

German students say goodbye after two weeks

By Renee Rodgers

For the last two weeks, German exchange students have called Pierre their home, living with various host families. The exchange is

set up between their school and Riggs and has been happening for several years.

The students are here during their "holiday," which is their two to three week break from year-round school.

The Germans visit different classes each week, giving them a break from their regular business-centered schedule at their school in Germany.

"I was surprised by drama class—it's strange

that the school has a theater!" German student Francie Kreisig said.

"It's funny to see how people learn our German language. It's a lot different and seems almost elementary," Juliane Eibisch said, after sitting in on a German class.

Other things besides classes were unusual to them.

"The heavy breakfast and the young driving age is very different from back home," Eibisch said.

"In Germany we don't have anything like the Pledge of Allegiance. We have a national anthem that we sing before professional soccer games, but that's the closest thing we

have," German student Doreen Matthes said.

Riggs students and host families have noticed a few unusual habits of the Germans as well.

"They take off their shoes inside the house but refuse to go barefoot. Instead they immediately shove their socked feet into flip-flops," senior Katie Larson chuckled.

Quirks aside, hosts are thankful for the experience and have enjoyed their guests, despite the initial hesitations, apprehensions, and preparations.

"At first I was nervous to have someone living with me and was afraid that we wouldn't

be able to talk to each other, but it turns out we get along great," senior Taya Norlander said.

"My mom cleaned like crazy before they got here," junior Alex Roberts said.

Before they came to Pierre, the group toured Las Vegas for five days as well as the Black Hills for a weekend.

Even though their time here was short, hopefully the German students felt welcome, made new friends, and will remember Pierre for many years.

"It was a great experience, and I wish I could stay longer. I can't remember a time when I've had more fun!" Eibisch said.



German students visiting Riggs will say their goodbyes today after a two-week stay.

Evacuation provides effective plan in case of emergency

By Nikki Douglas and Lindsey Dykstra

Schools throughout the district carried out evacuation drills last week to ensure that faculty and students know the procedures for leaving the building in an emergency.

At Riggs, students exited the building and crossed Jefferson Street to one of three nearby churches.

"The purpose of the drill was to make sure that our plan works, and it worked well," Vice Principal Kevin Mutchelknaus said.

Since August, five school shootings occurred in the U.S. and Canada. The first of these occurred August 24 in Vermont. Other school shootings have happened in North Carolina, Colorado, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

"We planned the evacuation drill way back in August, so it really wasn't related to the recent school shootings; this will probably be a yearly activity," Mutchelknaus said.

A question that floats the hallways is "Are we safe at the churches?"

"If someone was going to bomb the school, they would probably know that the students would evacuate to the churches, so I think if they were going to go through all this trouble of bombing, they would attack the churches instead of the school," senior Lucas Leidholt said.

"We can't plan for everything. If there is a bomb threat at the school, we have to get out. We need a plan that works, and the churches seem to be the best answer for that," Mutchelknaus said.



Students stream up the hill east of the library to evacuate the building and head for their assigned churches across Jefferson Street.

Students befriend German exchange students

We have all wondered about the culture of other countries. What is their school like? What do they eat? Or even what do they do for fun?

We were recently given a chance to explore and learn about a different culture, and we did not even have to spend that extra \$3000 we had lying around on a plane ticket to find out—we could just ask our German foreign exchange students!

We have been lucky enough to meet and befriend the German foreign exchange students over the course of the last two weeks here at school.

The presence of the German foreign exchange students opens our eyes to diversities among different parts of the world.

We see how their customs play an important role in everyday life and how they affect

the way people live.

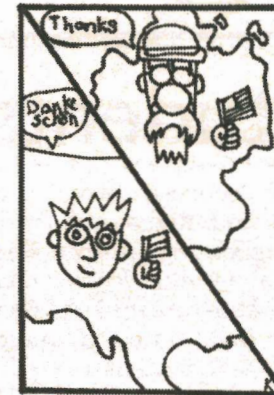
We notice discrepancies among major issues, such as education systems as well as differences in minor topics such as shower length and frequency, and the differences in their sporting events compared to ours.

The German foreign exchange students showed us that even though our two cultures can be quite different and there is a

language barrier, between us, teenagers from different countries are all rather similar.

After visiting and getting to know some of these German students on a personal level, we were able to see that we all enjoy things such as being with friends, eating fast food, and listening to music.

