

Jami Lynn To Perform At VAAC Annual Meeting

BY SARAH WETZEL
For the Plain Talk

Following their mission to help Vermillion and surrounding communities become more vibrant and interesting places to live and work, the Vermillion Area Arts Council will host Folk singer/songwriter Jami Lynn Buttke for a free concert at their annual meeting September 18 at the Washington Street Arts Center.

Doors open at 6:30 and light refreshments will be served.

"It's part of our annual meeting that we do," said VAAC education coordinator Michele Mechling. "It's our election of officers and we're hoping to get some new board nominees and try to vote them in."

After a short VAAC presentation of the year's events, Jami Lynn will take the stage around 8 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

according to Mechling.

"We're proud of Jami Lynn," Mechling said. "She has been part of our community for a long time. She went to school here and she is a South Dakota Artist in Residence in the SD Artist in Residence program so it's a matching grant that she goes and plays and

we match her fee but half of it is paid by the South Dakota Arts Council. So she's a performing artist for the state of South Dakota through the SD Arts Council. She plays folk, bluegrass, rhythm and blues, country." "Jami Lynn is a graduate of The University of South Dakota, and has shared

her talent and love of local folk history with audiences across the Midwest, Southeast, and Pacific Northwest," her bio reads. "She has also released three full-length albums of folk songs and originals." Anyone is invited to attend and not only enjoy the music but also volunteer their time so the VAAC can continue to provide Vermillion with artistic experiences.

"We would love to have pre-nominees and we're working on that but anyone that comes to the meeting and would be interested in

being a part of the board or on a committee they are welcome to do so," Mechling said. "When you're on the board usually you choose what area you want to volunteer in. We have treasurer and the different seats on the board. What they would do is volunteer and come to the meetings. We have meetings the first Wednesday of every month. We just make decisions and plan the next event and try to create new events."

Other volunteer opportunities with the VAAC include building maintenance, cleaning, set-up and tear-down for events, marketing outreach, and assistance with events and summer art camps.

At the concert next Friday attendees will be able to see a display of exactly what they could volunteer for.

"We're going to kind of showcase in the front

foyer area of what we do," Mechling said. "Right now we have a play that's going on this weekend through Joe Bob Play Productions."

The play entitled "Harenam's Castle" actually opens today at 7 p.m. and continues with a show at 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday. The show, with proceeds going towards a new Air Conditioning unit for the Arts Center will take place there with tickets \$7 per adult and \$5 per child.

Other community events sponsored by the VAAC include the Vermillion Sculpture Walk, art classes for all ages and skill levels, and summer art camps.

For more information, visit www.vermillionareaartscouncil.com or visit the Vermillion Area Arts Council Facebook page.

New Program Encourages Teens To Lounge At The Library

BY SARAH WETZEL
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As part of their continuous effort to cater to the youth of the community, the Vermillion Public Library is instituting the Teen Lounge to encourage teens and preteens to spend more time there.

The Teen Lounge will take place Thursday evenings at 6:30 in the Teen Room at the library.

Epiphany Knedler is the coordinator.

"It's time for the teens to do activities and I am there to show them how to do them or help them along the way," she said. "I bring them together and plan the activities but it is a relaxed environment. Any kids in 6th-12th grades are able to join. All activities will be based on the maturity of the group"

The idea for the program came from a desire to help the library become more attractive to our youth.

"When I was hired, part of my job was to try to get more teens into the library," Knedler said.

"There are a few teens who come in to check out books but they rarely stay for any activities. We decided to dedicate time for preteens/teens."

Knedler has high hopes for the program based on the moderate success the library has had with teen programs in the past.

"We had a program similar to this in the summer which was relatively successful," she said. "Not as many teens showed up as we had hoped, but the few who did were dedicated. I know there are always activities and homework going on in the teens' lives, but I think this will be a good outlet for them to hang out with each other, engage in with each other on books and movies, and have free snacks."

Though Knedler has some ideas of activities for the Teen Lounge, she said she is making the program flexible and open to suggestions from participants as well.

"We are thinking of having a book for the teens read and discuss as they go," she said. "Along with that, we will have a movie night once a month. I am also looking at a few different art projects to do, such as decorating the teen room and printmaking articles of clothing. We are open to many different ideas."

Knedler has personally seen a difference in teens who attend library activities and events and is excited to spread the influence through this program.

"I have worked with teens at the library since last summer (2014) and I have seen a change in those teens that do come in to the activities every week," she said. "They get excited about reading and bonding with those in the group. It is fun to watch and help them grow through these impressionable years."

According to Knedler no additional volunteer help is needed for the Teen Lounge but help will be sought if a big project comes along.

Registration is not necessary to participate but some form of communication would be helpful.

Any questions may be presented in person at the library or directed to Epiphany Knedler at Epiphany.Knedler@coyotes.usd.edu.

Ladies Morning Golf

Sept 9, 2015, was an unusual day. So many people are doing other things that our group was smaller than usual. Life takes us in different ways but before the end of our gathering summer they shall return at least one more time.

Only 13 ladies came for luncheon but we were not short on fun and friendship.

Our drawing winners were: \$5 —Barb Boone and Brenda Chatham.

Quarters—Maxine Rogers, Barb Boone, Char Brunick, Beth Silvano, and Edith Nelson.

There were 3 tables for dominoes and some interesting results.

Rd 1-Dori Ryan, Vaneta Youngworth, and Joan Olson.

Rd 2-Char Brunick, Barb Boone, and Thelma Raines.

Rd 3-Dori Ryan, Barb Boone, and Thelma Raines.

Total score-Char Brunick, Brenda Chatham, and Maxine Rogers.

Many years ago I played but had a record high in the 700's. Well, I can't recall the exact

number but Dori Ryan just may have met or broke my record with 740. I shall give you (Dori) the benefit of the doubt and shall let you have the honors. This does not mean that I shall

return to dominoes. I just can't sit that long and concentrate. Sorry!

Golfing: We had only 3 ladies today...Edith Nelson, Mary Moch and myself.

We still had fun and played a game of regular golf. I stayed under 60 so am happy. A storm threatened us but we finished just before they sounded the horn to get off the course.

There are 3 weeks left ladies! Come out an join us. You might like it and sign up next year.

Pat Steckelberg, Reporting

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