



# T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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Pierre, SD

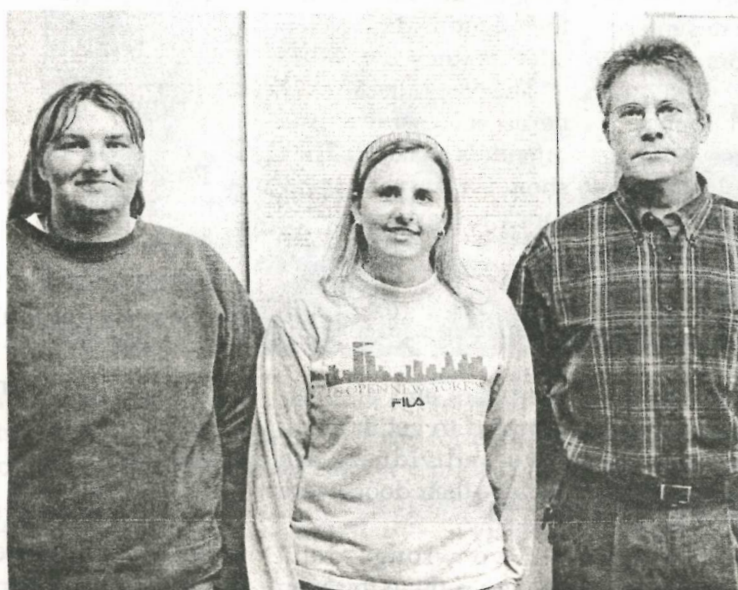
## Teen Court offers alternatives for juveniles

A second chance and the opportunity to have your record cleared of an offense are just what Teen Court offers to any young person ages 10-18 who has committed a minor offense. If juveniles plead guilty to the charge and agree to accept a sentence given to them by their peers, they have the chance to start again with a clean slate.

"The goal of Teen Court is to intercept kids and get them off self-destructive paths," said supervisor and Riggs history teacher Bruce Venner.

Venner, along with Noreen Plumage (Teen Court coordinator), court services and the Pierre Police are trying to get the program up and running so it can be an option for offenders. The first case should take place in June.

During those cases, teens from around the community will be the defense lawyers, prosecuting lawyers, bailiffs,



**GOTCHA...**Involved with the set-up of Teen Court in Hughes County are board members Abby Kennison and Molly Wilbur and advisor Bruce Venner. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

judges and jurors during the course of the trial.

The juvenile is sentenced to community service hours varying from five to one hundred hours by their peers. They may also be sentenced to pay restitution, apologize to

the victims, write essays and attend life skills classes.

Delinquents may only go through the program once. However, teen court is very successful in that well over 90 percent of the defendants who complete the sentence are

never rearrested, according to the official Teen Court site on the Internet.

"There is just something about facing peers and being sentenced by peers that makes a deeper impact," said Venner.

Those who appear in Teen Court usually have committed misdemeanors such as underage consumption or petty theft. Teen court does not deal with felonies.

Hughes County is not the only county in South Dakota interested in the program. Currently teen courts exist in Brown, Butte, Lawrence, Pennington and Spink counties. Stanley County is also working to start the program. According to Venner, both Brown and Butte County have seen significant decline in underage consumption violations.

Riggs juniors Abby Kennison and Molly Wilbur are on the Teen Court board in

Pierre. Kennison has previously been involved with the program as a prosecuting lawyer in Lawrence County and encourages other teens to get involved with the program.

"Being involved with Teen Court makes you realize how hard it would be to go in front of your peers [and be sentenced]. It also helps out the community."

An assembly will be held in the Riggs theater on Wednesday, May 1, at which Aberdeen students will perform a mock trial. A sign-up will be passed around for teens interested in volunteering to serve in Teen Court. Those students will then be trained by the South Dakota Bar in courtroom protocol.

Funding for Teen Court comes through grants from the Department of Justice.

by BryAnn Becker

## FBLA wins record number of awards

Riggs' Future Business Leaders of America chapter won eighteen awards at the FBLA Spring Leadership Conference last week.

