

# governor

RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA  
VOLUME 20 MAY 27, 1975 NUMBER 9

## 248 seniors to receive diplomas

The largest class in the history of Riggs High School will receive their diplomas at graduation ceremonies Thursday evening, May 29 at Hollister Field. 248 seniors will be finishing their high school career this week as they participate in the traditional senior activities including a picnic, baccalaureate, practices and no classes.

Mr. Milo Wepking, admissions director at Nettleton College, Sioux Falls, is to be the commencement speaker. Mr. Wepking has been a long time supporter of high school athletics in the state and has been an official in the state "A" and "B" basketball tournaments for the past 25 years. He holds a B.S. degree from Southern State College and an M.E. degree from USD.

A 20 minute band concert will precede the commencement program beginning at 7:40 p.m. This will be the last performance for the 16 band members who are graduating.

A special choir group composed of all seniors will entertain with one number. The A Capella choir will also sing.

Tim Hofer, senior class president, will speak in behalf of his class mates. Father Ed Pierce, St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, will lead the prayers. The sophomore-junior band will play the processional and recessional.

Special recognition will be given to the class honor students. This includes all students who have a three point (B average) or better for four years of high school. The class valedictorian and salutatorian will be named during the program.

Baccalaureate services were held Sunday evening May 25, at the Riggs High gym with Reverend Charles Nail, Capitol Heights Baptist Church, delivering the address. Reverend Leroy

Iseminger, Resurrection Lutheran Church and Reverend Kenneth Newell, Oahe United Presbyterian Church, led the prayers.

Brad Veith played the processional and recessional music. The mixed chorus sang.

The class selected for their motto "We Are The Reminder of Yesterday, The Promise of Today, and The Hope of Tomorrow." Their class flower is the white rose and their colors are blue and white.

During the final week of school, the seniors are not required to attend classes, but will meet on Wednesday for their class picnic at Farm Island, and they will spend Thursday morning practicing for commencement exercises. They will receive their final report cards at that time.



The two girls chosen to lead the student body for '75-'76 are Julie Sibson, vice mayor and Beth Schlueter, mayor.

## Beth Schlueter elected mayor

Sophomores and Juniors marked their ballots and a new beginning for Riggs on Thursday by electing Beth Schlueter and Julie Sibson as mayor and vice mayor of Riggs High School for the first semester next year.

For the first time in the history of the school a female team will lead the student body.

By giving Beth and Julie 66 percent of their support and confidence, next year is already off to a good start towards unity, involvement and an active student council, according to Mr. Jaeger, adviser.

The other candidates that were up for election as mayor-vice mayor teams were Jeff Van Klompenburg and Rusty Butler, Brad Fawcett and Tim Wilsey, Pat Madigan and Terry Merwin.

## Scholarships and honors awarded at annual event

\$5650 in scholarships was awarded to 26 deserving seniors on awards night, Thursday, May 22, to help further their education.

Many other students received recognition for their year's activities.

Ron Mann and Wanda Ness were named DAR citizens of the year.

Letter awards were presented to the cheerleaders, drill team, and Gumbo and Governor staffs and declam.

Poppy poster award winners were recognized and the two mayors were awarded medallions.

Next year's cheerleaders, drill team, and mayor were announced during the presentation.

Randy Weischedel received a full tuition scholarship, including tuition, books, room, and board, for the University of Wyoming. Jeff Holden was awarded a full athletic scholarship for Yankton College, and Phil Thomas received a tuition scholarship for Columbia University.

