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N E W S R E L E A S E

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Prime Time reading program returns to South Sioux City

Prime Time Family Reading Time, a Nebraska Humanities Council (NHC) family literacy program designed to help strengthen participants' interest and skills in reading, will return to South Sioux City with opportunities for both Spanish- and English-speaking parents and their children.

The South Sioux City Public Library will host the bilingual series on six consecutive Thursday evenings from Feb. 7 through March 13. Each program begins with a light dinner and continues with storytelling and discussion based on award-winning children's literature.

The free six-week series is offered to families with children ages 6 to 10. It includes sessions on fairness, greed, dreams, determination and courage. All books are read and discussed in both English and Spanish.

Discussion leader Gail Ament and storyteller Katie Hoaglund will introduce parents to the benefits and pleasures of reading and discussing stories with their children. Families will also learn about library resources and services. Separate pre-reading activities will be available for younger siblings.

Prime Time reinforces the role of family in society, encourages parents and children to bond over reading and learning together, and teaches parents and children to read and discuss humanities topics. The program also encourages parents to enter or continue their own educational programs to improve their employment opportunities.

"It is so important for children to learn the joys of reading early in life, especially when it involves reading and discussing books with their families," said NHC Senior Program Officer Erika Hamilton, state coordinator of Prime Time. "A love for learning through reading has a positive impact on how well a child does in school."

Initially developed by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, bilingual and English-only Prime Time sessions have been held in Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, Norfolk, Scottsbluff, and other Nebraska communities over the last five years. This will be South Sioux City's fifth bilingual Prime Time, having held their first in the spring of 2006.

Prime Time programs are sponsored in Nebraska by the NHC, the State of Nebraska, and the Nebraska Library Commission. The NHC is a private, statewide, non-profit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

For more information or to register to participate, contact Kathy Jacobs, library director, at (402) 494-7545.

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