

T.F. Riggs High School

GOVERNOR

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First quarter failure rates raise concerns

By Timmi Lunsford

A higher than average first quarter failure rate has the staff stepping up its efforts to help students achieve academic success.

The poor grades have been a steadily rising trend; however, first quarter proved to be the most disappointing show of grades to date.

"The numbers are definitely rising. More students have failed one or more classes

the last quarter than previous years; however, it had always been a concern," Principal Mike Fugitt said.

Students have been failing classes for various reasons. Whether it be poor work ethic, lack of organization or any of a numerous list of possibilities, one trait stands out to the faculty.

"The students that are failing one or more classes usually have attendance problems too," Assistant Principal Kevin Mutchelknaus said.

"When you start to look at individuals and why they are failing, you can see what kind of persons they are and how they take the pro-

vided opportunities as they come," Mutchelknaus said.

With the highest failure rate, 32 percent of sophomores failed one or more classes, followed by the juniors with 25%, and freshman with 23% failing. Seniors had the lowest failure rate with 11.5% failing one or more classes.

"The freshman class was the second lowest but has been the lowest for the last two years, so that is encouraging," Fu-

gitt said.

One concern was that the laptops may be adding to those failure rates. Many feared that they would serve as nothing more than a distraction, but Fugitt disagrees.

"I really don't think they are a problem in terms of the students' grades," Fugitt said.

"The numbers are pretty close compared to previous years

when we didn't have laptops. I think it would be wrong to blame them," he said.

Students struggling to make the grade can seek help in one of the many tutoring programs being offered. Qualified students may also

get help from the learning center, the Right Turn, and the after-school program.

"I think one of the problems is getting the students that are failing to take advantage of the help they are offered, you know, and help comes to those who help themselves," Mutchelknaus said.

"These programs are full to capacity right now and even have waiting lists," Fugitt said.

"One thing we are studying right now is how we can get more tutoring," he added.

The school board is trying to help students by hiring adult tutors as well as student tutors. It is a possibility that the tutoring system can become a school credit for students who tutor.

Now with the second quarter well underway, the ad-

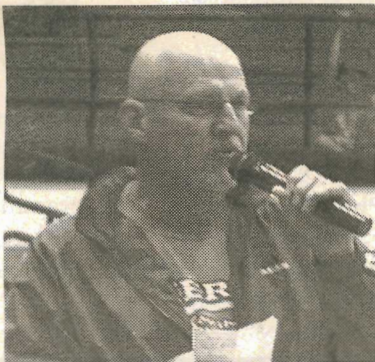
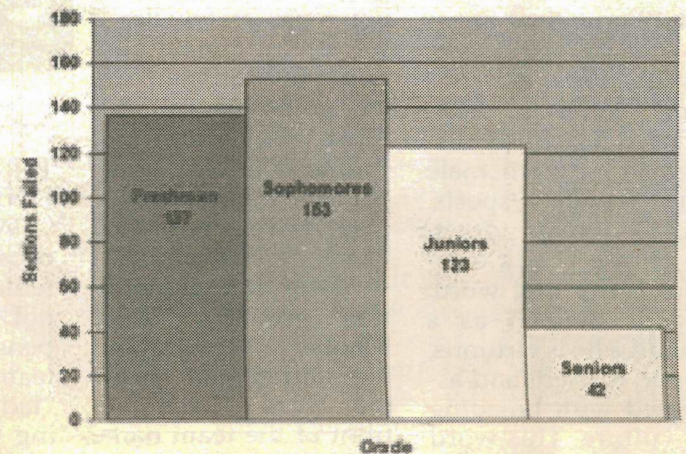
ministration is working harder than ever to find solutions.

"I think people need to know is that we are taking these issues very seriously and are trying to address these concerns," Fugitt said.

Freshmen, sophomores,

juniors or seniors: it's now or never. Get your grades report-card-ready, and if you find yourself having trouble do not hesitate to get some help. After all, it is as Mutchelknaus says, "Help comes to those who help themselves."

Total Sections Failed by Grade



"The numbers are definitely rising. More students have failed one or more classes the last quarter than previous years."

—Principal Mike Fugitt

Programs aim to help at-risk students

By Avery Askew

High school can be overwhelming, especially for freshmen, but several programs are trying to help.

"The school is willing to do as much as we can to help the freshmen start high school in a positive way," said Darlene Neiles, who helped with the new summer academy and is teaching the new freshmen foundations class this fall.

This summer, selected incoming freshmen had the opportunity start school off on the right foot by attending a four-week summer academy. As well as receiving \$100 for participating, students also receive an elective credit.

