



Vermillionaire

September 2019

Vermillion High School's Student Newspaper

Vermillion.K12.SD.US

HOME

BY LIVI REGENERUS
AND SYDNEY MANNING

Homecoming is the time of the school year every student looks forward to. This years theme was "Tanagers got the Beat." Each day throughout the homecoming week was themed to a specific song, and there were many activities that students got to participate in.

VHS's Homecoming week started on Monday with a theme based on Miley Cyrus's "Party in the USA." Students came to school dressed in red, white and blue. Coronation followed that night and Vermillion High School crowned their King and Queen. The 2019 Homecoming Royalty King and Queen are Brady Martinez and Lexi Saunders. Following coronation was the



Photo courtesy of Shaina Cerny

NEW

"Burning of the V" where students gather around a large wooden 'V' and watch the royalty couple light it on fire, as a way to commemorate the start of the week.

Tuesday's theme was Michael Jackson's "Thriller," everyone wore costumes to school. Later during the day, students attended the Peach Fuzz game, where the boys participate in a Volleyball game coached by the female Volleyball players in their grade. After school there was a home Volleyball game against Bon Homme that the Tanagers won. On that day there was also a home boys soccer game against Sioux Falls Christian.

Wednesday's theme was based on "Life is a Highway" by Rascal Flatts. This theme encouraged the students to 'deck out their ride' or drive something unusual. Wednesday is Vermillion High School's annual Tanager Volunteer day where nearly 400 of our High School students helped out all around the Vermillion community.

Thursday's theme was based on Lil Nas X's "Old Town Road," students dressed in their best country clothes. Thursday also included a home Girls' Soccer game against Sioux Falls Christian where the Tanagers won their first home game on the new field.

Friday's theme "My House," was based on the song by Flo Rida: students participated by dressing up in their best Tanager Spirit. During the day the pep-assembly and the student olympics were held in the High School Gym followed by powderpuff at the stadium. Powderpuff is a football game played by the girls and coached by the male Football players in the senior and junior classes. Our homecoming game this year was against Tri-Valley. The King, Brady Martinez, and Queen, Lexi Saunders, were introduced before kickoff. Queen Lexi started the game by presenting the game ball.

These activities are a way to make homecoming week fun for everyone. It encourages the community and the students of VHS to be involved.

AFTER the Crash

BY ZADYA ABBOTT

This reporter remembers May 13th, 2019, when Vermillion High School told its student body that a senior had been in an accident and was being hospitalized for severe injuries; the terrifying and unspoken gravity of the information set in stone with the school's reminder that, "People grieve in

different ways." John Sweeny, 2018-19 VHS senior, was hit by a semi-truck on May 13th, 2019. Two days after he walked across the stage to collect his diploma at Vermillion High School's Commencement Ceremony, John got out of a passenger seat and walked around a crash-site asking for help.

Continued on Page 4



BY LILLY MOCKLER AND MYA DEJONG

Brooke Assmus- Brooke is involved in cheerleading, volleyball, both club and school softball. She is the Secretary of the Student Council and is the Senior Class President. Brooke is a member of S.A.D.D., R.A.K.E., H.O.S.A. and National Honors Society. Brooke is also a Girls State Delegate. Her most memorable experience was her sophomore year eating at Dennys in Rapid City, during State Student Council. Brooke would like to be remembered as the girl with the ugly laugh but a good heart.

Abigail Johnson- Abby is the Vice President of Showchoir, the Secretary of H.O.S.A., Senior Class Representative, a member of Student Council, and on the cheer team. Her most memorable experience while at V.H.S. was during her sophomore year when she made scrambled pancakes for her demonstration in speech, she quotes they were horrendous. Abby would like to be remembered as the girl who always asks, "Can I pet your dog?" to any person she comes by.

Emily Stockwell- Emily plays softball, track, and volleyball. She is a member of the National Honors Society, Green Team, Student Council, Peer Helper, and S.A.D.D. Emily was nominated for the 2018 South Dakota softball athlete of the year. Her most memorable moment at VHS was in her Statistics class, she says that she never knew what she was doing but it was always a

good time. She wants to be remembered at the "best" Stockwell.