Visiting another country always proves to be a rewarding experience, except on



the old pocketbook. Knowledge of other places around the

world makes an individual a more well-rounded person and perhaps allows us to realize good and maybe even some bad things about our own home.

If nothing else, meeting students through the program allows us to see that even though we are all just unruly teenagers trying to find our place in the world, we have our own unique differences but still have our common interests.



Thumbs Up

...to making it a good showing in first round of the football playoffs
...to cross country's great finish at the state meet
...to daylight savings time—we gain an hour
...to registering to vote, if you're 18
...to every Halloween movie ever created.

Ok, we lied, some are really bad.
...to another AA boy's soccer state title. **AMAZING!**
...to making it through the first quarter
...to yummy treats
...to basketball's fast approach
...to eating at Quizno's



Thumbs Down

...to aneurysms
...to the Twins choking in the playoffs
...to scraping windshields in the morning
...to Mondays
...to candy corn that's stale
...to suggestions on how to vote
...to trick-or-treating age limits

...to earning those low grades even though you studied for hours
...to all the German exchange students leaving
...to meandering around the parking lot
...to rail construction
...to youth voters's lack of enthusiasm

*"It's not that strict—
it's very relaxed."
—Doreen Matthes*



*"Everyone is friendly and wants to learn about and get to know us."
—Juliane Eibisch*



Hall Talk:

What do you find most interesting about our high school?

*"The schedule—
like the time of lunch breaks."
—Thomas Kumzamun*



*"So many hamburgers! I don't ever want to go to McDonald's for a long time!"
—Francie Kreisig*



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We're right: Sonic-wall has to go

We're sure that you have all seen this screen on your computer. You know, the black one with the red stripe that says, "This site is blocked by Sonic-wall content filter service."

Sonic-wall pops up when the school has blocked a website that they believe contains inappropriate information. The Administration has always blocked its share of websites, but it has gotten a little out of hand.

"I understand that some websites need to be blocked because of their content, but there has to be a better way to handle the situation," psycholo-



Taya Norlander
and
Matt Blake

gy and history teacher Bruce Venner said.

"My students can't even look up Sigmund Freud because of the things he studied about," Venner said.

Venner explained that his history class can't look up information about the Ku

Klux Klan because of the activities they were involved in.

Another instance of the school going filter happy concerns a student who needed to look up information about the Second Amendment and wasn't able to because it's about the right to bear arms.

In other words it contained the word "gun." This is a little extreme.

We thoroughly comprehend that some websites need to be blocked, but students are finding it hard to complete school projects.

There has to be a better way to limit websites.

After all, you know we're right!

Katie's Closet: What I'm lovin' this month!

1.The Minidress

Wear it over opaque tights on chilly days or on its own. It looks really cute with platform heels!

2.Boots

I'm not really a boot person, but I think they look great on other people. My favorites are knee-length and short boots. I also really love boots paired with a longer skirt. Mini skirts and boots look kind of tacky.

3.Tartan



Katie Douglas

Plaid is an interesting fabric and kind of tricky. You really can't wear a lot of it at one time, and you don't want to look like Britney Spears, circa 1999. Try little touch-

es like a tartan print headband or shoes.

4.Wine-Colored Lips

Red lips are sophisticated. Berry colors look mysterious. Apply a lip balm first so they color stays. Also, skip eye makeup and blush. You don't want to overpower your gorgeous pout!

5.Jeans that Fit

Attention Boys: no girl wants to see your entire bum sticking out of your jeans. It's not attractive. At all.

Perspectives: Four students, four views on politics in religion

Personally, I don't believe mixing religion and government is wrong. I realize that everyone has his or her own religious views, but considering that the majority of the population is Christian, there is no reason not to vote based on religious issues.

Sadly, some Americans do not want God



Kat Lindbloom

to play a part in the government. By having God in these national issues, people may take

an extra moment to think before they make a checkmark next to yes or no when voting.

Even though I am not old enough to vote, I think that some of the most important issues are the ones that come from religion.

I think that religious views should continue to influence political views.

A question on American minds since the days of the "framing" of the Constitution is this: "Should religion and state be separate?"

No matter what a person's religious beliefs are, they will, in some way, affect the state. One factor of government and religious separation came



Kristian Kongslien

up in 1962; The Supreme Court banned prayer in school.

State and religion should be separate, but school and religion should be O.K. Otherwise students should no longer have to say the Pledge of Allegiance every morning.

This debate really doesn't matter. State and religion will always be mixed together no matter what one thinks.

Religion is what this country was founded on and many people believe is how this country should be run. Unfortunately, this is not my view.