The summer program's main goals were to help students feel more comfortable when starting high school and to get students ready for the high school experience. The summer program spices up the summer in an educational way with many interesting activities. With museum visits, sports, kayaking, learning to live a healthy life style and listening to guest speakers, students stayed busy.

The new Freshmen Foundations class is another offering this fall. Students are able to get a head start on planning their futures, learn good study habits, and get involved.

"The class was a pilot

project for us to see if we could help students in a different format," guidance counselor Bobbi Brown said.

A third option that has been offered in the past to qualified students is the After School Program, which provides tutoring to students. With a waiting list, a student's best bet is to see a guidance counselor to discuss eligibility.

The students that participate in the After School Program and attend 100% of each session receive \$50 at the end of each month. Those students passing all of their classes for the quarter receive a \$10 bonus.

Down with the 'Lady' in Govs

A few decades ago, girls athletics in high schools throughout the country were just being established. To differentiate between the boys and girls teams, many schools added the word "Lady" to their existing male team name. Times have changed, and it's now time to get rid of that distinction.

With girls athletics being common now, no need exists to distinguish between male and female sports.

Let's break down the phrase "Lady Governor." The first word, lady, is defined as a woman who is virtuous, proper, refined, and associated with breeding and culture. This word does not represent athletes of the 21st century—male or female. On top of that, it is really more of a British term used to represent nobility. To treat males equally, we should re-

name our male teams the "Gentlemen Govs," which of course sounds utterly preposterous.

The second word, governor, is defined as the executive head of a state in the U.S. Never once does the dictionary say anything about the governor being male or female. If we elect a female governor in this state, are we going to call her "Lady Governor"? Of course not. Why, then, should our female teams have to be named "Lady Governors"?

We're not alone in this problem. Many schools throughout the nation just throw the word "Lady" in front of the team name even if it makes absolutely no sense. Take, for example, the following oxymorons: Lady Knights of Sioux Falls, SD; Lady Kings of Springfield, IL; Lady Bucks of Lynchburg,



TN; Lady Governors of Pierre, SD.

When these schools chose their team names, female athletics were not around. To compensate for the female team, many added "lady" instead of giving them a whole new name or just taking the name of the male team. Unfortunately this practice created ridiculous team names and promoted a separation in boys and girls athletics.

School policy tells

students to treat each other equally, putting aside race and gender, so why then do schools insist on making a distinction between male and female sports teams?

Our suggestion to end the segregation of names is simply to unify the school and do away with the "Lady" in Govs.

All athletic teams in Pierre should be "Governors," not just the male teams.

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THUMBS

...to getting to see relatives over the holidays
...to energetic fan base at state volleyball
...to tasty food from Grandma's house
...to youth helping with Christmas wishes
...to owning up in fantasy football
...to using "Merry Christmas," not "Happy Holidays"
...to ridiculously good-looking people
...to start of all winter sports
...to looking so much cooler online

...to excessive talking in Bio II
...to days getting colder and colder
...to stair laps in Recreational Activities
...to reading a good book and Hollywood ruining it
...to extra long walks from car to school during cold mornings
...to Angels stealing Torri Hunter
...to dysfunctional printing system in the school
...to your favorite stores selling everything hours before you're even out of bed

Hall Talk:

Should female athletic teams drop the 'Lady' in their titles and be known as 'Governors'?



"I think they should leave it up to the lady athletes and coaches."
— senior Drew Christensen



"I think they should keep the 'Lady' in Govs because it better represents the girls' teams."
— senior Mariah Langager



"They should keep it because it helps you distinguish the better half."
— junior Mark Koch



"I think keeping the 'Lady' is a good idea because it individualizes the genders."
— senior Mary Spears

Feast your ears on new tunes

As mother winter breathes her chill on our tow, and refuses to bring snow, the human population becomes mildly depressed. This type of depression can be cured instantly by a Christmas party.

The perfect Christmas party is not one where they play Christmas music, despite popular adult belief. A good Christmas party has the perfect combination of eggnog and music.

Belle and Sebastian

Belle and Sebastian are an indie pop group formed in Glasgow, Scotland in 1996. They

never had a large amount of commercial success, but I know they can win your heart. Their lyrics are sometimes



Annie Beck

strange, and they're often compared to their predecessors The Smiths, but their style is a lot more poppy.

They're an instant mood elevator at any party or just in your car on a bad day.

Buy these al-

bums: The Boy with the Arab Strap, Tigermilk, The Life Pursuit.

