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## 'It's times like this that I really enjoy'



Logan Wadley, Holly Haddad and Deborah Check Reeves, all of Vermillion, hold hands and together cross the finish line of the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, held Sunday in Vermillion. See more photos of the race at spotted.plaintalk.net.

(Photo by David Lias)

## Vermillion hosts 4th annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure

By David Lias

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Deborah Check Reeves, Holly Haddad and Holly's son, Logan Wadley, held hands and together crossed the finish line of Susan G. Komen South Dakota Race for the Cure.

It was a moment repeated time and again, as hundreds of race participants, expressing a combination of exhilaration and a bit of exhaustion, finished the race inside the DakotaDome Sunday morning.

The goal of every woman, man, boy and girl who took part in Vermillion's fourth annual race is simple. All hope that breast cancer will someday be talked about in the past tense; that it will never be a threat to young girls as they reach adulthood.

Nancy G. Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, that she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement. Today, Susan

G. Komen for the Cure is the world's largest grassroots network of breast cancer survivors and activists fighting to save lives, empower people, ensure quality care for all and energize science to find cures.

"I'm a 10-year survivor as of this summer," Deborah said. "That's a huge milestone. This race is near and dear to my heart. I just think it's so cool that we have it here in Vermillion."

She has run in Komen races in other states, but will always count Vermillion's as one of her favorite experiences.

"It's more intimate," Deborah said. "It's so participant-friendly."

Thanks to events like Sunday's race in Vermillion, approximately \$1.5 billion has been invested to fulfill Brinker's promise to her sister. The race has the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world. The Susan G. Komen for the Cure is a 501(c) (3) Public Charity as determined by the Internal Revenue Code, operating under the Charter of the organization, headquartered in Dallas, TX. Since its

inception in 1982 the Komen Foundation and its affiliate network have raised over \$750 million for breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment.

For some participants, the battle with breast cancer hasn't yet been won.

Kathy Stewart Devine of Sioux Falls was easy to spot in the DakotaDome Sunday, wearing a bright pink wig as a temporary replacement of the hair she's lost to chemotherapy treatments.

She was first diagnosed with breast cancer four years ago. This summer, it returned, sparking perhaps one of the largest ever local responses in the Vermillion community.

A team of over 100 hundred people, calling themselves "We're So Devine," turned out for Sunday's event.

"All of my brothers and sisters live in Vermillion," Kathy said. "I'm sure the team has over 100 members now – it was at 93 the other day, and I know today there are lot of my Vermillion friends that have joined the team. I have a big family, and it didn't take much to get everybody together."

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Colette Abbott, race chair and member of the Susan G. Komen South Dakota affiliate board of directors, embraces Kathy Stewart Devine during post-race festivities in the DakotaDome Sunday.

(Photo by David Lias)

## Jolley, Austin become PBIS schools

By Huma Sheikh

Vermillion's two public elementary schools – Jolley Elementary and Austin Elementary – have become Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) pilot schools as they implement the behavior management program to teach kids what behavior is expected for each student in each possible school setting.

At Jolley School, students on the first day of school last month went through Expectation Stations which briefed about school wide expectations. These expectations were a list of broad, positively stated behaviors that were desired of all students and faculty.

"We had, for example, each grade come to the lunch area to have the students watch our teachers go through the lunch line while discussing the expected behaviors and the proper procedures for going through the lunch line. We had the students attend stations for the lunch room, the playground, in the hallways, in the bathrooms and while in lines for morning and recess time," said Principal Mark Upward.

"PBIS is a positive behavior management system to create a safer and more effective school. This system provides clear school wide expectations for our students and teachers so we can all work as a team for a common goal which is to have less behavioral issues and more learning time," said Cindy Weis, who is the program coach at Jolley.

Austin Elementary School Principal, Kim Johnson said the school staff participated in professional development for positive behavior interventions three years ago. They had organized a School Climate Committee and studied the basis PBIS framework. The committee began developing a school discipline plan based on that framework.

"Becoming a pilot PBIS school through the Department of Education was a perfect extension of our philosophy, but also incorporated training, support and accountability," she said.

Both at Austin and Jolley, the entire teaching staff had been involved in implementing the program to assure that the skills necessary to meet the PBIS expectations were worked on and evaluated frequently.

"Our PBIS team attended two workshops over the summer to train on the PBIS system. After the workshop, we trained the rest of the staff on PBIS. PBIS is a school wide system so every staff member, from the school lunch aides to the Principal, are involved in implementing this program," said Upward.

At Austin, the PBIS Team had gone through the training and then devoted their back-to-school in-service to training the entire teaching staff.

"We also held a 'Welcome-Back-to-School Brunch' for our support staff (educational aides, playground and lunch supervisors) to show appreciation for their important role as well as build consistency and support for the PBIS philosophy," said Johnson.

The schools also assess students' progress toward reaching the behavior expectations in number of ways. At Austin, progress is measured through data (i.e. office referrals) as well as through classroom and school-wide feedback of student behavior. The progress of students at Jolley is assessed daily and weekly by counting the number of students who get a Tanager Buck in each classroom.

## State's first influenza case reported in Clay County

The South Dakota Department of Health reported Sept. 27 the state's first laboratory-confirmed influenza case of the season, a Clay County resident in the 40 through 49 age group. The individual had influenza A and was not hospitalized.

"While this case is a little sooner than we typically see, it's not unheard of to report flu this early," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist for the department. "The good news is the vaccine is widely available this year and now is a good time to be vaccinated."

He encouraged parents to take advantage of the free flu vaccine the state offers for kids from six months to 18 years.

Kids account for a significant number of flu cases and hospitalizations each year and also help spread the illness in the community. Vaccinating children protects them and the people around them.

Annual flu vaccination is recommended for everyone, but some groups are at higher risk for complications and should be sure to be vaccinated. High risk groups include pregnant women, people over 50 years and people with chronic medical conditions. Health-care workers and household contacts of high risk populations, especially those with young infants in the household, should also be

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