It is true that religious men founded this country, but they also added separation of church and state.

No offense to all of



Matt Blake

the religious people in the world, but churches' views should not be policy of the United States.

Unbiased people who have clear views should make laws and policy, not religious fanatics who take the word of the Pope or some religious right-winger over what the general public wants.

Many of the topics on the ballot are religious based. Religion is for the home, not for the ballot.



SCARY STUFF

Unfortunately, many people in America today don't believe that God should be included in the government. Along with this rise in "God-elimination," the crime rates have gone up.

I find this somewhat funny because people complain about how the world today is going to the dump, but they keep telling God to get out of their



Mary Holm

school, government, and life, so why should He deny their wishes?

To me, the whole concept of separation of church and state is iron-

ic because many laws come from the Christian Ten Commandments (thou shall not kill, thou shall not steal, etc.)

If we eliminate God from the government, does it mean that we should also eliminate these laws?

Honestly, government needs God. He's the only one who will ever bring "liberty and justice for all."

What's at stake on November 7

Key Races

Governor

Mike Rounds(R)

Jack Billion(D)

United States Representative

Bruce W. Whalen(R)

Stephanie Herseth(D)

Key Issues

Constitutional Amendment C

Attorney General Explanation: South Dakota statutes currently limit marriage to unions between a man and a woman. However, the State Constitution does not address gay marriage. Amendment C would amend the State Constitution to allow and recognize marriage only between a man and a woman.

Initiated Measure 2

South Dakota currently taxes tobacco products. The proposed law would increase taxation on tobacco products sold in the state. The tax on a 20 stick cigarette package would be raised by \$1.00; the tax on a 25 stick cigarette package would be raised by \$1.25.

Initiated Measure 3

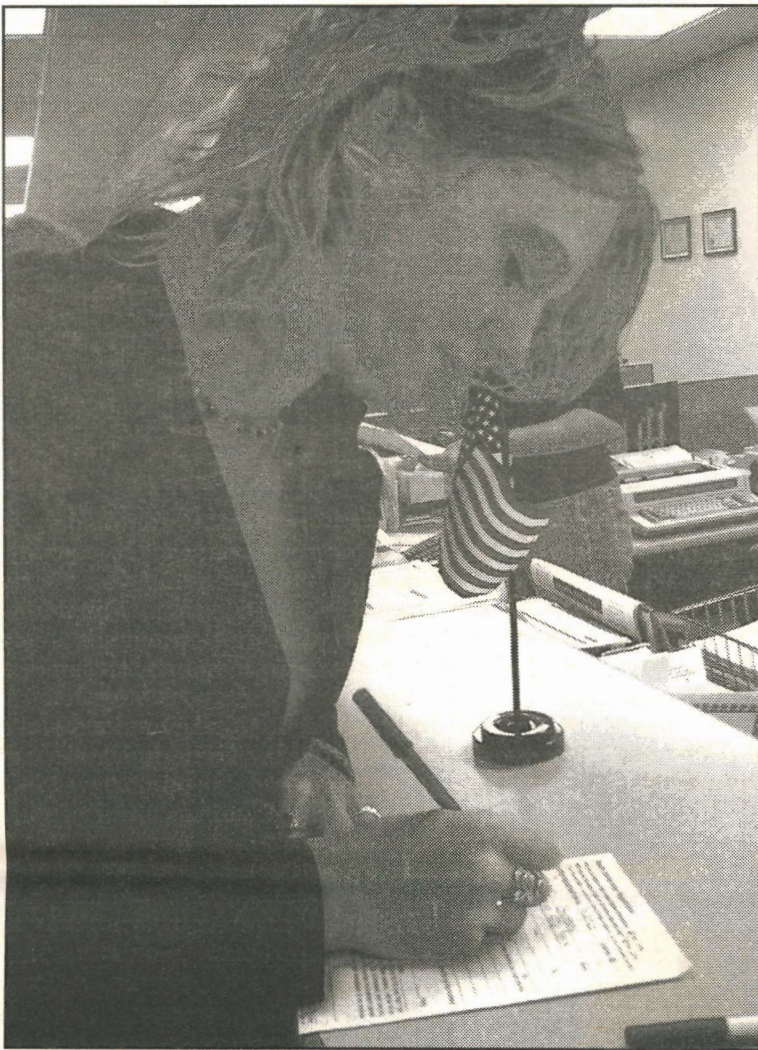
State law currently allows local school boards to establish the start of a regular school term on any date. The proposed law would prohibit local school boards from establishing the start of a regular school term prior to the last day of August.