McKenzie Mockler- Kenzie is active in soccer, basketball, dance team, H.O.S.A., and National Honors Society. She is the Student Council Co-President and the Team Captain for Soccer and Dance Team. Kenzie claims her favorite memory at V.H.S. was traveling to Fort Pierre her freshman year for the girls basketball sweet-16 game and cheering on the team as they got the big win! She wants to be remembered as the girl that never learned how to park her car in the parking lot.

Kennedy Pratt- Kennedy is a member of S.A.D.D., H.O.S.A., R.A.K.E., Student Council, Rhythm in Red Show Choir, the school musical, Peer-Mentoring, National Honors Society, Dance Team, and Volleyball. She serves as the Clay Union Electric Cooperative Youth Representative and a Girls State Delegate. Her most memorable moment from high school was watching Brady Martinez look for his phone after he lost it in the foam pit in the gymnastics room. Kennedy would like to be remembered as the girl who was "made" of titanium.

Lexi Saunders- VHS's 2019 Homecoming Queen. Lexi takes part in track, basketball, volleyball, and dance team. She is the co-captain of both the dance and volleyball team. Along with that, she is Co-President of student council and a member of H.O.S.A., S.A.D.D., R.A.K.E., Show Choir, and

National Honors Society. Her most memorable experience at V.H.S. was chasing a bat around the gym with Elaina, Lilly, and Ella. Lexi would like to be remembered as "the girl who gets along with everyone, goes with the flow, and has a wack back."

Jacob Chaussee- Jacob is a member of the National Honor Society. He also is on both the soccer and baseball team. His most memorable moment at Vermillion High School was when Sam Ward got dunked-on playing Tea. Jacob would like to be remembered as "Sunshine".

Sam Ward- Sam is on the Basketball, Soccer, and Baseball teams. He is also a member of the Student Council, Show Choir, Peer Helpers, and the National Honor Society. His most memorable experience was going to Disney World with the Show Choir and thinking the parking lot was a tennis court. Sam would like to be remembered as anything other than the kid that got dunked-on.

Brock Voss- Brock is the president of Show Choir, a member of the National Honors Society, and a Student Council representative. Brock is apart of the Football, Track, and Wrestling teams. In Track Brock is an all conference sprinter. He has enlisted in the South Dakota National Air Guard. His most memorable moment during his Vermillion High School experience was beating Belle Fourche this football season. Brock wants to be remembered as "that one football player who could

dance and sing".

Cameron Davoux- Cameron has been on the Track team since his freshman year. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, and Boys State. Cameron's most memorable moment during his High School experience was beating Brock in the 200 meter dash. He would like to be remembered at Vermillion as "that curly headed dude that loved fast food."

Trevor Tarr- Trevor is involved in a variety of activities including Football, Tennis, Basketball, Show Choir, the National Honors Society, and Student Council. His most memorable moment at Vermillion High School was beating the Juniors and Seniors in tug-of-war as a sophomore during the homecoming olympics. He would like to be remembered as "the only Tarr that can sing".

Brady Martinez- VHS's 2019 Homecoming King. Brady is apart of the Soccer, Cross Country, Golf, and Basketball teams. He has been on the Soccer team for six years and is a captain this season. Brady is also the captain of the Cross County team which he has been in for two years. Brady also works for the Vermillionaire. Outside of school, Brady works at Vermillion's Golf Course. Brady placed 4th in State Soccer and 2nd as a team in Cross County his Junior year. Those were his most memorable moments at Vermillion High School. Brady wants to be remembered as the BEST 'Tea and Chess' member.

Royalty



Left Photos Submitted Photo by Mya DeJong



MANN'S MUSIC REVIEW

Pop Album of the Year?

