



Running hard for Glory.

Thomas Hatzenbuehler/For The Plain Talk

## Powder Puff Football a fun T-Week tradition

By Katie Clausen  
For the Plain Talk

The junior girls were the first to arrive at the make-shift powder puff football field. Chanting from the back of a pick-up truck the classic junior war cry VHS alumni know all too well.

The senior girls followed suit shortly after, shooting roman candles into the crowd to announce their arrival. The girls were ready to play some football.

It's not an event sanctioned by Vermillion Public Schools, but it isn't exactly a secret either. The sports complex along Cherry Street was the venue, and the energy was high.



Aiming for you!

Thomas Hatzenbuehler/  
For The Plain Talk

Students started gathering early for the event and organizing the playing field. "They aren't supposed to tackle but they get pretty rough" said Alex Cotton, a VHS senior who was anticipating the event. Students started gathering early for the event and organizing the playing field.

Tackling seemed to be the most lucrative aspect for spectators. "I'm looking forward to seeing them tackle each other" said Jonah Fee, a 10th grader.

"It's just to have fun," said Junior Kylee Retzlaff "there are twenty-something of us junior girls. We know it's rigged because the seniors win every year but we know we really win."

Feelings on keeping score were mixed among the students. The referees are senior boys, decked out in comically short shorts and black and white striped shirts. The referees were rowdy, raunchy, and were there to keep the crowd entertained.

"We don't really need to keep score. The seniors are the refs so we will win next year. It should be a fun game as long as no one gets hurt" Sophia Taggart, a junior, said.

Bryce Surrell, a senior, had different ideas. "I think they should keep score to see who wins."

Homecoming antics have been going on for many years. Students pointed out that it's important to have traditions and have fun during this special time.

"It's kind of a VHS tradition. It gets very competitive between the junior and senior Girls," Tyler Madsen, a senior, said "It's been going on all the years I've been here."

The students had custom made t-shirts for the event, and players were decked out in glitter and face paint. Many students felt that this was really about school spirit.

"It's about everyone getting together and getting in the spirit of T-Week. It's really not about the juniors or seniors, it's about the Tanagers" said Blake Gillyson, a junior.

The underclassmen would like to keep the tradition alive. "I'd probably play next year," Maggie Peterson, a sophomore, said "I like the energy of it all. It's more for fun."

# New sign of the times at VHS

By Alan Dale  
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They were kids again. A number of Vermillion School District administration, school board officials, and booster club convened excitedly outside Vermillion High School on Thursday to present the new Daktronics sign outside the school during Homecoming Week.

It was the latest, greatest, and special new toy that the men and women in attendance got to relish as their enthusiasm and pride grew to contagious levels.

"This is a symbol of the pride in our community, our school, and in Vermillion," Vermillion School Board President Chris Esping said. "It represents the dedication and hard work of so many people, led by the booster club, which made the project happen. The club had a dream and through a collaborative effort of many – the booster club, the city, the school district, and so many members of the community – the dream is now a beautiful reality."

According to Vermillion High School Booster Club president Jim Peterson, the whole project to add more to the outside of the school along Main Street will cost \$200K for the sign and flag pole which will include three flags – the school, state, and country – and a number of other items.

Those items include a football and track scoreboard, weights upgrade, sprinkler system for the football and practice fields, a resurfacing of the practice field, and a football blocking sled.

"I want to thank everybody," Peterson said. "It's a Vermillion community that raises a Tanager."

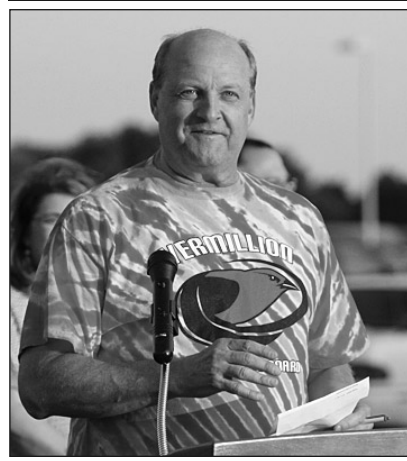
The Daktronics sign cost approximately \$40,000 of the planned capital project list which is still being updated by the Booster Club, Peterson said.

"I am so pleased that the city council totally, all, approved this," Vermillion mayor Jack Powell said. "We were asked if we could do this over a two-year period and we said 'why don't we do it all in one year and get this whole thing going.' It's a wonderful sign. We can all take great pride in this project."

The blocking sled and the first phase of the weights upgrade have been completed. The club plans next to get the remainder of the weights project, outdoor football/track sign, and a Polaris Ranger in the fold.

Monies have been raised through club membership, the capital campaign in process, Tanager card sales, the Booster Bash and the Drive a Ford event, and gym banner sales.

"Thanks for a great evening and a great event," Vermillion School District Superintendent Mark Froke said. "I have to say thank for to Curt Cameron (VHS principal) and Jason Huska (VHS athletic director) for their work in getting



it organized tonight. This is a symbol of community support and an indication of what a community can do when it comes together. This will be of service to the community and the school for a long time."

"Game On" winner announced The first annual "Game On" spirit contest held for 2014 Homecoming Week announced its initial winner.

Taking the top prize was the Vermillion Library while Sturdevant's Auto Parts finished second and Sanford Vermillion ended up grabbing third place.

The top three spots earned trophies while all other participants received a Tanager Sign.