Download these songs: The Boy with the Arab Strap, Funny Little Frog, She's Losing It, It's a Sunny Day.

The Black Keys

The Black Keys are a whole lotta blues and rock and roll. This two-piece band of brothers makes instant rock history. Each of their albums from the very beginning is solid rock and roll from start to finish.

You really can't go wrong with any of their albums, except for Magic Po-

tion, and even that has some quality jams. Your first purchase should be Rubber Factory; no music collection is complete without it.

They're comparable to the White Stripes, except they're fronted by deep bluesy vocals.

The Black Keys are the perfect background music for a laidback but fun Christmas party.

Purchase: Rubber Factory, The Big Come Up, Thickfreakness.

Download: Just Couldn't Tie Me Down, You're the One, When the Lights Go Out, Act Nice and Gentle.

Make exercise your winter priority

We have all heard that we should make exercise a priority in our lives, but how many of us actually exercise adequately?

We have listed several types of exercise that build strength for everyone's body.

Stretching: a necessary use of five to ten minutes before a workout. This is probably the only way to achieve and maintain flexibility. Even if you don't plan on exercising, stretching is still a good idea each day, for it enhances

physical and mental relaxation.

Walking: probably the simplest of exercises, for it only requires you and some shoes.

Walking indoors on a treadmill is fine, but try

taking a stroll in the great outdoors. The fresh air has the ability to keep continuous motivation for you.

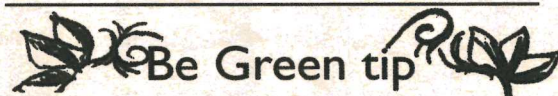
Biking: if you're going for covering a large number of miles in one day, bicycling may be your new best friend. It works the main muscles of the

lower body and increases strength and endurance. Don't push yourself too hard at first when getting into biking--with this exercise, you must increase gradually.

Running comes with endless benefits, including warding off osteoporosis, strengthening bones, building cardiovascular

health, and toning about every muscle.

In high school, when exercise and other physical activities are at only an arm's length away and our bodies are still young, it is easy to maintain a healthy weight. However, it is never too late to start working toward creating a healthy body for ourselves.



By Bre Costello

Turn off the power. The humming sound of the TV as you sleep is not that pleasant and definitely not green. Turn off all TVs and lights before you go

to school. This will save immense energy and money. Small appliance like the toaster and coffee machine should be unplugged when not in use. Ladies, this goes for the flat iron too, Unplug it!

Catch these flicks

Mad Cab drivers (Uggh), impossible salesmen, and obnoxious passengers are a few things Neal Page endures while traveling home for the holidays. "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles" stars comedic moguls Steve Martin and John Candy.

Just about every travel disaster imaginable happens on this journey.

Neal Page (Steve Martin), a man of business, is finally coming home. He meets Del Griffith (John Candy), an overtalkative jolly man. While their flight is grounded, the two join forces and get the last hotel room in Omaha and, of course, the room only has one bed.

After more comic relief, our favorite part of the mov-



Katie Lingle, Jenna Chalcraft, Matt Beckwith

ie happens. The destined inseparable pair rent a car.

Del, just having a good time driving and jamming to jazz music, throws a cigarette out the window, and it flies back into the car's backseat, starting the car ablaze, a silly situation that we would never consider happening but strangely could happen.

The question is this: Will Steve ever make it home for Thanksgiving? This unforgettable holi-

day treat will give anyone a good belly ache (and this time not from too much Christmas ham).

You've heard the saying "when pigs fly," but what about "when chickens fly"?

Well, in the movie "Chicken Run, you're in for a treat because in this action-packed claymation comedy, you'll see more chickens fly than ever before!

The chickens on a chicken farm in this movie are going to be made into pies! Chicken pies!

And they need to escape by flying over the fence before they have to move to a highly unpleasant veggie-filled gravy doom!

Will they be able to make it in time? Find out for yourself.

Ten breaded and deep-fat fried chicken fingers up!

Beating the Winter Blues

It feels as if winter is here so, here are some things to do when it is too cold to be outside.

Rent movies! Cuddle up with some of your favorite flicks and completely veg out. It's so relaxing to just lie around all day and catch up on the films I haven't seen yet.

Rawlins Library has some great movies, and if you have a library card, they are free to check out.

Another wonderful thing to do during the win-



Ali Burchill

ter season is get a group of friends together and go to the YMCA. You can play basketball, racquetball, or even go swimming. Along with

those activities, you could get involved in school activities. Winter is the season for basketball games, hockey games, wrestling matches, and gymnastics meets. All of these events are fun to watch and the players enjoy your support. If you get involved in school, the winter months will go by faster.