Initiated Measure 4

This initiative would allow persons, including minors with parental consent, with a debilitating medical condition, to be certified to grow (not more than six plants), possess (not more than one ounce) and use small amounts of marijuana for medical purposes.

Initiated Measure 7

The State operates video lottery as authorized by State law. During the last year, the State received approximately one hundred twelve million dollars(\$112,000,000.00) from video lottery which is 11% of the state general fund budget. The proposed law would repeal video lottery and eliminate this source of revenue.



Brittney Starks registers to vote at the Hughes County Courthouse.

Let voice First-time

By Matt Blake

Some seniors will cast their ballots for the first time on November 7, exercising the basic civic duty of a US citizen--voting.

Voting in the US has been a cornerstone of American government, and due to the 26th Amendment, that right is open to 18 year olds.

"I'm excited to vote because we can finally make a change, and it just feels good to know that," senior Pricilla Williams said.

Voting is a basic right that everyone enjoys, but voting also requires some careful thought about the issues and candidates.

"The fact that I've researched the topics and the people running for positions helps a lot. Knowing some of the issues makes me want to vote more," said senior Seth Parsons.

Having well-informed young voters can lead to

Governor's son finds advantage

By Emma Wylie, Kelly Lingle and Loryn Schuetzle

Who would have thought that the term *governor* means more than a chant for the home team? But to one student, it means *dad*.

Back in 2002 the life of John Rounds changed dramatically.

He went from being a normal Pierre kid to the governor's son in a matter of a few months.

Over the past four years, John, a senior now, has experienced both the perks and the drawbacks of being the Governor's son.

One of the perks is that he has been able to associate with other children of political figures, like Lieutenant Governor

Dennis Daugaard's kids.

John also gets the chance to participate in the Governor's Hunt and he will be joined by his cousin Devin Rounds, a junior.

John says his relationship with his mother has grown since he seldom sees his father, especially during this busy part of the campaigning year.

While many might see their father's absence as a negative, John says it has advantages at times.

"With my dad gone a lot, I only have to okay plans with one parent," John laughed.

Although Governor Rounds is a promoter of South Dakota State University, John will not be

following his father's example. John plans on intending a school where he can pursue a major in physical therapy.

Having a father who has always been involved with politics, John has grown to be well informed as a result. He finds politics very interesting.

While he appreciates the opportunity of being a governor's son, he says it does sometimes affect his family negatively.

The election this year has made John more defensive about his dad with all the negativity of opposing campaigns.

"If people don't like my dad, I know about it, which isn't the case for most kids," John said.

He also commented about a negative billboard in Rapid

ces be heard e voters help decide issues

disputes between students here at school. "You can often hear people in the lunchroom fighting over stuff on the ballot," senior Taya Norlander said.

Just from discussing topics in class, with friends, or places outside the school such as at home or at church, young voters seem to have a good grasp on where their loyalties and opinions lie.

"I encourage people to know what's on the ballot, what the politicians' stands are on issues and not just vote along party lines," senior Kelly Lingle said.

Unfortunately, any eighteen year olds who haven't registered by last Monday can not vote in this upcoming November election. They, along with underclassmen who aren't yet eighteen, will have the opportunity to vote in the KIDS VOTING program, instead.

For all future voters the process to register is very simple.

"I encourage people to know what's on the ballot, what the politicians' stands are on issues and not just vote along party lines."

—senior Kelly Lingle

The registration form can be found on the Internet at www.sdsos.gov. Government teacher Harvey "Skip" Kurth also had the forms in his room for seniors to pick up.

The whole form takes approximately five minutes to fill out.

The completed form must be taken to the Hughes County Courthouse to the county auditor's office. Forms can also be found at the auditor's office.

"Registration was a breeze. I got a form from Kurth's room, filled it out, and dropped it off all during A lunch," senior Zak Bishop said.

Now if you are disappointed that you are not eighteen

and you don't think you have a chance to voice you opinion, there is a way to be heard.

Kid's Voting in South Dakota allows kids under the age of 18 to go and vote.

The vote doesn't count in the real election, but it still lets you vote for your views and learn what the process is like.

"Voting is the basic right of all Americans, so get out there and vote," Kurth said.

Kurth's suggestion will be followed for many first-time voters in the senior class on November 7.

es, disadvantages in role

City which pictures his dad equated to a chicken. That kind of personal attack campaigning is hurtful to the family, John said.