Other seniors receiving scholarships include: Sherri Yocum, Julie Perry, Tim

Hofer, Lee Miller, Dennis Rounds, Cheryl Peterson, Lucy Gilkerson, Caroline Burtt, John Anderson, Heidi Licht, Kent Saylor, Jim Trimble, Mary Thelen,

Rolfe Anderson, Karen Berndt, Jeff Brusseau, Jim Butler, Joyce Jansen, Linda Little, Allen Olson, Michele Huft, Mary Kurvink and Ed Briggs,



Seniors receiving scholarships at awards night are from left, front row: Karen Berndt, Julie Perry, Heidi Licht, Caroline Burtt, Merrilee Miller. Second row; John Anderson, Cheryl Peterson, Rolfe Anderson, Jim Butler, Dennis Rounds. Third row; Jim Trimble, Kent Saylor, Tim Hofer, Lucy Gilkerson, Shari Yocum, and Randy Weischedel.

# We pay tribute to Gilbert Neiles

Mr. Gilbert Neiles, principal of Riggs High for 20 years, died May 1, 1975. He is still fondly remembered in the halls of Riggs since his retirement last year and no one can ever forget the things he did for the school.

Professionally I spent only three years working with Mr. Neiles but additionally I knew him for another nine years. During this friendship of some twelve years he frequently provided me with counsel and encouragement. He always took time to listen and to share his philosophy and experiences.

He was first and foremost a champion for the student. He had the personal conviction that goodness existed in everybody but sometimes it took longer to bring it out.

**Roger Lonbaken**

The privilege of having had eighteen years of service working with a totally dedicated, and genuinely compassionate educator and administrator has been one of the rewards of my years on the staff of the Pierre Public Schools.

Mr. Gilbert Neiles was such an individual and educator. He never quenched his thirst for knowledge, and any short period of conversation with him would soon reveal the depth of his wisdom and the breath of his intellect.

As an administrator, he never lost sight of the primary purpose of an educational institution, to impart knowledge to young people. He was determined to give every opportunity for success to each individual.

This kind of person we contact only infrequently in life, and we who knew and worked with him are privileged for having had the opportunity.

**Walter Flannery**

It was my privilege to know Mr. Neiles for his entire 18 years in Pierre. He was the type of individual who — no matter how busy he was — would take the time to talk with anyone about anything. He had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge, continually taking workshops and reading to keep abreast of changes in the school systems and teaching methods, as well as world affairs.

He took great delight in taking over a teacher's class for a period, while waiting for a substitute to arrive.

He spent many hours "closeted" in his office with students, parents, or teachers. He tried to deal fairly with all, giving everyone the benefit of the doubt.

**Mrs. Gladys E. Carl**

I particularly admired his intelligence, his command and use of the English language. I was continually amazed at how he found time to be as widely read as he was.

I especially appreciated his ability to disagree with me on our educational philosophies and still remain my friend.

**Fran Ruzick**

In his mild philosophical manner Gilbert Neiles commanded the respect of students, staff and community. When any one became bogged down with problems, short tempered, or disillusioned, Mr. Neiles found a reasonable way to work things out. He was always willing to listen before making a decision. He dedicated his life to doing his all for the advancement of youth.

**Charles Fjelstad**

The following story is typical of Mr. Neiles' philosophy:

On the opening day of school, a first year commercial teacher had taken it upon himself to reorganize the entire room. The older established teachers were complaining to Mr. Neiles over coffee in the teacher's room. With a slow smile our principal said, "Now you wouldn't want to crush youthful enthusiasm the very first day."

**A. Smith**

Gilbert Neiles — Humanitarian, Philosopher, Educator.  
He was a humanitarian in the way that he showed interest in people.

He was a philosopher because he gave so much thought to the many areas of life.

He was an educator because of his genuine interest in the students, the teachers and the school.

The combination of good traits that made up the personality of Gilbert Neiles are very rare, and he is going to be missed very much.

