

Ouellette Tanager Of The Week

BY ELYSE BRIGHTMAN
Elyse.brightman@plaintalk.net

The Tanager's football team may be off to a rough start, but senior Matt Ouellette is having an impressive season so far.

In Vermillion's first two games of the season, Ouellette has both of the team's touchdown catches, including a 64-yard reception in the season opener against Canton, and a total of 212 receiving yards. That accounts for over half of the team's total yards.

He also had 14 rushing yards in one attempt during game two against Dell Rapids.

Though his numbers are shaping up to be even more impressive each week, Ouellette is confident he can do more to contribute.

"You can always improve and do better, but (the season) is going well," he said.

Ouellette plays mostly at the wide receiver position said his favorite part of the game is being able to score points for his team.

"I like having the ball on offense and scoring points and driving down the field," he said.

Despite being mainly an offensive player, Ouellette has made an impact on defense, as well.



ELYSE BRIGHTMAN/ FOR THE PLAIN TALK

During Friday's game against Dell Rapids, he made 12 total tackles, the third most on the team, and in the first game at Canton he recorded seven total, the second most during that game.

"We ask him to go a lot of places now and it's great that he's a senior kid and he can just jump in and play wherever we want," said head football coach Andy Homan. "We had to move him around a bit (Friday night) to try to get our passing game going, but obviously he's going to be our main threat."

Ouellette was named team captain

for the season along with teammates Mitchell Sand, Noah Westergaard and Brandon Mockler. The title holds some duties, like attending the coin flips at the beginning of each game, but also some ethical responsibilities, like being a role model for the younger players on the team.

"Being captain is pretty special," Ouellette said. "Everyone just kind of looks up to you."

Ouellette has always had an interest in football and started playing in the fifth grade, the youngest to start playing tackle.

"I started off younger with flag football and then fifth grade is the first year we had pads," he said.

As for the future, he hasn't yet decided if he will try to play next year at college.

"I've been thinking about it a lot, but haven't set my mind to anything I guess," he said.

Look for Ouellette and the rest of the Tanagers next Friday night when the team plays host to Parkston at the DakotaDome.

Congratulations Matt on being named the Plain Talk's Tanager of the Week.

One Book South Dakota Author To Visit Vermillion

The 2015 One Book South Dakota is "Ordinary Grace", by William Kent Krueger. The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library will host a facilitated discussion of the book at 3:30 pm on Monday, September 21st, 2015. The discussion will be facilitated by Cyndy Chaney on behalf of Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. Following the facilitated discussion, there will be a Meet & Greet with William Kent Krueger at Razieli's, downtown Vermillion, from 5 – 6:30 pm. We will end the evening with a special presentation by the author at 7 pm, back at the library.

In the novel, published by Simon and Schuster and set in southern Minnesota, Krueger explores the issue of spirituality and his own childhood, writing about issues that he's grappled with since a young age. The novel is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

Since 2003, the One Book South Dakota program has encouraged all South Dakotans to read and discuss the same novel or memoir throughout the course of a year. Community and book groups receive books on loan and can invite a South Dakota Humanities Council scholar to facilitate discussion. The South Dakota Humanities Council printed 3,000 special edition copies of the book for the purpose of circulating them around the state, along with a custom study guide. Krueger will discuss "Ordinary Grace" in several communities this summer as part of his One Book Author Tour.

Raised in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon, William Kent Krueger briefly attended Stanford University—before being kicked out for radical activities. After that, he logged timber, worked construction, tried his hand at freelance journalism, and eventually ended up researching child development at the University of Minnesota.

He currently makes his living as a full-time author. He's been married for over 40 years to a marvelous woman who is an attorney. He makes his home in St. Paul, a city he dearly loves. His work has received a number of awards, including the Minnesota Book Award, the Loft-McKnight Fiction Award, the Anthony Award, the Barry Award, the Dilys Award, and the Friends of American Writers Prize. His last five novels were all New York Times bestsellers. "Ordinary Grace", his stand-alone novel published in 2013, received the Edgar Award, given by the Mystery Writers of America in recognition for the best novel published in that year.