Yet, the Rounds family never has regretted Mike running for governor.

John recalls when his father told him and his family of his intentions to run for governor if United States Senator John Thune decided not to run.

A week after Thune announced that he wasn't running, Mike announced that he would run. Although Rounds entered late in the race, he came out on top.

"I hope my dad is re-elected. I mean, have you seen our house?!"

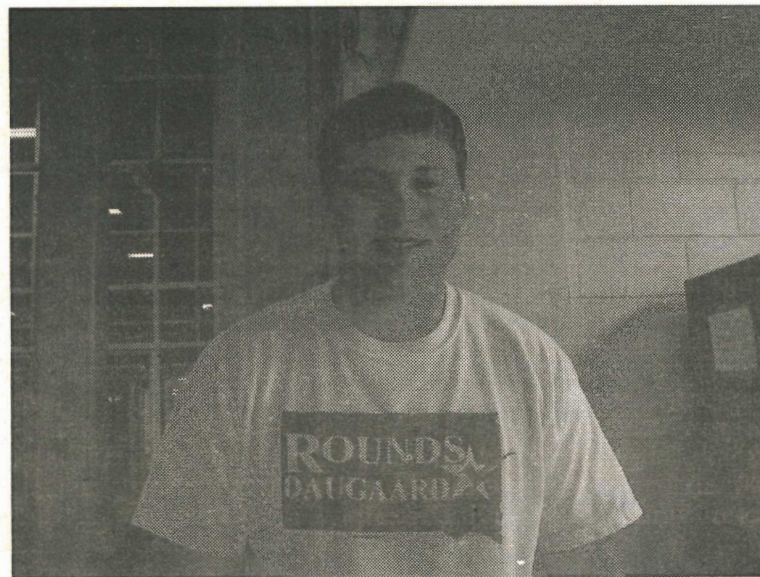


photo by Megan Meier

Senior John Rounds hopes for another victory this fall for his father's campaign.

Shout it out: What we're saying about Referred Law 6

Referred Law 6

Current South Dakota law generally allows a pregnant woman to obtain an abortion during the first 24 weeks of pregnancy. Beyond 24 weeks, abortions may be performed only if necessary to preserve the life or health of the pregnant woman. This law would prohibit any person, at any time, from providing any medicine or other substance to a pregnant woman for the specific purpose of terminating her pregnancy. However, a person may provide a contraception substance to a woman without penalty prior to the time her pregnancy could be determined by conventional medical testing. This law would also prohibit any person, at any time, from using any instrument or procedure on a pregnant woman for the specific purpose of terminating her pregnancy, unless the person is a licensed physician performing a medical procedure to prevent the death of the pregnant woman. Any person other than the pregnant woman who violates these provisions would commit a felony. If approved, this law will likely be challenged in court and may be declared to be in violation of the US Constitution. If so, the State may be required to pay attorneys fees and costs.

Yes on 6

"I'm for Referred Law 6 because every baby has the right to live no matter what the circumstances are. I also think since South Dakota is such a conservative state that we should take this chance to stand up for a cause that's so important. I think it has a good chance of being passed."

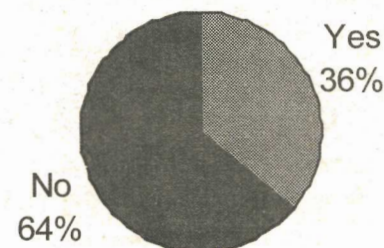
—senior Loryn Schuetzle

No on 6

"I'm against Referred Law 6 because it doesn't provide any leeway for women affected by rape or incest. It takes away a women's right to make decisions about her own body, and it is a waste of money since it's going to get shot down in the supreme court for being too restrictive."

—senior Nellie Bloomberg

Do you support Referred Law 6?



100 students surveyed

Varsity Scoreboard

Football

Record: 2-9

Last game: lost in the first round of the playoffs to Aberdeen Central Tuesday night: 50-49

Girls Cross Country

Last meet: Girls team placed 11th at state. Abbie Mitchell lead the team placing 50th.

Boys Cross Country

Last meet: Finished in 4th place as a team. Travis Fitzke placed 5th and Connor McKittrick took 26th.

Players Comment: "It's the best season we have had in a long time. It was fun while it lasted, and now we can just look forward to track," senior Matt Bump said.

Girls Tennis

Last match: State tournament
Placed 4th as a team.

Nellie Bloomberg placed 4th in flight one. Bethany Goeden and Mandy Forest won flight two doubles.