**William C. Peterson**



**Philosopher-Principal Gilbert Neiles at his desk in Riggs High School.**

**MAY 29, 1975**

Lost in a confusion of time  
Twelve years  
Is this really what I've been waiting for,  
to say goodbye?  
College promises what?  
How can I be sure of anything  
especially myself  
Perhaps  
I'll look back  
and laugh  
But for now....  
Goodbye

**Barb Biggs  
Class of '75**

*BYE SENIORS*

**THE RIGGS HIGH GOVERNOR**

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THE GOVERNOR IS A MEMBER OF  
THE SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL  
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No one can express Mr. Neiles' life as he did last year when he retired. He told the "Governor", "If I had to do it all over again, I would like my life just the same."



## Cheerleaders chosen for upcoming year

Next year there will be a change in the number of cheerleaders at Riggs. Instead of ten varsity cheerleaders, there will be fourteen. Five will be on the football squad, five will be on the basketball squad, and four will be on the wrestling squad.

Cheerleading tryouts were held during an assembly on May 20.

The fourteen girls that will be varsity cheerleaders next year are: football - Kathy Richter, Debbie Hayes, Mary Jo Rezac, Cathy Conway, and Barb Rezac; basketball - Susan Jahraus, Shari Boe, Cathy Cruse, Pam Welch, and Tammy Hofer, and wrestling - Debbie Gordon, Cindy Larson, Julie Sibson, and Lorena Stoesser.

Sophomore cheerleaders will be chosen next fall.

**Football cheerleaders for 1975-76 from left: Deb Hayes, Kathy Conway, Barb Rezac, Kathy Richter and Mary Jo Rezac. Wrestling cheerleaders, Cindy Larson, Rena Stoesser, and Deb Gordon. Basketball, Cathy Cruse, Sherry Boe, Susan Jahraus, Pam Welch and Tammy Hofer.**

## Cindermen complete season after winning region contest

A will to win has been making the Pierre trackmen finish off the season with some good showings.

The most outstanding results from the E.S.D. held in Huron on May 9 are as follows:

In the Pole Vault, Doug Rounds took first with a jump of 12 feet.

Ron Mann made an outstanding long jump of 19 feet 8 inches.

In the high jump, Ron Mann also made an outstanding high jump of 5 feet 10 inches.

Jeff Brusseau flung the shot put 48 feet for one of the better throws of the day.

Pierre squeaked a victory over three other teams on Friday, May 16. The events that Pierre took first in or made an extraordinary showing are

Ron Mann beat his closest competitors by inches in both the long jump and the high jump.

Jeff Brusseau made a close second place in the discus with a throw of 142 feet 9 inches.

John Smith and Tim Axtman swept the mile run by taking both first and second respectively.

The 880 relay team of Dan Frost, Tim Wilsey, Russ Harrison, and Rick Rowen pulled a close second in the 880 relay.

In the 220 yard dash, Russ Harrison came in second with the time of 23.3 seconds.

Paul Mernaugh was beat out of a victory by only two small seconds in the two mile run.

The final score of this meeting was Pierre-99, Winner-98, Miller-84, and Chamberlain-15.

Coach Miller expressed his proudness and hopefulness for the future when he said, "Our team this year was led by the experience of such seniors as Ron Mann, Jeff Brusseau, Phil Thomas, and Nori Isogai who have done well and improved with each meet. But the team has also consisted largely of underclassmen, so if these young athletes stay with track in coming years, Pierre High School should have strong teams in the future.



## Outstanding athletes receive awards

This year's athletic activities culminated with the presentation of awards given to the outstanding participant in each sport.

Awarded the Geoff Garrett "Scholar-Athlete Award" was Ron Mann. Jim Trimble was chosen for the Paul Marschalk Scholarship Award.

In the achievement sports awards the recipients were chosen by their coaches or teammates.

Jeff Brusseau was chosen the most valuable member of the football team.

In cross-country Tim Axtman was awarded for his efforts.

Mike Larson was given the wrestling award.

In track, jumper Ron Mann was rated as the most valuable.

Jim Thielen received the Gunther Larson award in tennis.

In girls' sports speedster Sandy Simmons was chosen most valuable and in tennis Merrilee Miller won the honors.