Since there isn't any snow yet, hopefully these ideas will help you so you don't get too bored this winter.

Cause: you broke the law with underage consumption

Effects:

1. Police find out you are around alcohol. You are administered a PBT (Preliminary Breath Test).
2. Then police officers handcuff you and take you to their police car.
3. They then proceed to the police station where your parents/guardians are called and then have to come to the police station where you are released.
4. The police then write a police report about how they came about your situation, and then they report on how you respond to their directions.
5. These police reports are then sent to the school and to the states attorney.
6. The states attorney then decides if you are going to go through Central Teen Court or Circuit Court.
7. If you go to Teen Court, then you have a peer attorney, and a panel of peer jurors decides your sentence, which you must successfully carry out in a prescribed time period.
8. Circuit Court is a different process where a judge decides a sentence for the defendant. Either way, whatever sentence you get, the defendant must complete it in a prearranged time frame.



By Andrea Beck

Teenagers have been pounding beers for centuries. Three out of every four high school students con-

sume alcohol before they graduate. Some of them are drinking themselves silly, and most often they don't realize the impact it can have.

Sometimes they are even victim to alcohol poisoning as they hang their heads over a toilet seat. In worse scenarios, they end up in a smashed up car in a ditch, injured or even killed. It's no secret that teenagers are drinking, and it's not news to them that drinking can be deadly, but it's quite unlikely that they'll stop anytime soon. Knowledge is undeniably the best solution to any problem, and the more that youth is educated about alcohol, hopefully the less society will have to worry about underage consumption.

Teenage Temptations

The average girl uses alcohol by age 13 and boys by 11, according to the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information. Most often, they have been drilled with the dangers of drinking, and alcohol is the forbidden fruit. Everyone knows that people always want what they can't have, and the underdeveloped teenage brain bites the bait. They have no idea what to expect when they begin drinking, and they're clueless regarding how

TEENAGE DRINKING

Underage and under

Teen drinking exacts pri

much they can drink. This almost always ends up ugly, whether they get caught or slip under the radar. The majority of important life lessons

are taught to teens by their parents, and responsible drinking is among the most

important. The United States enforces the strictest of drinking laws, but they also deal with the most under-

Busted

derage drinking problems. For those who don't exactly slip under the radar, all is not lost. The Teen Court program offers an alternative to the slap-on-the-wrist style of formal court. Teen Court not only ensures a clear criminal record but a learning experience for anyone willing to make a change. Teen Court is a diversion program offered mainly to first-time offenders ages 10-18. The defendant receives a sentence from a jury of their peers including Teen Court volunteers and returning defendants.

"A lot of people think that Teen Court is an easy way out, but it is in most ways harsher than formal court. Teen Court holds you accountable for your offense and helps you learn a lesson. It is a good place for someone who wants to make a change," said senior and four-year member of Teen Court Jessica Jones.

The Teen Court can be completely effective if the defendant has an open mind and

willingness to learn. The defendant's sentence is tailored to his or her specific needs, and often is more difficult and time consuming than a formal court sentence would have been. Most participants do not return, but when they do, their previous offense is addressed. The Court asks the defendant what they think would be more effective punishment and works towards the program's ultimate goal: to help its participants.

Setting an Example

The program not only helps its participants but also gives its volunteers a sense of pride about the work they do.

"It holds you to a higher standard. You know you just can't participate in things like that. If you're going to explain to people that they shouldn't do things, then you shouldn't," said Jones on how the program has impacted her.

When they are surrounded by 30 of their intoxicated peers, often times teens don't think about their fifth grade DARE education. But what's important for teens to know is that their actions do have consequences.

"The best thing to do is consider the consequences and find a better alternative. I know a lot of drinking goes on, but there are better things to do," said senior Robert Nagle.



arrest: ice in court, school

Not only does the offender suffer the consequences, but also family and adult figures in his or her life feel the repercussions of the poor choices. An underage consumption affects participation in any programs a teen is involved with and lands the offender with a whole bunch of community service hours.

Not all students succumb to the pressures to drink. Many students have higher priorities and reputations as role models to uphold.

"I don't want anything to cloud my mind about what's really going on in the world. I also feel I have an obligation to be a role model to my little sister and the junior high youth group at my church," said senior John Reiser when asked his motives for not drinking.

Abstaining from drinking gives teens a feeling of satisfaction about not conforming or giving into peer pressure.