Boys Soccer

Record: 13-1-1

State Tournament: Defended their title and brought home another championship.
Defeated Aberdeen 3-1

Girls Soccer

Record: 5-0-8

State Tournament: Placed 10th after losing in shootout against Roosevelt and a loss to Yankton. Players comment: "It was freezing! But we still played well together despite the circumstances," senior Steph Snow said.

Volleyball

Record: 11-7

Last game: Lost against Aberdeen Central
Next game: Next Tuesday against Mitchell. This is the first game of the district tournament.

compiled by Laura Hofer

Runners have best-ever state meet

By Keely McCormick

The cross country season ended in Huron last Saturday with the boys finishing in fourth place, tying the best finish ever by a Governor team.

Travis Fitzke finished in fifth place, to lead the team. Abbie Mitchell finished in fiftieth place for the girls' team.

After getting over the frustration of the ESD race two weeks ago when Pierre's top runner Fitzke lost all-conference honors because of an error by the lead vehicle, coach Bruce Venner is pleased with the way the season turned out.

"The chaos at the ESD boys' race is unfortunate, but it is something they will remember forever, and tell their grandchildren," Venner said.

"My goal before I die is to coach a girls' team to make a top four finish at state. I'm not



Photo by Abbie Dix

After the gun shot, the boy's varsity cross country team start strong down the course.

planning on dying any time soon," Venner said. Most of the team was happy with the season and are already looking forward to next season.

The seniors and their close teammates, however, are not ready for cross country to end.

"It was a good season, and we had a lot of fun running together this year. But at the

end of the season, it was sad knowing that we won't be able to run together again," senior Michelle Monroes said.

This year's cross country seniors were Connor McKittrick, Matt Bump, Zak Bishop, Jen de Hueck, Michelle Monroe, Elise Titze, Miriam Pfahler, Caitlin Feller, and Jessica Blackmore.

'Two-a-Days' is HOT

What have you been doing at 9:30 on Wednesday nights?

Well, you would have found all of us in front of the tube watching our favorite sporting event, "Two-a-Days" on MTV.

In short, the show is about a kick-butt Alabama High School football team rated number one in the nation. We won't fail to mention it has a lot of hot guys who know how to throw the pigskin around.

"Two-a-Days" stars four main high school football players: Alex "the bad boy," Max "the good guy," Repete "the hard to understand cocky one," and Ross "the very cute quarterback."

This TV show follows them not only in their football endeavors but in their social lives as well.

You watch them go on dates, to parties, to church, and even

through tough break-ups.

This show will rock your socks off.

The segmented team, Hoover High Bucaneers,

went through tedious two-a-day practices (hence the show's name) every day, even on Sundays and holidays.

The community supports the Bucaneers, often closing businesses early and heading to the game.

Their playing field and school spirit seem more like a college's atmosphere.

Their crowd would be packed full of screaming

fans while they ran through the tunnel, breaking through a banner to start the game.

The Buckaneers have their own team pastor that preaches before games and even a team doctor.

This over-achieving atmosphere gave them a season with only one loss.

With this hard-work, the team was able to bring home their fourth consecutive state title.

The hard practices paid off in the long run.

Now they truly have a coveted dynasty in Alabama football.

Way to go, boys! We can't wait until season two!



Kelly Lingle, Loryn Schuetzle, and Emma Wylie

Boys soccer earns second state championship

By Matt Blake

"The attack against Aberdeen was pretty much relentless. Keeping possession of the ball is a huge favor," team captain Seth Parsons said.

The boys' soccer team now has a second state title to add to its list of achievements.

The soccer season which ended 10-1-1, put them as the first seed in the state tournament, which was held in Brookings October 12-14.

The first team that Pierre played was Rapid City Central. They beat them 6-1. After the victory, Pierre had to go head to head with Spearfish, earlier in the season ranked number two in the state.

"The Spearfish game was the hardest one of the tournament," senior Bryan Beck said.

This win, however, unlocked entry into the championship game against rival Aberdeen.

On a rather chilly Saturday afternoon,

the state championship game took place. The sides of the field were full of people dressed in green and blue. With a blow of the whistle, the game was under way. From the start Pierre seemed to have the upper hand.

"The attack against Aberdeen was pretty much relentless. Keeping possession of the ball is a huge favor," team captain Seth Parsons said.



photo by Deshayne Hye

Boy's varsity soccer player, Jarret Klinger sprints for the ball against Sioux Falls Lincoln.

