who are involved in Conservation Compliance are encouraged to register their acres by June 1, according to a USDA press release.

Farmers who are utilizing pieces of ground that qualify as wetlands or are considered highly erodible must certify these acres in accordance with the Highly Erodible Land Conservation or Wetland Conservation Certification forms with their local USDA Service Center by June 1.

As stewards of the land, farmers are looking more frequently towards guidance by the USDA as well as land grant research institutions for information on how to best utilize highly erodible or wetland ground, which is considered sensitive ecologically. New provisions in the farm bill have a goal of maintaining an understanding about the need to segregate agricultural lands that are considered sensitive.

"USDA is making every effort possible to get the word out about this new Farm Bill provision," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in a News Release by the USDA. "We've deployed a variety of informational documents and online resources including fact sheets, frequently asked questions and brochures to help farmers understand what they need to do."

Highly erodible lands may show up on a producer's plat map if the soil type is identified as having an erosion score of eight or more. Erosion can be cre-



ated either by water or wind movement and the prevention of this phenomena is important for sediment control in waterways and healthy soil maintenance. Growers who have pieces of ground with high erosion risk of either over 33 percent of the field or 50 acres or more must comply with erosion prevention tillage and cropping practices.

Wetland conservation designation comes from the same ecologically friendly school of thought. Producers whose farm ground is saturated with surface or groundwater to the point at which it supports wetland vegetation, contains hydric soils, or meets other vegetative requirements. Wetlands are important to our landscape as they often act as a filter on earth's surface and act as an environment for specific plants and animals. The wetland conservation program discourages farmers from a popular practices such as tiling, which allows wetlands to be drained.

"I think it's okay," local producer Jason Hanssen

said. "You want to maximize your acres, but you also want to have options and be aware of how to properly treat the land."

Hanssen, like many producers, sometimes feel paperwork can act as a burden. However, he knows the local FSA office, website information, and even talking with neighbors can be helpful.

"They are pretty good about helping you at the office," Hanssen said. "The website is good for information, too."

The USDA is encouraging all producers of agricultural commodities to consider their stake in the conservation of our ground, while at the same time providing our growing population with food and fuel. Modern technologies and research advancements in cover

crops, plant genetics, and precision agriculture are helping producers reduce the environmental impact food production has on soils while increasing their production capabilities.

According to the press release, growers should already be aware if they fall into one or both of these categories. If producers have only participated in the federal crop insurance program, however, they must now file a certification form.

A copy of these forms is available online at www.fsa.usda.gov/Ad1026form or at the local USDA service center. Producers located in Clay County can visit the local FSA office at 121 W. Kidder Street for assistance or more information.

The Clay County Assessor's Office

will be
CLOSED
on Thursday, June 4th
to attend conference meetings.

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