**Athletic awards recipients: Front row, from left; Sandy Simmons, Merrilee Miller, Tim Axtman, and Jim Thielen. Back row; Jeff Brusseau, Jim Trimble, Ron Mann and Mike Larson.**

# Governors tennis team emerges victorious at state tournament

The Pierre netters under the coaching of Mr. Trautner, successfully captured the state title in Sioux Falls.

Four teams were favored going in the tournament, Pierre, Sioux Falls O'Gorman, Vermillion and Rapid City Central.

Pierre advanced through the tournament by winning all of the first round matches in singles and both teams made it to doubles final. Mike Trautner led the team winning the number 1 spot singles title and Mark Flannery captured the title at the number four spot.

Jim Theilen advanced to the semi-finals losing to the eventual winner Darrel Palach, 4-6, 1-6. Ralph Flannery advanced to the quarter-finals.

In the doubles competition, both teams made it to the finals. Ralph and Mark Flannery lost in a close match 4-6, 6-7 to Mark Wakey and Pat Rost of O'Gorman.

The final score was; Pierre 116, Vermillion 108, O'Gorman 95, Rapid City Central 86.

Coach Phil Trautner was naturally pleased with the team's determination and will to win. As an example of their perseverance he cited Ralph Flannery for continuing to play with a severely sprained ankle.

Weather conditions for the tournament were less than ideal with high winds and cold temperatures hampering the players efforts.



Mike Trautner

## Girl tracksters compete at state in Huron

Sandy Simmons was named the most outstanding competitor at the Girls State track meet in Huron May 16-17. She set a new all-time state record in the 440 yard run with a time of 57.2 took second in the 220 and was a member of the winning medley relay team.

The Pierre team tied for third at the meet with a total of 20 points. Sioux Falls Lincoln won the Class AA crown with 64 points. Rapid City Stevens was second with 28 points.

Pierre won the medley relay and set a new all-state record during prelims with a time of 1:52.3. The 880 relay took fourth at the state meet.

Pierre qualified 11 girls for the state meet when they won the regional meet in Miller on May 6 with a score of 92. Winner was second with 80, Chamberlain and Miller each earned 29 for third place.

Those competing in the state meet included Deb Hayes--mile run, Joni Opbroek-shot and discus, Deb Winkler--440 and 880 runs, Sandy Simmons--220 dash and 440 run, Melda Blake--100 yard dash, Cindy Lenners--high jump. The relay teams competing were: Medley relay, Blake, Beth Clarke, Lenners and Simmons, 440 relay, Blake, Jacque Ivers, Lenners and Clarke and the mile relay, Kristi Hoenshied, Clarke, Popowski and Winkler.



Jim Theilen

## Governor linksters complete season



Steve Bender displays his form in preparation for the state meet.

The Riggs golfers, under the coaching of Dick Kennedy have had a successful season and did a commendable job at the ESD, Region and State tournaments.

In Region III competition held May 15, at the Pierre Municipal Golf Course, the Gov's qualified three for the state meet in Watertown May 23 and 24. Qualifying were Brady Marone with a score of 83, Bob Mayer with a score of 81, and Steve Bender, 86.

In the ESD meet held May 12 at Pierre, the Gov's came out in 6th place in competition with the top teams in the state. Bob Mayer and Brady Marone led the Pierre effort with 83 strokes. Steve Bender shot an 87.

Team standings were as follows: Brookings first with 321; Huron second, 326; Aberdeen third, 332; and Yankton fourth with 337.

On May 1, the Gov's hosted a tough Onida duel on their home course. Finishing in a tie each team acquired a total of 347. Turning in scores for Pierre were Steve Bender 82, Bob Mayer 85, and Brady Marone 89.

Coach Dick Kennedy said that the team is young and inexperienced but have come a long way. He is looking for a bright future for the Pierre squad.



Ralph Flannery



Mark Flannery