This lead to three goals in the first half. Dane Hagen started it off with the first goal. The second goal was a shot from the corner from Beck to Parsons, bringing the score of the game to 2-0. Pierre's third and final goal came from team captain Tom Boe.

"I got the ball near the half and thought to myself, 'What would Ronaldinho do?' I faked right with a massive step over, dropping one defender. The slight hesitation put me past defender number two. Dribbling toward the 18, I had two options--pass or shoot.

I chose to drop goal-keeper Travis Kamm instead. I shot, I scored, I danced," Boe said.

This ended the first half with the score 3-0. This comfortable lead was good for the fans.

"We weren't nervous anymore," senior Laura Hofer said.

The second half

Aberdeen came out and scored, bringing the score to 3-1, which turned out to be the final score.

Aberdeen applied pressure to Pierre the whole game but was able to make only one goal.

The state title has led to many other awards. The week after the tournament, Parsons was named KDLT's Athlete of the Week and Boe's goal was Play of the Week.

Many players stood out and earned All-State rankings. Parsons, Boe, and Austin Munyon were named to first team. Andy Smith and Eric Christianson were named to second team. Austin Rounds was named honorable mention.

The girls also had many players chosen for these awards. Yuztil Ayala was named first team. Kelly Lingle was

Bump, Set, Score

Volleyball team has high hopes for districts, state

By Miranda Tracy and Kelly Lingle

Going into districts next week, the volleyball team is all about success.

They finished their regular season Monday night at Aberdeen, losing a hard fought match in four games. Aberdeen was crowned ESD champs and will be the number one seed in the district playoffs.

The team had a strong season the whole year, starting

their season with one of the best records in school history, beating state class AA champion Yankton in three games at home on their season opener, the first home win since 2002.

They ended the regular season with a winning record of 11-7, the first winning record since 1999. They also finished third in ESD behind Watertown and Aberdeen, the highest finish since 1999.

"Our team chemistry is good this year.

We've all played together since we were eighth graders," senior Paige Corcoran said.

Lady Gavs clinched the number two seed in the district, allowing the first game to be held at home.

First round will be Tuesday against Mitchell. The game looks tough, as Mitchell has taken the Gavs to five games both times but giving Gavs the victories.

The Lady Gavs have high hopes for

the game and to make it to the state tourney.

"The team shares the same dream--to finally go to state. I think we're a strong team, and we have a very good chance at making it to state," senior Amy Griesse said.

"So everyone do some trick-or-treating and then come to the volleyball game. Even wear your costume, as long as it's not an ear of corn," Griesse said.

"It's enjoyable to come. We look really good this year"

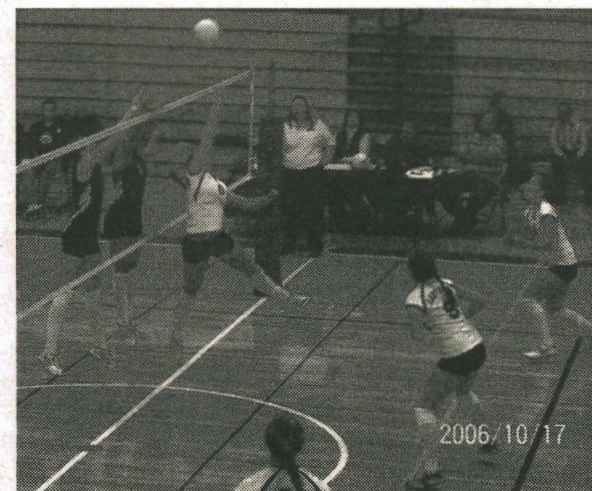


photo by Chris Bondy

Lady Gov's fight for the ball against Huron Tigers. Lady Gavs came out victorious after three games to win the match.

ACT season starts tomorrow

By Emma Wylie

The ACT is an important step in the path to college.

Taking the ACT does require some preparation, such as registering, studying and bringing a few number two pencils.

For those taking the ACT tomorrow morning, it

may be a little late to study. A few things can do help out.

If you have an ACT study book, it usually has good review segments. Take the time to read them.

Review old math notes and grammar rules.

"Reviewing my math notes really aided me," senior DeShayne Nye said.

Check that your calculator conforms to ACT regulations; any calculator TI-89 or above is not allowed.

Skip the Halloween dance and complete a practice test.

A good night's sleep is extremely important.

Tomorrow morning, eat a balanced breakfast and dress comfortably.

Grab everything you need and make your way to the school.