Junior Sydney Thompson doesn't see the current drinking age as a punishment or restriction but rather a rite of passage.

"I would say it's a pretty big problem in Pierre. I think that since people are bored, they go out and drink to have fun. I don't drink because I know that since it's not legal for me to drink I would get in trouble, and plus my body wouldn't

hold up -- I'm only 100 lbs. I want to wait until I'm 21 so that it's something special; it's something I have to look forward to," Thompson said.

School Rules

Winter sports also are a common reason for not drinking. On a first offense, an athlete will be required to sit out 25 percent of the season. On the second the athlete lose eligibility for 50 percent of the season and must participate in a counseling program at his or her expense. The third offense requires sitting out 75 percent of the season plus counseling, and

the fourth offense loses eligibility for the remainder of the high school career.

"The reason I don't drink is because I play hockey, and I don't want to jeopardize my senior hockey season just to get drunk," said senior Alexander Roberts.

Think and Drive

There will always be teens who drink, although the numbers are slowly dropping. Most importantly, if teens are going to drink, it is crucial that they don't get behind the wheel. There were 16,885 alcohol-related traffic fatalities in 2005, according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Every death and injury caused by drunk driving can be prevented; it's just up to the driver to make the right choice. Driving while intoxicated is not only dangerous for the driver but selfish because it puts other drivers at risk. A drunk driver can tragically affect its victim's family for the rest of their lives.

Drinking is something that requires a lot of responsibility no matter what the age, and a second thought can make a world of difference.



Blood Alcohol Content

Female

Weight: 130 lb

BAC After:

One Drink: .0231%
Two Drinks: .0583%
Three Drinks: .0935%
Four Drinks: .1167%
Five Drinks: .1519%
Six Drinks: .1871%
Seven Drinks: .2223%
Eight Drinks: .2575%
Nine Drinks: .2806%



Male

Weight: 170 lb

BAC After:

One Drink: .0107%
Two Drinks: .0334%
Three Drinks: .0561%
Four Drinks: .0789%
Five Drinks: .0896%
Six Drinks: .1123%
Seven Drinks: .1351%
Eight Drinks: .1578%
Nine Drinks: .1805%

Blood Alcohol Content: How does it feel?

Euphoria: BAC=.03 to .12%

Might experience an overall improvement of mood, shortened attention span, and loss of fine motor skills.

Lethargy: BAC=.09 to .25%

May become sleepy, body movements uncoordinated, blurry vision.

Confusion: BAC=.18 to .30%

Profound confusion, dizziness, awareness is impaired. Nausea and vomiting sometimes occur.

Stupor: BAC=.25 to .40%

Movement severely impaired, lapses in and out of consciousness. Can slip into a coma and will be completely unaware of what is happening. Risk of death is high because of alcohol poisoning and/or pulmonary aspiration of vomit while sleeping.

Coma: BAC=.35 to .5%

Unconsciousness sets in, and reflexes are depressed. Breathing is slower and more shallow. Heart rate drops, and death usually occurs at levels in this range.

Death: BAC= more than .50%

Can cause central nervous system to fail, resulting in death.

Farris on course to fulfill hockey dreams

By Brian Chicoine

From a four-year-old learning to skate to playing in the United States Hockey League (USHL), former Riggs student Matt Farris is finally starting to get used to life in the limelight.

Farris remembers when he first decided he wanted to play hockey.

"One day I was at the outdoor skating rink down by the softball fields with my dad, and I saw some kids playing hockey. It looked like fun, so I decided to try it out. I've been in love with it ever since."

For most of his life, Matt has lived in Pierre. He grew up going to McKinley Elementary and just last year was walking around these halls alongside most of us.

After making

the Stampede roster this summer, Farris had to make the decision to transfer to Roosevelt High School in Sioux Falls and live with a host family.

Farris has worked hard and earned his playing time, scoring four points in just eight games. He credits most of his success to his parents Jon and Michelle Farris.

"My parents were always there for me, pushing me to be my best. They drove me across the country so I could play. My dad, especially as a coach in my younger years, pushed me to excel," Farris said.

Since Matt's parents still live in Pierre, Matt lives with a host family in Sioux Falls.

"It's nice to have a person that has the same life and the

same interests that we do. He's very helpful around the house, loves hunting and he's a very good influence on our younger son," host father Todd Shuman says.

Waking up at 6:30 a.m. every day, Farris goes to school from 8:10 to 12:12. After school, he is usually at the rink by 1:00 p.m. for practice from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and on Mondays and Wednesdays, the team lifts from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m..