BY TYLER MANN

Norman F[...] Rockwell! Is the latest of six albums from the certified Alternative-Pop 'sad girl', Lana Del Rey. It was released at the back end of August, nearly a year after the first featured singles were put out. After a lengthy wait, is the album able to appease listeners?

The album opened with the title track, which, like many of the album's songs, is a gentle piano-led ballad, spearheaded by Lana's strong lyrical writing. With more poignancy than she has shown in her entire career, Del Rey loathed over how a would-be lover's relentless sadness brought her down. "Mariners Apartment Complex" flexes the album's soft rock side, with a great swell in the chorus complementing Lana's

empowered vocals. The third track, "Venice B[...]," clocks in at nearly 10 minutes and features the record's most beautiful moments, such as the vocal melody in the fourth verse, as well as pair of guitar solos and an extended outro that recall late 1960s psychedelic music in a tasteful way. "Doin' Time" is a cover of a Sublime version of a George Gershwin piece, and the song lends itself well to the sleek, modern production featured here. It's also a nice change of pace, with a relatively peppier attitude compared to the rest of the album. The next three songs -- "Love Song", "Cinnamon Girl", "How to disappear"-- are the weakest Del Rey offered, and they bog down the middle section of the album quite a bit. They're not downright bad, but they offer nothing new compared to

preceding tracks and are outshone by the ones that follow them. "California" brings the quality back up, with vulnerable verses in which Lana tells her partner, "You don't ever have to be stronger than you really are/When you're lying in my arms, baby," as well as with a powerful chorus where she tells this person all the things they could do if he came back to California. "Bartender" features Lana's best vocals, and a, slightly eyebrow-raising but effective, stuttered consonant in the chorus. On the final song, "hope is a dangerous thing for a woman like me to have - but I have it," Lana Del Rey writes that she isn't sad, just not happy. It is a perfect summation of the album's themes and is seemingly accurate based on emotions in-bedded in the music, though, personally, I

certainly feel closer to sadness than happiness when listening to it.

Norman F[...] Rockwell! is undoubtedly a flawed album, but the beauty is in how the flaws lie within the experience of the whole record, rather than any particular weaknesses in composition. Sixty-seven minutes is a bit lengthy given the overall lack of sonic variety however what is presented is strong enough to make up for that. **Norman F[...] Rockwell!** is Lana Del Rey's best album release, and a strong contender for Pop Album of the Year. With her next album slated to be released next year, hopefully this is one album she can build upon.

Overall Grade...B+



Photo Courtesy of Universal Music Group



Fall Sports

Girls' and Boy's Soccer, Girls' Tennis, Cross-Country, Volleyball, Football



Pictured #11 Camil Regnerus #1 Kenzie Mockler Photo by Basmala Alemam

BY MYA DEJONG

The VHS 2019 school year began with six different Fall sports played by Vermillion High School Athletes: both Boys' and Girls Soccer, Girls' Tennis, Cross-Country, Volleyball, and Football. All of those athletics are nearly half way through their season and still representing our Tanager spirit in every game.

The Boys' Soccer team's season started on August 16th with a win against James Valley Christian. Since then they have played six games with their record currently standing at 2-3-2, in 5th place. The team has four seniors, Jacob Chaussee(captain), Sam Ward(captain), Liam Mechling, and Brady Martinez(captain). "So far the season has had mixed signals. We've played really well in some games and poorly in other ones. Our goal for this season is to make it back to the state semifinals like we did last year and see what we can do from there," said Martinez, a team captain. The boys start their playoff games October 8th, go out and show them support.

The Girls' Soccer season started on August 16th in Garretson with a game that ended in a tie. The girls have played nine games currently standing at 4th in their class with a record of 3-5-1. The seniors representing our girls soccer team include Brenna Mockler, Riley Gautier, Morgan Kerkman, Sarah Prescott and, as Co-Captains, Cami Regnerus and Kenzie Mockler. Co-Captain Kenzie remarked, "We are a very positive team and work together well and feed off each others energy which helps us accomplish our daily goals". Sadly the girls don't have any more home regular season games, but we hope to see the community at their first playoff game October 8th.