Pierre received an award for having the largest local chapter in the state with 97 members and won fourth place for the Local Chapter Annual Business Report, prepared by senior Dakota Bixler.

In team events, the Network Design team of seniors Pat Adams and Lucas Scheibe took first, the Entrepreneurship

team of sophomore Adam Maberry, junior Pat Anderson and senior Bryan Templeton placed third, and the Community Service Project team of junior Stacey Somsen, senior DeNeil Hosman and freshman Robin Hinesh placed fifth. The Battle of the Chapters team of Bixler, Hinesh and Hosman took home a third place award as well.

In individual events, first place awards went to sophomore Kelly Johnson in Introduction to FBLA Principles and

Procedures and Scheibe in Networking Concepts. Second place winners included junior Zach Parsons in Business Calculations and Maberry in Networking Concepts. Students receiving third place awards were Bixler in Business Communications and Maberry in Accounting I. Fourth place awards were given to senior Anthony Johnson in Business Procedures, Templeton in Marketing, sophomore BryAnn Becker in Introduction to

Parliamentary Procedure, and Adams in Networking Concepts. Fifth place awards went to senior Evan Roth in Technology Concepts and sophomore Jennifer Lenz in Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure.

In addition to the competitive events, Pierre's FBLA advisor, Cheryl Ulmen, was named South Dakota FBLA's Outstanding Advisor of the Year.

by Dakota Bixler

## Budgets cuts reduce size of April, May issues

Many may wonder why this issue is only four pages instead the usual eight. Well, there is a good explanation.

Last year the school board made many budget cuts, one of which affected the *Governor*.

The *Governor* had to reduce two of its issues from eight pages to four pages in order to save money.

A further budget cut that readers have noticed all year is the elimination of color.

In this issue, pages one and two remain the same as usual. Page three now contains features with page four as sports.

In the May issue, page one will be news, while page two will feature a goodbye column from our regular page three columnists. Page three will be devoted to "senior awards" with page four listing seniors' post-high school plans.



# Teen Court: peers should judge

Teen Court is a great system because it brings punishment to the students' level. Teens no longer receive punishment from adults but from their peers.

Students generally have more respect for their peers and value their opinions more. When actually faced with the prospect of appearing before a court of kids their ages, offenders may feel more remorse than if they stood before a group of adults.

Teen Court displays a form of peer pressure.

When other teens judge offenders for what they have done, those offenders may change their thoughts about how they previously acted.

In a typical courtroom, teens tend to put on a "rebel attitude." They probably feel that judges and lawyers wouldn't understand their feelings or the reason they committed the crime.

Peers in the courtroom who take the place of the adults are more likely to relate to the

teens who are being prosecuted.

Juveniles will also get better representation. Defense lawyers will be better able to understand teen crime.

Some may think that Teen Court doesn't give adequate punishment for juveniles, but actually peers are more likely to give appropriate sentencing. The jurors can put themselves in the accused's situation and evaluate how severe their sentence should be.

Teen Court gives kids

a much-needed second chance. Breaking the law is usually done spontaneously, without any thought to the inevitable consequences. Offenders have broken the law and deserve to pay for their crime, but the program helps to get juveniles back on the right track. They may finally realize that their actions do have an effect on their life.

The program can only be as successful as the offenders make it. They should see it as an opportunity to start over.

# Letter: adult reacts immaturely

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday, April 23, as I was coming back from my open, I noticed a man behind the Episcopal Church parking lot picking up litter on the ground and placing it on kids' cars.

Not only was he just putting this trash on a car windows, but he was pouring pop, dirt, and cups of chew all over a student's car window.

Let me stop right here and, first of all, say how nice it is that this parish lets students use their

parking lot and also how sorry I am that some students abuse this privilege by littering there.

That said, why, instead of rather saying something to the owners of the cars or our school, would someone purposely go out and vandalize an individual's car? How does one know who was littering there? Why would you punish innocent people for someone else's mistakes?

I asked this man what

he was doing. His response cannot be printed in this paper. Let's just say that he tried justifying these actions by saying he was sick of kids littering.