The One Book South Dakota events in Vermillion are made possible by the generous support of the Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Vermillion Public Library, and the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The South Dakota Humanities Council is a non-profit organization founded in 1972 whose sole mission is to deliver humanities programming to the people of South Dakota.

The Edith B. Siegrist Vermillion Public Library is located at 18 Church Street in Vermillion. For more information call the Library at 605-677-7060.

A JOB WELL DONE



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK
The life saving award for EMS members Matt Callahan, Joe Kyte, John Wetherington and Matt Taggart was presented by Fire Chief Shannon Drapper at Tuesday night's City Council meeting.

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. 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



COURTESY PHOTO

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 experi-

ences.

"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.

River

From Page 1

coming. We have the singers with Dr. Wayne Evans. The kids are going to meet back here after they do seven camps and the drum will start. They'll talk a little about the Lakota relationship with the river and they will dance."

USD also was one of the sponsors of the event.

The sixth-graders enjoyed their own relationship with the river by making their own miniature boats.

"This year we're doing something different with the boat camp where they're making oragami boats that they actually get to take home," Freeman said. "The shape of the boat, the round shape, it makes what the Mandan Sioux call the Bull Boats after the bison bull. They would take the reeds or the willow and make a round shape and cover it with the buffalo hide on the bottom and they would go down the river on these round boats. So that's what they're making this year."

A few of the homemade boats will even be used to spread the word about river appreciation according to Freeman.

"They're going to make two or three big ones and after the drums perform we'll be up here with a couple of boats and we'll let those go with our website," she said.



SHAUNA MARLETTE/FOR THE PLAIN TALK

Part of the learning experience at Wednesday's River Day was seeing a display of how erosion happen in the Missouri River.

"We just started a new website two nights ago. Our hope is that maybe those boats will go downstream to a friendly person that will say, 'Oh, there's a website. Let's tell them where we found this boat.' Just to help the kids a little more with the geography of the river."

The website, sites.google.com/site/wildnscenicmissouririver, will hopefully become not only an informative site but also a link for teachers to bring river education into the classroom according to

Freeman.

Teachers themselves received instruction at the River Appreciation Day event.

"Anne Lewis from the Discovery Center is doing continuing education on outdoor education with all the teachers here," Freeman said. "She has two different sessions

with them where they get continuing ed credit."

Bringing river appreciation into the classroom will hopefully be a result.

"We want the teachers then to follow up with this with their classrooms," Freeman said. "The other thing that Anne does that we've taken part in is Water Quality monitoring. There's a water quality monitoring day, I think it's at the end of September that we have done with one class. It would be great if the teachers did that on their own with the classrooms. Whatever connections we can do with the teachers to figure out how to incorporate this into the school day. Environmental science isn't just geology. We're teaching them safety, we're teaching them boats."

According to Freeman, becoming familiar with the river and its ways increases enjoyment and decreases the risk of accidents.

"This is a stretch of water even back then to be leery of," Freeman said. "It is not a friendly river but

it's not a river to be afraid of either. We're going to be on the river with kayaks to show them it's a great place to be on the river, you just have to respect it though. I always have a life jacket on because it's more fun."

Fun but also an important safety measure according to Freeman.

"Here you have currents, you have hidden sand bars that drop off that change the current," she said. "This is a crazy river but it's also really fun to be on. Harry will take his paddle board out later and show them, you can paddle board on this river. You can kayak, you can sail. That's the whole idea of the day is to show these kids the resource they have in their backyard."

For more information, visit the South Dakota Missouri River website at sites.google.com/site/wildnscenicmissouririver.

Mark your Calendars

Important Announcement

there will be "NO SCHOOL" in the Vermillion School District Monday, Sept. 28th due to a full day for Teacher In-Service

Classes will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 29th

My newspaper works for me.

The Vermillion Plain Talk has been providing news & advertising services to area residents & businesses since 1884. We remain committed to that mission.

If you're not a subscriber to the Plain Talk, you can purchase an annual subscription for \$27.56 (Vermillion) or \$42.00 (out of state). That includes both print and online. Send your mailing address and payment to: 201 W. Cherry, Vermillion, SD 57069. Or stop by our office. You can also call 605-624-4429; we accept credit card orders.

Serving our readers since 1884.