After completing the hockey work, he still has to do some homework and get some sleep.

Working hard is one thing that Farris has never had any trouble with.

"He has always had the competitive nature and work ethic. I can think back when he was two, and he was out in

the yard working on his throwing for baseball, almost like he had to perfect it," his mother Michelle remembers.

Farris perfected his hockey skills through the Oahe Hockey Association, playing varsity hockey for three years before leaving for the Stampede.

"He was very coachable, worked very hard, and he got what he deserved. I wasn't surprised when he made the team this year," former coach Rob Kittay of the Pierre Capitals said.

With the hard work and dedication that he has shown throughout his life, it is no wonder Farris is getting the chance to play at that level with hopes of eventually playing in the NHL.

And yes, ladies, he is still single.



courtesy photo

Senior Matt Farris is chasing his NHL dreams by playing with the Sioux Falls Stampede this year.

Columnists rank top five concession stands

High school basketball games are quite the experience, including half-time shows, 3 point contests, pep band, raffles, and the concession stand. The concession stand is a place where you get your supper for most Friday and Saturdays nights. The regular workers consist of teachers from the school with their homeroom students. The basics for food are hot dogs, pop, and popcorn. Now we are going to tell you what places go above and beyond your dining expectations.

We will not rank our own concession stand due to hometown bias. Our concession stand



Drew Christensen and Taylor Becker

has Dominoes Pizza, pop, popcorn, hot dogs, Gatorade, and candy. We may not always offer the greatest variety of food, but you get great service from the people who are working. Our prices are very affordable compared to the other schools. Here's our top five list:

#1 Mitchell--The top-ranked concession stand in the state belongs to the Mitchell

Kernels. This place has it all. The Corn Palace has corn dogs, pizza, chips, Iced's, slushies, and Dip-n-Dots. The fan favorite though is the popcorn ball, perfectly crafted with the exact amount of tenderness, not too hard and not too soft. They also have scoreboards and TV's at the concession stand so you can keep track of the game at all times.

#2 Aberdeen--The Golden Eagles concession stand gets second place on our list. They have walking tacos, grilled chicken sandwiches, buttered popcorn, and big frankfurters aka Eagle Dogs. Plus, when you go to

the stand, you don't miss any of the action in the game because they have TV's with the game going on next to the concession stand. The menu is enormous, offering fare found in no other concession stand in the state.

#3 Rapid City Civic Center--This will be the site for the boys and girls State AA 2008 Basketball Tournaments. The state tournament location ranks in the middle of our list because of the high prices. It has a great variety of foods from Dip-n-Dots, snow cones, and hand dipped ice cream to nachos, pretzels, and mini

corn dogs. Some of the food can be hard to find, however, because it is sold by vendors located throughout the arena and on different levels.

#4 Huron--At number four on our list, Huron offers nothing innovative but excels in the food it does provide. Huron has a wide assortment of Gatorades, not just the regular reds and blues that you find at most concession stands. They also have excellent nachos and large Grandma's cookies for 50 cents. The thing that sets Huron apart is that they have the most concession stands in the state.

#5 Watertown--Holding down the bottom of our top five list is Watertown. These guys have the basics but go above and beyond for desserts. Watertown features the best mobile dessert you can buy, The Choco Taco. This creation consists of a chocolate covered waffle cone in the shape of a taco shell. It is filled with vanilla ice cream topped with chocolate syrup and crushed nuts. For this reason alone, it makes the top 5.

Now with a vast knowledge of concession stands go see how our ranking stand against your own.

Volleyball team comes close to undefeated season

By Sigrid Wald

"This is the best volleyball team that Pierre has ever had," athletic director Mike Stroup said Sunday afternoon at the welcome home celebration held for the girls volleyball team.

Pierre vs. Huron

The girls entered the tournament with an undefeated season, but without the win against Huron the highest the team could have been placed was fifth so it was a very important game to the girls.

"The Thursday night game was the most nerve racking. There was a lot of intensity," senior Polly Gill said.

The team went into the Thursday night game with high hopes. They wanted a strong win so that the momentum would carry on into the next game.

"It was a new environment that the girls had to get used to. But even though it was loud in there playing between two different games, I think the girls were somewhat used to it. With the great season that we had, they started to attract a big audience, which helped them in the long run," volleyball coach Kacy Keinholtz said.

"Not only were the nerves getting to us, but it took a lot to get used to all of the distractions," senior Gina Geffre said.

Even though the crowds that the girls would bring to the Pierre games were

huge, playing between both the A and B teams was still a hurdle that the team had to get across.