If he wants to get a point across, he can do so by not allowing us to park there or even announcing that if we don't clean up after ourselves, then this parking lot will be taken away. Instead of doing either of these grown up / mature things, he vandalized stu-

dent cars and even attempted to get in them. Two individuals are lucky—their doors were locked.

Two wrongs don't make a right. If this man wants us to respect the parking lot, then this certain man should apologize for his immature actions. If he agrees to do this, then I believe we can do the same by picking up our trash.

Sincerely,  
Sandy Voller, junior

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The policy of the Riggs High *Governor* is to report the news accurately and objectively and to provide a forum for the expression of its readers' views. Views expressed in the editorial reflect the concerns and opinions of the editorial board and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the individual reporters, editor, adviser, faculty or administration. The staff encourages signed letters to the editor but reserves the right to accept or reject letters and to edit for length, grammar or libel.

# Watchman, what of the night?

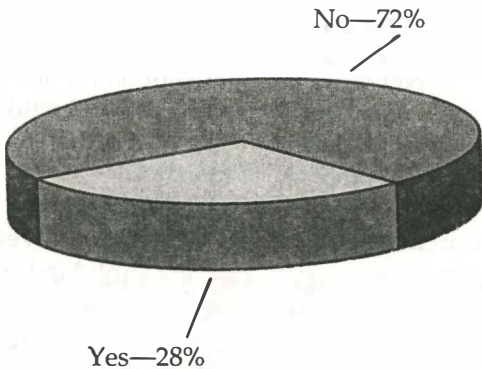
Do you think being sentenced by your own peers would make you less likely to commit another crime?



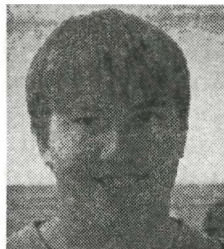
"Most kids who commit crimes are doing it despite what their peers tell them."—**junior Dustin Hight**



"Peer pressure can be a good thing. Knowing that your peers think you were wrong and that they feel you deserve punishment may be more effective than a judge who does that for a living."—**sophomore Holly Curtis**



"It may humiliate the parties and make them think twice before committing a crime."—**freshman William Norton**



"There would be a bigger problem with fairness [in the court system] that there already is."—**senior Melissa Nickerson**





# Pierre powerlifters press experienced teams

It looks like the new weight room in the school may have come in handy for four Riggs seniors.

They competed in the 2002 State High School Powerlifting Meet held in Madison in March.

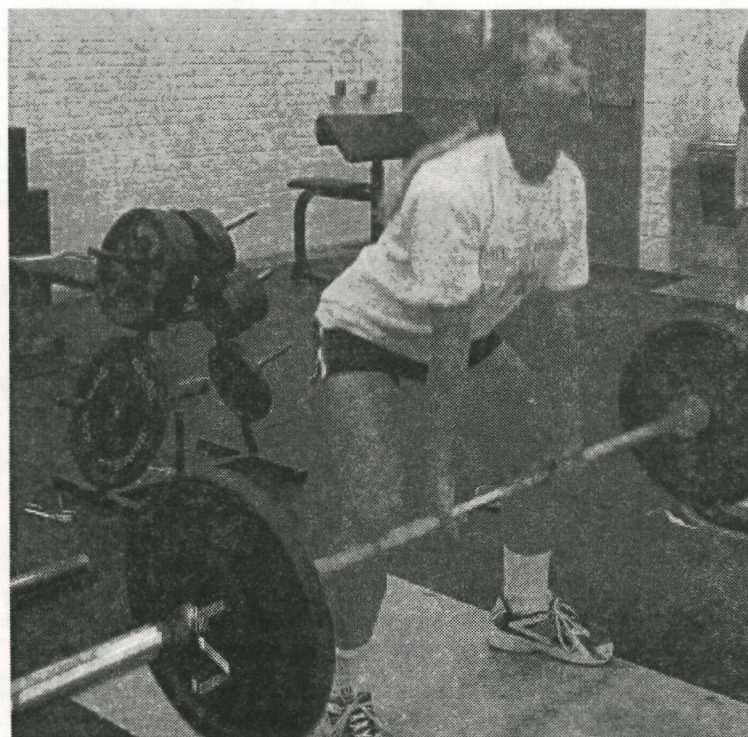
Seniors Pat Adams, Callie Buechler, Michael Bumann and Niki St. Germaine competed in three events: squat, benchpress and deadlift. The students were coached by Gregg Stluka, a freshman English teacher.

