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CONTACT: Jeff Mammenga, Media Coordinator, (605) 773-6000,
jeff.mammenga@state.sd.us

Best-selling author William Kent Krueger to speak in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. – Best-selling author William Kent Krueger will appear in Pierre as part of a summer-long book tour.

Krueger is the author of “Ordinary Grace,” chosen by the South Dakota Humanities Council as the 2015 One Book South Dakota, which encourages South Dakotans to read and discuss the same title.

Krueger will be at the Capitol Lake Visitors Center in Pierre at 7 p.m. CDT on Tuesday, Aug. 25, to discuss “Ordinary Grace,” answer questions and sign books.

“This is an opportunity to hear directly from an author about his work. Krueger’s novels are widely read, and four of them, including ‘Ordinary Grace,’ have received awards,” said Michael Lewis, president of the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society.

The foundation and Prairie Pages Bookseller in Pierre are hosting Krueger’s presentation in the capital city. The program is made possible by a grant from the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Everyone is welcome to attend this free event.

Kathy Villa, who owns Prairie Pages Bookseller along with Peggy Stout, said, “Peggy and I are really looking forward to visiting with William Kent Krueger. He had been a part of our story from the beginning of Prairie Pages. The first author signing event that we attended was in Stillwater, Minn., with Krueger and his mystery-writing group. We are grateful to the South Dakota Humanities Council for encouraging South Dakotans to read such great books, and for sending authors and scholars into our communities to discuss them with us.”

Krueger, who lives in Saint Paul, Minn., will visit a dozen cities throughout South Dakota this summer as part of the 2015 One Book South Dakota Author Tour. He will also appear at the South Dakota Festival of Books in Deadwood Sept. 25-27.

Krueger is best known for a series of mysteries set mainly in northern Minnesota. The main character, Cork O’Connor, is part Irish, part Ojibwe. Krueger’s first novel, “Iron Lake,” won awards for best first novel. “Blood Hollow” and “Mercy Falls” received Anthony Awards for best novel in 2005 and 2006, respectively.

“Ordinary Grace” is a stand-alone book, not part of the Cork O’Connor series. It is set in southern Minnesota in 1961 and is told from the viewpoint of a boy standing at the door

of young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him. It has received the Mystery Writers of America's Edgar Award for Best Novel.

"Ordinary Grace" is available at Prairie Pages Bookseller and the Heritage Stores at the Cultural Heritage Center and the Capitol.

For more information about the program, please call (605) 773-6006.

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The South Dakota State Historical Society is a division of the Department of Education. The State Historical Society, an Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is headquartered at the South Dakota Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. The center houses the society's world-class museum, the archives, and the historic preservation, publishing and administrative/development offices. Call (605) 773-3458 or visit www.history.sd.gov for more information. The society also has an archaeology office in Rapid City; call (605) 394-1936 for more information.

The South Dakota Historical Society Foundation is a private charitable nonprofit that seeks funding to assist the South Dakota State Historical Society in programming and projects to preserve South Dakota's history and heritage for future generations.