"It was weird because most of the A and B teams pretty much had their whole town there to support them. You would hear the screaming coming from the other teams, and you just had to get used to having to concentrate on your own game and not think about everything going on around you," junior Steph Paluch said. "We just got this burst of energy right before the game and won. It was awesome that through the nerves and everything going on around us, we beat the tough Tiger team!"

In the end, the Lady Governors came out on top winning 3-0. The 3-0 score might say that the girls dominated, but the games were a lot closer than it appears. The game scores consisted of 25-21, 25-15, and 25-12, taking the girls to the next level, the semi finals.

Semi Finals

Friday night's game against Roosevelt brought even more nerves as the ladies were one step closer to the championship game.

"Oh my goodness! I was scared to death!" Paluch said. "We had never played them, so it was kind of unknown territory."

"I think getting beat the first game challenged the girls to step it up. It was exciting to play a Sioux Falls school. We really want-

ed to beat them, especially knowing that there were a ton of people who still believed that we did not deserve to be rated number one. It is the idea people put across that belonging to a bigger school and living in a bigger city should make your team better. Pierre was a good team, and I think it opened a few eyes," Keinholtz said.

"There were Sioux Falls writers saying that we weren't as good of a team as what our rating showed because we hadn't played a Sioux Falls team. But we had beat teams that Sioux Falls had lost too.

It was an accomplishment in itself to win the game against Roosevelt. We kind of proved ourselves that night. Many people still wondered if we should have been where we were. We played with our hearts and came out strong," senior Bethany Goeden said.

"People were like 'They're going to choke,' but we proved that we were a good team," said Gill. "That game was almost like winning a championship game right there."

The match went into five games, with the team winning 3-2. Governors lost the first game 21-25, bringing the stakes up. Pierre retaliated by winning two games in a row with a score of 25-15 and 25-18.

The next game brought a twelve-point loss to the girls with a score of 13-25. Seeing that the match could go either way,

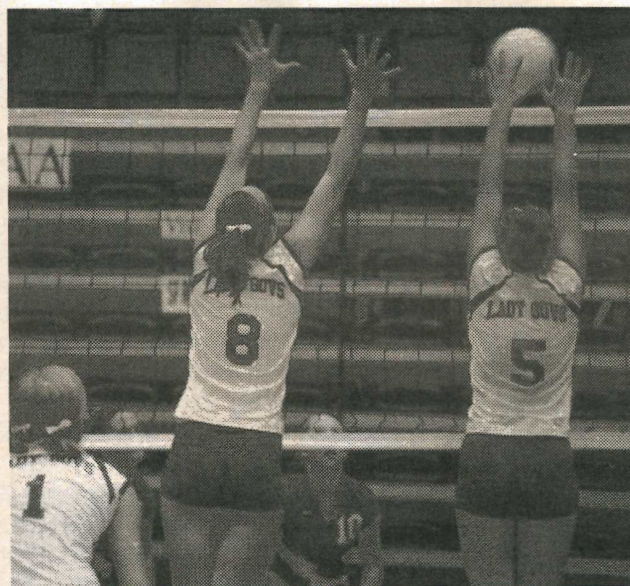


Photo by Sigrid Wald

Senior Bethany Goeden watches as junior Steph Paluch and sophomore Amanda Stout block the opponents return.

the girls came back hard, fighting for a close game of 17-15.

Winning semi finals against Roosevelt kept their undefeated season going.

State Finals

Pierre went into finals preparing to play against RC Stevens.

"Getting to the finals undefeated was a big accomplishment. And we showed a lot of heart throughout the whole tournament," said Keinholtz.

Walking into the stadium, the team did not know what to expect.

"We had no clue who would win. We were hoping for the best, but we were not cocky or overconfident," said Gill.

The match could go either way.

"The team went out there ready to win, but after the first two wins, the team started playing a little safer," said Keinholtz.

"We played to win,

and then the last three games, we started playing not to lose," Gill said.

The other team had different strategies as well.

Not only did they rotate more but their speed and height helped Rapid as well.

"We came out playing hard, and after the first two games, we thought we had it in the bag. We just let down, and they picked it up. They were not really like any other team that we played. Everyone was so quick. Our blockers had to get used to that, and I think our front row was getting a little tired.

The thing that is still weird to me is that we have gone into five games before, but we have always pulled it out. It was like 'We've done this before'. So when we totally came back and tied it up from 9-14, I really thought we could get it. We went five straight points

without letting them score! Thinking back on it now, I think that is really good. Not only that but we didn't get rocked in three games, and honestly that shows a lot too," said Geffre.