On August 20th, the Girls' Tennis team started their season at the West Central Invitational. VHS's tennis team has three seniors Madi and Hope Schladoer and Katrina Heles. Katrina's quote about their team stated,"I think the tennis team/program has grown a lot and I am very grateful to have first hand watched it do so! I have had three different head coaches

in the past six years and each has brought their own ideas to the team! We have a really young team this year so I am excited to watch the team continue to grow after graduation!" The Vermillionaire encourages the community to go and watch our girls rock the tennis court at their next home match on October 3rd.

This year's Cross Country team had their first meet August 30th at the Beresford Invitational. The team has six Senior runners, Brady Martinez, Yang Xu, Evan Rasmussen, Nick Doty, Dylan Parr, and Nate Bohnsack. The team, as they like to say, "Runs this town."

The Volleyball girls are off to a great start. They are currently 7-3 and standing in 2nd place in their region. Kennedy Pratt, Lexi Saunders, Emily Stockwell, Toria Andre, Paige Krell, and Brooke Assmuss are the six Seniors and captains on this year's team. Lexi said, "Over the last year we've been trying to build something great. We have been off to a good season, so we are hoping it will be our year. We have a lot to offer and are very excited for the rest of the season." The volleyball team would love to see all of the communities support at their next home game against Ponca on the 15th of October.

Vermillion High School's Football team started their season six hours away in Belle Fourche with a win on August 30th. Since then they have played two other games which put the team record at 1-3. The six Seniors and captains on the Football team are Drew and Dylan Thelen, Trevor Tarr, Brock Voss, Ayden Lewison, and Kobe Culver. Brock's quote in regards to this year's team was, "We have a great team this year and did a lot of work over the summer. We have very high expectations and are looking forward to showing everyone what we can do on both sides of the ball. We can compete with any team that we play against and are determined to make playoffs. Win or lose we do everything not only as a team, but as a family." The boy's next home game is October 11th against Todd County.



Pictured #6 Dylan Thelan #9 Jack Kratz Photo by Zadya Abbott



Pictured Girls' Volleyball Team Photo by Ryll Palmer



Pictured #23 Reece Proefrock Photo by Zadya Abbott

New Heads in the Head Office

BY EMILY NAU AND RYLI PALMER

Vermillion High School's summer hiring spree welcomed a new administration office. The student body excitedly welcomed the new staff members: Desiree Settles, Alyssa Walker, and Jon Frey. The following is a profile on each of the new faculty.

Desiree Settles, 1989 VHS graduate, is secretary to Assistant Principal, Jason Huska, in place of Candy Joy. Settles was formerly an Education Assistant in Special Education at Vermillion's Jolley Elementary School. When asked how she likes her job so far after her switch of careers, Mrs. Settles stated, "It's really nice." The reasoning behind her

career switch, she said, was, "to be closer to Billy", her high-school sweetheart and Math Teacher at the school. Mrs. Settles is a great new addition to our local high school.

Alyssa Walker moved to Vermillion from Watertown. When asked why she chose to take this job, Walker tells us that she prefers the hours at VHS much more than her former job as a receptionist at Vermillion's Cost Cutters. It allows her to spend more time with her daughter, especially since she works Mondays through Fridays. We asked Walker how she likes her job so far and she stated, "I absolutely love it!" Vermillion High School is very happy to welcome her as a new addition to the school.

Jon Frey, was an Assistant Principal in Columbus, Nebraska for 11 years all the way up to when he checked his email and noticed Vermillion had a job opening for principal in their high school. Mr. Frey said that he "wasn't looking for a job really". Frey came to USD right after high school and met his wife and really enjoyed the town, he says he, "Enjoys this town for the same reason high schoolers don't." He plans to do more partnering with USD in the future to give students more unique opportunities. Frey was amazed by the different courses VHS has, he exclaimed how, "There's an awful lot of cool offerings that a lot of schools don't have." Mr. Frey is excited to open a new chapter at VHS.

