

Open books

Library display marks Banned Books Week

Books that have been challenged or banned on during the past year, will be displayed at the Farmington Hills Branch of the Farmington Community Library on 12 Mile Road during Banned Books Week, Sept. 23-30.

The works of such famous authors as William Faulkner, Mark Twain, Toni Morrison, and Laura Ingalls Wilder were banned or challenged in the last year, according to a local library source. "A lot of people who see the display just can't believe that these books have been banned for these reasons," said Sherri Vaughn, a librarian who set up the exhibit at the Hills Branch.

"A lot of the classics are

banned in different states, and a Merriam-Webster dictionary was banned from the Sparks, Nev., elementary schools because a teacher said it contained obscenities."

Other examples of banned or challenged books:

■ "A Thousand Acres," by Jane Smiley, winner of the 1991 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. It was banned at the Lynden, Wash., High School because "it has no literary value."

■ "The Little Mermaid" by Hans Christian Andersen. It was challenged because it was "pornographic" and contained "satanic pictures."

■ "The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman" by Ernest Gaines. It was pulled after complaints about racial slurs in the book.

■ "The Complete Fairy Tales of The Brothers Grimm." It was restricted due to excessive violence, negative portrayals of female characters and anti-Semitic references.

Most of these books are well-known, but are considered dangerous or objectionable by individuals or groups who would deny

others access to them.

Does the Farmington Community Library ban books? "Not that I know of... not since I've been here, anyway," answered Vaughn.

The banned books exhibit is sponsored by the American Library Association, the American Booksellers Association, the American Bookellers Foundation for Free Expression, the Association of American Publishers, the American Society of Journalists and Authors, and the National Association of College Stores.

It is endorsed by the Center for the Book of the Library of Congress.

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