Other businesses participating were Dakota Realty, the Civic Council, CorTrust, Farmers Insurance, and Siouxland Dentistry.

The contest was to show spirit including window decorating. The judging criteria were based on Tanager spirit, originality, artistic design, and creativity.

Let's have a party  
The Vermillion Athletic Booster

Photos clockwise from top: Vermillion Mayor Jack Powell and Vermillion School District Superintendent Mark Froke cut the ribbon in front of the new Daktronics sign outside Vermillion High School. (Dale); The Vermillion Library won the "Game On" spirit competition (VHS Booster Club); It was a fun time at Howlers' before last Friday's Vermillion High School homecoming football game against Tea (VHS Booster Club); and Vermillion High School Booster Club President Jim Peterson is pleased with how the new Daktronics sign looks after its unveiling last Thursday. (Dale)

Photos by Alan Dale/The Plain Talk and Courtesy of VHS Booster Club

Club held its first Homecoming Pre-Game Party that took place at Howlers Restaurant last Friday night before the game.

Peterson reported that approximately 250-300 people were in attendance.

"Randy Hammer (of 106.3) got the crowd fired up with music and a live remote," Peterson said.

The party took place both indoors and outdoors and fed attendees with burgers and brats. Kids were treated to a snow cone giveaway and everyone took in a performance by a local dance studio.

Some of the proceeds of the event will be donated to the Vermillion Athletic Booster Club.

## OBITUARIES

### Duncan McGregor

Dr. Duncan J. McGregor, Ph. D., 93, died at home in Vermillion on September 14, 2014.

Duncan was born January 3, 1921, at St. Joseph, MO, to the Rev.

Duncan E. and Elma B (Lawrence) McGregor. He graduated from high school in Lawrence, KS, and earned his bachelor's degree in geology from the University of Kansas. Duncan served in the U.S. Navy Reserve in WWII as a communications officer aboard the escort carrier U.S.S. Thetis Bay, CVE-90, in the Pacific Theater. After the war Duncan married Thelma Dewsbury in Auburn, MA, whom he had met while at the Navy's communications school at Harvard. The couple celebrated their 66 anniversary on June 30, 2012.

Duncan and Thelma moved to Lawrence, KS, in 1946 where he completed a Master's degree in geology at KU. After working for Sinclair Oil for several years in Wyoming, during which

time his daughter, Lynn, was born in 1949. Duncan enrolled at the University of Michigan where he completed his Ph.D. degree in 1953. A son, Scott, was born during this time in 1952. The family then moved to Bloomington, Indiana, where Duncan took a position as head of the industrial minerals section of the Indiana Geology Survey at Indiana University. There a second son, Brett, joined the family in 1957. In 1963, the family moved to Vermillion, South Dakota, where Duncan became a professor of Geology at the University of South Dakota, South Dakota State Geologist and Director of the South Dakota Geological Survey. Duncan retired from the Survey in 1981 retaining his role as professor of geology and serving as Chairman of the USD Department of Earth Resources until his full retirement in 1986, when he was awarded the rank of professor emeritus.

At USD, Duncan was an active member of the faculty serving on the University budget committee among others. He presented the Dean Harrington Lecture in 1985 and was an was an

active member of the Clay County Historical Society and the Vermillion Rotary Club, he was honored with the Paul Harris Fellowship Award.

Duncan and Thelma were longtime active members of the Vermillion United Church of Christ in Vermillion.

Duncan is survived by his daughter, Lynn (Jerry) Ochs of Yukon, OK, and two sons: Scott (Karen) McGregor of Rapid City, SD, and Brett (Val) of Nebraska City, NE; grandchildren: Melissa (Everett) Robins and Andromeda (Jacob) Morrison and great-grandchildren, Sophie and Ethan Robins.

He was predeceased by his wife of over 66 years, Thelma, who died January 27, 2013, and two brothers: Ronald and Kenneth. A memorial has been

established at the Vermillion Public Library.

A memorial service honoring both Duncan and Thelma will be held at a later date. The Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion is handling the arrangements. HansenFuneralHome.com.

### Richard Jepsen

MECKLING — Richard Alva Jepsen, 59, of Meckling, SD passed away Saturday, September 20, 2014, at the Sanford USD Medical Center in Sioux Falls, SD, after complications from a stroke.

Richard was born March 24, 1955, in Vermillion to Alva and LaVonne Jepsen. He grew up and lived his entire life in the Meckling area and on May 30th, 1975, married his high school sweet heart Donna Hill in Vermillion.

As a young man, he

farmed with his dad and for the past 25 years, owned and operated Jepsen Service in rural Meckling.

He was preceded in death by his father Alva.

He is survived by his mother, LaVonne and his wife, Donna, both of Meckling, a daughter, Brandi (Eric) Johnson of Sioux Falls, and a son, Brett (Jenn) Jepsen of Volga, SD, four grandchildren: Kamryn, Leiland, Gavin and McKayla and soon to be Cooper. He is also survived by a sister, Margo (Jim) Ryken of Gayville, SD, a niece, Cammy

and a nephew, Matt.

Rich had many loving friends and family and his dog, Boris, that will miss him and his memorable laugh greatly and cherish the memories he left them with.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 AM Thursday, September 25, at the Bergen Lutheran Church in Meckling with burial of ashes at a later date. Visitation was from 5 – 7 PM Wednesday, September 24, at the Hansen Funeral Home in Vermillion. HansenFuneralHome.com.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is currently seeking applications for a

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