SEPTEMBER'S PAUSE FOR DIVERSITY

BY ZADYA ABBOTT

The evening of September 9th through the evening of the 10th marked the observation of the Islamic Holiday of Ashura. The holiday falls on the 10th of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic calendar.

For Sunni Muslims the day is a celebration of Allah's victory through Moses in Egypt. Sunni Muslims fast in observation of this holiday, as well as host joyous celebrations. However, for Shia Muslims the holiday is about mourning. It commemorates the martyrdom of Husayn at Karbala. On this day many that are able to travel, make the journey to Karbala, in modern-day Iraq, where the Holy Shrine of

Imam Husayn is located. The Shia also, wear mourning clothes, fast, and hold re-enactments and processions.

On the topic of Ashura, Basmala, a VHS Sophomore, says it, "Is a celebration of the first lunar month and, while not mandatory, it's encouraged that we fast to honor the sacred day."

In addition to the holiday of Ashura, September also housed the start of Hispanic Heritage Month on the 15th. National Hispanic Heritage Month began as a one week celebration in 1968 under the Johnson Administration, and it was not elongated to its current thirty day size until 1988 under the Reagan Administration. The Latin American countries of El Salvador,

Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Nicaragua all celebrate their independence on September 15th, explaining the reason the month of observation begins on that day. National Hispanic Heritage Month will continue through October 15th. Stephanie Magana, VHS Senior, reflected on National Hispanic Heritage Month with the words, "It is hard to put into a sentence because the whole point is to celebrate something so much bigger. It is about the struggle people and countries had to go through. I am glad that there is recognition for the culture and that it is celebrated and honored."

Submit story ideas for the Vermillionaire by emailing the Editor in Chief at ZA3103@k12.sd.us



Pictured John Sweeny Photo Submitted

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AFTER the Crash

There were two other people in the car with Sweeny, a woman and a toddler, both of whom, the Vermillionaire was told, "Made it."

Thousands of people have driven the stretch of Highway-50 between Vermillion and Yankton, SD, but for John, that area full of rural, Ma'n'Pop-Shop, charm will always be where what Sweeny coined his #BummerSummer began. John Sweeny spent the rest of his summer in the hospital healing, and then in a Rehabilitation center working through physical, occupational, and speech therapy. John recalled, "I did not want to go anywhere but home, I didn't even know I got in a car wreck. I remember my graduation party... and sleeping and then all of a sudden I woke up in a hospital." While John's brain did suffer major repercussions to the effect that he has had to adapt to an injured memory function, he says he feels completely normal. The Vermillionaire is happy to report that John Sweeny, Tanager alumnus, is alive and well. Sweeny returned home to Vermillion on August 10th, just in time to begin his freshman year of college at the University of South Dakota, and for his #BummerSummer to end.

Animal Spotlight

Emus Are Rockin' Animals

BY EMIY NAU



Photo Courtesy of Google Image Search

They eat rocks to help grind up their food.

They can run up to thirty mph.

They have sharp toed feet. Emus are the second largest bird.

They have wings but they are too fragile for flight.

Predators include Dingoes and wedge-tailed Eagles.

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Who's New in Student Resources?

A Profile on VHS's New School Counselor, Alternative School Coordinator, and District Social Worker

BY ZADYA ABBOTT

The hot summer of 2019 left Vermillion High School (VHS), not only tan, but with new faces. VHS is now home to a new School Counselor, Alternative School Coordinator and District Social Worker. This reporter had the pleasure of interviewing each of those new members of the Tanager Team and invites you to meet them below.

Stacey Baedke, VHS's School Counselor, has eight years of school-counseling experience. She spent her first four years at Marshall, Minnesota's high school, and her last four at Vermillion's own Austin Elementary. She said that by her freshman year at South Dakota State University, it was clear to her that she wanted to work in a school, just not as a teacher. Anyone that has had a conversation with Mrs. Baedke could tell you that the position of 'school counselor' was all but created for an academically and mentally supportive personality like Mrs. Baedke's.