Adams placed second in the 198 lb. division with lifts of 315 lb. squat (3rd best in class), 285 lb. bench (best in class), and deadlift with a lift of 345 lbs. for a total of 945 lbs.

Buechler placed fourth in the girls' division with a 145 lb. squat, 115 lb. bench, and 210 lb. deadlift.

Finishing sixth in the girls' division was St. Germaine with a 130 lb. squat, 95 lb. bench, and 165 lb. deadlift.

Bumann had the best



**SUPERGIRL...**Senior Callie Buechler continues training after the state Powerlifting meet, where she placed second. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

benchpress in his weightclass and second best in the state at 300 lbs.

Stluka coached weightlifting

for eight years before moving to Pierre. In recent years, Pierre has been inactive in the meets.

"I know Pierre used to com-

pete in these meets 15 to 20 years ago. They have held several state titles," Stluka said.

"I was interested in the powerlifting meet because it was an opportunity for me to put all my hard work to the test," said senior Niki St. Germaine. "I had never done anything like this before, so it was a new and challenging opportunity for me."

The four students did well though it was their first meet.

"We were very inexperienced compared to the teams that were there. Many of the kids we were competing against had a lot of experience and were very well prepared," said Stluka. "Our Riggs students did well, and three out of the four of them placed. And Michael, although he didn't place, had the best bench press in the state and was right in the running throughout the competition."

"With more training and ex-

perience, I know that I could have gotten first. It's too bad I just got started my senior year because I can't come back and improve next year," said Adams.

"It [competing] gave me a rush because I was on the stage with only one other person with everyone else watching me. It was a little intimidating at first, but I got used to it," said Buechler.

Stluka would like to see Riggs take a team to the state meet in future years. This year it was hard because there were only four competitors.

"This is something that I definitely want to see grow. This is a good way for athletes to compete in the spring. Most athletes are already lifting for other sports, and this is a great way to showcase the effort they put in at the weight room."

by Dakota Bixler

## Lifting provides students with ways to meet goals

Many students like to be fit or stay in shape through lifting.

The two most common places that students lift are at Riggs' weight room or at the Oahe YMCA. Some students even have weight machines in their homes.

Many students lift to train for a sport. Students often find that lifting will give them more strength, endurance and an edge over their competition.

"[I lift] to keep up with competition," said sophomore Kyle Kurth.

Coaches often suggest their athletes lift both in the on- and off-season in order to enhance their performance. Some sports, such as football, have a lifting schedule for the off-season that athletes are strongly

encouraged to follow.

They follow a progressive chart where they do four base lifts and five auxiliary lifts, according to football coach Chad Gusso.

Base lifts are the basic types of lifts that football players do: bench, squat, jammer and cleans. The auxiliary lifts are the other extra lifts such as hip-sled, curls and military press.

Gusso said that it is very important for athletes to lift because a lot of the competition lifts.

"In AA, if you don't lift, you're not physically able to compete," said Gusso.

Students can also lift in school by taking Weights and Conditioning class, taught by Dan

Snyder. In this class, students lift three days a week and do cardiovascular exercise, such as running and swimming, the other two days. Students learn the do's and don'ts of lifting in the class.

"I learned the proper technique of lifting without hurting myself [in Weights and Conditioning]," said junior Trevor Fisher.

The students first learn the basics of lifting by the different types of programs. Snyder said there are three different types of programs that students can follow, depending on what their goals are.