It may be a good idea to skip the music on your drive over.

"I once heard this traumatic story about Bryan Palmer. He listened to a Beatle's song before the test, and it got stuck in his head. He spent the whole ACT tapping the song on his desk," senior Abby Dix said.

When you arrive at the school, take a deep breath, you made it! But the hard part is about to come. If you prepared a head of time, it shouldn't be too bad.



photo by DeShayne Nye

Senior Sean Dancey sits in the senior lounge while registering for the October ACT.

Tips for college applicants

By Katie Douglas

Applying to college can be a tedious task. Here to help is a list of tips, compiled from seniors and recent graduates.

•The sooner you apply, the sooner you will find out if you were accepted, so apply either this month or next.

•Make sure you have all the forms needed for admission and financial aid sent in. If you create an account online at the school's website, it will tell you if you're missing any important documents.

•Check on application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you are applying. They are probably different and meeting deadlines is crucial.

•Talk to your guidance counselors. They are a huge help in prepar-

ing for college and can answer your questions.

•Take college entrance exams during your junior year. All four-year institutions require prospective students to take either the ACT or SAT.

•Seniors should plan on visiting colleges soon, if you haven't already.

•Fill out the FAFSA for federal student aid. Do it as early as possible.

•After being accepted, start filling out scholarship forms. Scholarships are free money for school so take advantage of them.

•By May, you should know where you want to go. Send in housing forms and your tuition deposit as soon as you can so you aren't stuck in the worst dorm.

•Have your counselor send in your final transcript at the end of your senior year.

Blazing a trail State alone in trading holiday honors

by Steph Snow

South Dakota may not be known as the birthplace of many new ideas, but its replacement of Columbus Day with Native American Day makes it unique in the country.

The rest of the country still observes Columbus Day, but South Dakota decided to make this change formal in 1989 with the urging of the late-Governor George S. Mickelson.

Mickelson signed a resolution during the state legislative session proclaiming that the second Mon-

day in October be Native American Day.

When the first explorers arrived to the Americas, Native Americans had already populated the entire continent of North America for many years.

"Columbus wasn't here first so he shouldn't have a holiday," senior Kristen Tate said.

South Dakota currently has nine recognized Native American tribes and the third highest proportion of Native Americans in the population of any state.

New York was actually the first state to recognize Native Ameri-

*"Columbus wasn't here first so he shouldn't have a holiday,"
—senior Kristen Tate*

cans by celebrating an American Indian Day in 1916. Since then, more states have followed and now also observe a day recognizing Native Americans.

"It's good to show respect. I also don't mind getting an extra day off school," sophomore Trey Owens said.

The first Native American Day in 1990 also set into motion what was called the

Year of Reconciliation. The governor and representatives of South Dakota's nine tribal governments declared a century of Reconciliation in 1991. Through these holidays and proclamations, state officials hope that acknowledging the state's Native Americans will help inform the public about some of the state's rich heritage, culture, and history.

CHARACTER OF THE MONTH

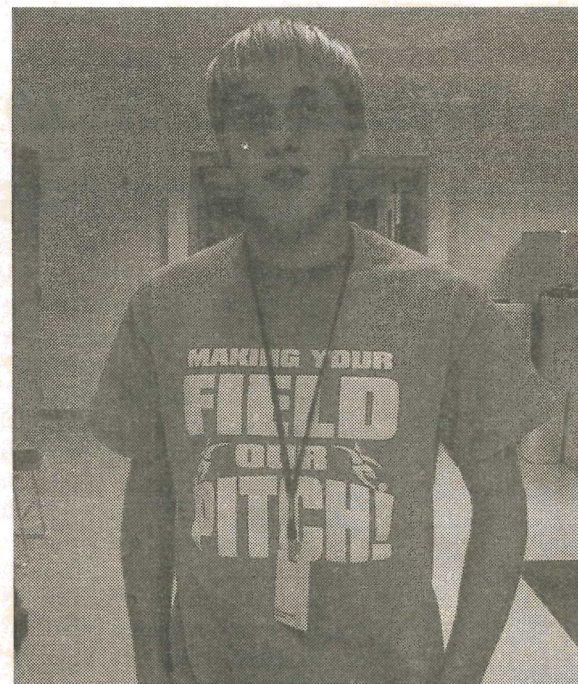


photo by DeShayne Nye

Junior Eric Christianson was named the character of the month for October by Teens Getting Involved in the Community. He earned the honor by displaying respect, the trait chosen for the month.