"I love this position because I get to see students grow throughout their High School career."- Stacy Baedke

When asked about her plans for VHS she explained how the Guidance Office is changing its name to Student Services in the hopes that more students will feel comfortable walking through its doors. To reach more students with updates Baedke has created a Twitter, @CounselorBaedke. She will also be hosting one-on-one meetings with students to make sure they are okay and on track to graduate, as well as, taking students on college visits. Mrs. Baedke wants to know what students want from their guidance office; she can be contacted via email at Stacey.Baedke@k12.sd.us.



Pictured Stacey Baedke Photo by Zadya Abbott



Pictured Shalea Schloss Photo byf Zadya Abbott

Shalea Schloss was last-year's Alternative School Education Assistant, before which she worked for Child Protective Services and Yankton's Human Services Center. Schloss received her undergraduate degree from and is currently pursuing her Masters in Social Work. at the University of South Dakota. Even though she has orinating roots in Saint James, Minnesota, where her father once worked in a similar occupation as her current one, Mrs. Schloss chose to stay in the area post-undergrad because she had established a support system and career path, as well as having met her current husband, VHS's Chemistry teacher Mr. Schloss. Then at the end of the 2018-19 school year, when the former Alternative School Coordinator stepped down Schloss was encouraged to apply for the position. She recalled the anxious yet comedic moment when, Former VHS Principal, Mr. Cameron pranked her by hesitating on the phone before offering her the position, an anecdote that convinced this reporter that Shalea Schloss does fit into VHS's family dynamic. Mrs. Schloss summarized her attitude towards her job with the words, "I feel very fulfilled and privileged to serve the students that I do."

Chabli Hodge received her Masters Degree in Social Work from Bear University in Miami, FL. Then, after working within the nation's sixth largest school district, Broward County School District, and in response to her husband taking a football coaching position at the University of South Dakota, Hodge moved to Vermillion. That migration has had its surprises for Mrs. Hodge and her family. Hodge mentioned how her son, of whom attends Jolley Elementary, noted differences in how here, store signs are in only one language and children ride their bikes on sidewalks. Being in the newly created position of District Social Worker gifted Chabli an opportunity to affect a community in an unprecedented way. Hodge told the Vermillionaire her three step vision plan: One Family Outreach, Two Student Support, and Three Community Resource Accessibility. Mrs. Hodge plans to help families navigate the natural disconnect between students' home and school lives, as well as implement a preventative mindset towards students getting lost in drug culture and the token toxicity of high school. Mrs. Hodge works, figuratively and literally, by the James Baldwin quote, "For these are all our children, we will all profit by or pay for what they become."



Pictured Chabli Hodge Photo Submitted

OVERHEARDS

Peculiar Things Heard in the Halls of VHS

"Who needs child labor laws?" - Commons

"It's the Area 51 raid today and I'm like...respect the drip, Karen"- Freshman Hallway

Wearing leggings + Chairs = "My butt itches." - Art Room

"If anyone really loves outlines...here is your daily ASMR" - Commons

"The football team lost all the footballs!" - Practice Field

Word Search

BY LILLY MOCKLER

September

Z	S	A	P	G	S	P	P	L	J	S	M	P	L	S	P	Z	S	C	E
R	X	R	F	Z	D	C	D	F	L	M	I	D	Z	N	H	R	J	W	Q
J	E	P	O	Y	D	L	C	H	J	H	P	N	S	M	I	S	P	J	K
N	G	E	O	E	F	C	L	S	Y	I	V	U	N	N	K	P	N	Y	M
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Y	R	N	R	L	C	V	S	B	E	A	J	X	X	Z	T	U	F	I	N
K	N	B	W	G	N	D	R	I	D	I	F	L	U	V	N	Q	X	L	M

HOME COMING
TENNIS
TANAGER
KING
PEACHFUZZ

FOOTBALL
VOLLEYBALL
PARADE
QUEEN
POWDERPUFF

SOCCER
GOLF
FLOAT
VOLUNTEER
CORONATION