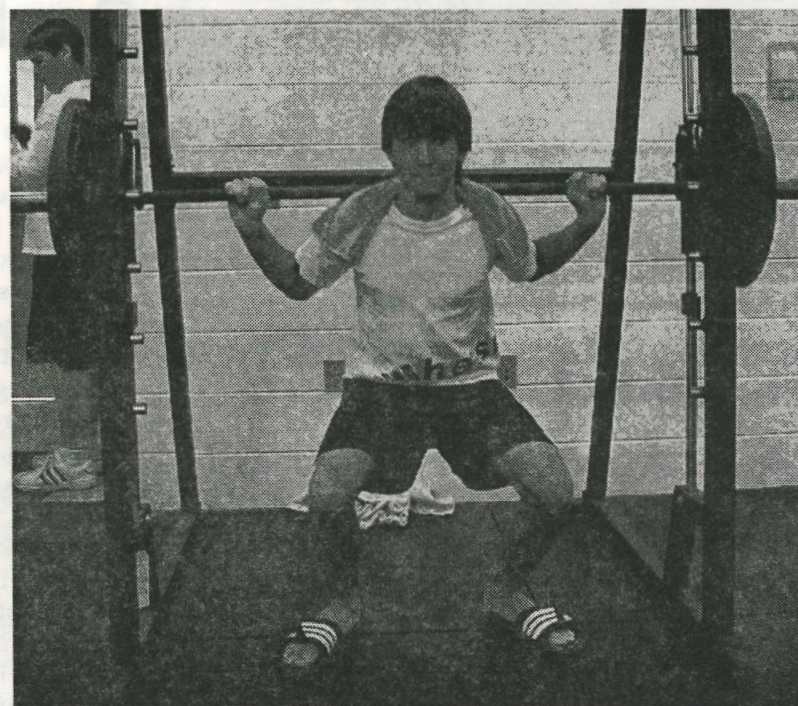
Students whose goal is to achieve bulk to their body would want to use the base program. In the base program, a student

does few repetitions, or reps, but lifts a large percent of their max.

A max is the absolute amount of weight an individual can lift at the beginning of a program. Percents are taken from the max to help determine how much weight the individual should lift throughout the program.

For those who want to tone their bodies, the pyramid program is suggested. In the pyramid students lift a smaller percent of their max but do more repetitions. The pyramid is also used to increase endurance lifting.

Another program students can use is the progression program. The progression is a combination of the base and pyra-



**FEELIN' THE BURN...**Andrew Kightlinger spends time at the weight room in the YMCA after school during the week. (photo by Mallori Barnett)

mid programs.

Training and toning may be the common reasons why students lift, but there are other reasons as well. Some students lift for fun or to re-

lieve stress.

"I think lifting is fun," said freshman Carly Feiler. "I always feel like I did a lot afterward. You feel like you really worked out."

"Lifting is a stress reliever and a good way to spend your free time," said senior Damon Thielen.

by Heather Mangan





Tyler Merriam

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*The Merm Made Sports Column:*  
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## IFHL: What could be better?

So this is my final column, and you know I save the best for last. It's time for the IFHL to grace this column.

For those of you who don't know, the Intramural Floor Hockey League has been a tremendous success so far.

Led by such fierce competitors as Sean Corcoran and his amazing goalie play, or Wire/Jorgenson's solid defense, and the firepower of the Scott/Wegman offensive attack, the IFHL certainly is very entertaining.

Although only juniors and seniors were allowed to play due to excessive numbers, the stands have been packed with underclassmen as well.

The night begins with commissioner Dan Snyder tossing the ball to a squad, then assuming his position at center court against the bleachers, one he rarely moves from.

Kidding aside, it was Snyder along with student body president and vice president Michael Bumann and Max Huber, who helped bring the IFHL to life.

Now the IFHL is almost bigger than life, with better coverage than most sports in the Capital Journal, thanks to the one-of-a-kind P.K. (Parker Knox, for those of you who live under rocks.)

Every night there are

things you can guarantee you will see during IFHL play.

At least one team has to make last-second phone calls to make sure they have one member of the female sex, as Snyder's rule is "no girls, no game," and a forfeit.

You will also see T-M SlapShot's armor, which if you don't look closely, you will never be sure who is under all that garb.

Then there are the Max Hubers and the Jon Kotilneks who leave it all on the floor. Those two had perhaps the best game to date in IFHL history last week.

However, IFHL action is not for the weak at heart. Last Tuesday's events saw Zack Word get busted open by an inadvertent stick, one that impressed many guys for blood volume.

Then there's Bradley Ronald Wire, who has likely played his last IFHL game, thanks to a severe knee injury during a tightly-contested IFHL game. It is the heroes such as Wire that define what the IFHL is all about.

It's not sports-entertainment, like the IBA. It's not an official sport, such as football or track. It's not an art, such as the play.

Yet, the IFHL has found its niche. Indeed, unlike many expansion leagues, the IFHL will be around for years to come.

## Inexperience, bad luck trouble tracksters

A slow and steady pace may have worked for the turtle, but unfortunately for tracksters, that method does not work.

This season, Governor track coaches have been trying to compensate for the loss of valuable runners such as Brad Lowery and Mat Ripperger.

Although many runners went out this year, it might not have been enough.

"We have good numbers this year," said first year head boys coach, Chad Gusso. "[But], there are not as many freshmen stepping up as I would have liked to have."

Poor weather has also been a major factor in the team's lack of success. Snow, low



DOWN THE STRETCH THEY COME...freshmen Ronnie Boettcher, Zach Vogt and Brady Neiles turn the final corner during a practice. (photo by Gerda Jorgenson)

temperatures and strong winds have made running and conditioning difficult for practices.

"I'm looking forward to more improvement. We've been doing the best we can, but it's going to be tough towards

region time," added Gusso.

Despite the bad luck, runners continue to work towards their goals.

"I think that our team is improving every meet," said junior Pat Anderson. "We work

hard every day in practice, and although we may not have the fastest runners in the state, we compete as hard as anybody."

Inexperience has been a big factor in the squad's struggles, as most of the freshmen are running varsity for the first time and don't know what to expect.

"We have some really fast individual runners and a team with a lot of potential, but it's disappointing when we get such a low score and other teams look down on us," said freshman Mandy Jung.

Hopefully the unpleasant weather will hold off for the Governors' next track meet in Sturgis tomorrow.

by Tiffany Murtland

## Decker signs letter of intent to UND

Senior Dalton Decker has signed a letter of intent, or a promise to play baseball at the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks.

Decker is a 6 foot 4 inch lefthanded pitcher who currently plays for the Post 8 legion team.

Since there are so few left-handers, his size and power make him rare and highly valuable in the baseball world.

The University of North Dakota "Fighting Sioux" are a NCAA Division II team in the North Central Conference.

Other teams in the NCC are SDSU, USD, NDSU, and other teams from North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Colorado.

Dalton plans on playing his freshman season instead of redshirting.

Redshirting allows a freshmen to practice with the team and not lose one of their four years of eligibility.

"I think I am ready [to play] and I don't want to sit and watch for a year," Decker commented.

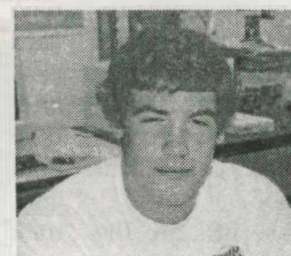
Many players sit out the year to weightlift and get used to the system at the college.

Last season, he was Post 8's leading pitcher in his first year of legion baseball.

Last year's team finished in seventh place in the State American Legion Baseball Championship Tournament held here in Pierre.

"I'm very excited to be able to move a step after Legion and play baseball for four more years," says Decker.

Decker led last year's pitching staff with a 7-6



NOW A FIGHTING SIOUX...The newest UND player, Dalton Decker (photo by Gerda Jorgenson)

record, leading the team in innings pitched and strikeouts.

With some help by his teammates and coach this year, he could have one of the best pitching years in Post 8 baseball history.

This year's legion squad has a core of returning starters and is expected to be a contender for the state championship.

First year coach Jim Iverson, an experienced

pitcher, should be a big help to Dalton and the team.

Decker also wrestled for Riggs for the first time this year and finished sixth in the state for the wrestling squad.

In past years, Decker has played basketball and football.

Many baseball players are disappointed with the lack of recruiting in the Midwest because most people don't watch college baseball.

The teams go after players from the South who play baseball year round, unlike here where it is only played in the summer.

Decker is proof that if you work hard enough and have a little luck, you can do anything you want to.

by Tony Rislov