"Most the game is a blur now but on that last play the girl on the other team was going up and I could see that it was a perfect shot and all I remember thinking was 'Crap! Hit the net, please!' It was a hard loss but you just have to look at the positives that we had like our amazing season!" Geffre added.

In the end the points turned out to be a two-win lead for Pierre at the beginning with a 25-24 and 25-14. RC Stevens came back with the next two wins, tying up the score with a 13-25 and a 15-25 game. With the match going either way, RC Stevens took the game 14-16.

"I would just like to thank everyone for their support and all cheering from our peers and the school. It makes it so much better to see all the support we had with us. It was a good experience for me, and I was glad to be apart of it," Keinholtz said.

Volleyball grew within the school this year with the almost undefeated season.

"It was great to bring volleyball to Pierre and having so many first. Not only that but working with the team and coaches. They were all great," said Paluch.

"We made history right there," said Gill, "I just loved it."

Debate returns after 20-year absence

By Jesse Willard

Former graduates are teaching life skills to students, as a new program is off to a good start. After an absence of more than twenty years, high school debate has returned. English teacher Linda Aaker is leading the program. Wade Pogany, Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the State Department of Education, is assisting her. Pogany was a former debater. Aaker has no prior debate experience except that her son debated. The funds to get the program started were provided by a grant from the Pierre Educational Foundation. Donations left over from the high school amphitheatre project are also being used. With the help of those funds, senior Heidy Li traveled to Aberdeen on November 10 to participate in the Aberdeen Golden Eagle Cup, where she competed in three rounds of competition, winning one. Li, who came to America as a young child, says she wanted to participate in debate as a way to improve her English and become more comfortable speaking in public. Four other students traveled to observe the event, and Aaker expects more students to participate as the program gets more recognition. She said that organizers are still looking for participants, and interested students are encouraged to contact her. In Aberdeen, teams debated the topic, "In the United States, plea bargaining in exchange for testimony is unjust." The team will travel to Brookings on December 14 and 15. The topic for

this debate will be that "the US is justified in using military options against Iran." "Getting a program started from scratch has been a challenge but productive so far," Aaker says. She credits former Riggs High School debaters and other community members for helping with the training. There are two basic forms of competitive debate: the Lincoln-Douglas debate format, with one person per team, and a public forum debate, where teams advocate or reject a position posed by a resolution. Debate gives participants the chance to improve their public speaking, present an argument persuasively, organize their thoughts and gain familiarity with current issues. All of these skills are quite useful for the future.

ing a different theme to it. "One More Angel in Heaven" has more of a western feel while "Benjamin Calypso" has a Hawaiian flow to it. Cast members have been practicing almost daily to polish and perfect the dances that they have been taught by the choreographer Deb Workman. "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat" shows December 3, 4, and 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Riggs Theatre. Admission is \$4 for students and \$5 for adults, but to save a little money, activity tickets will be accepted. The play is directed by chorus instructor Will Hanson, band instructor Larry Johnson and drama teacher Hyrma Zakahi. So to stay away from the cold weather during these next few nights, warm up in a nice comfortable chair in the theatre and watch a good play.

Musical retells Bible story

By Morgan Finley

With cold weather creeping in, it might be just the right time to catch a good play. Instead of freezing out in the snow, come over to the Riggs Theatre and see the drama department's upcoming production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat." It might just be right up your alley. Based on an Old Testament biblical tale, "Joseph" is about a boy with prophetic dreams who is sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. After he is sold into slavery, he is taken to Egypt where he stays for years. A series of adventures challenges Joseph's spirit. Eventually his brothers, having suffered greatly from long years of drought, find themselves groveling at the feet of an unrecognizable Joseph, who does not reveal

his identity until he tests their integrity. Joseph later reveals himself, leading to a heartfelt reconciliation between the "Sons of Israel." "After countless hours of hard work, the production is finally coming together. We've had a lot of fun putting the play together, and everyone who comes will have a blast watching it. I definitely recommend coming out to the show. We would love to have your support," senior Anthony Hunt said. Hunt, who will be playing the role of Joseph, and senior Tawny Maszk, who plays the narrator, put their strong voices together to make the production a must-see. The play consists of eighteen different songs, some made up of solos. Junior Dan Fry, senior Tanner Wald, and junior Jeremy Marsh all sing different solos within the play with each song hav-

ing a different theme to it. "One More Angel in Heaven" has more of a western feel while "Benjamin Calypso" has a Hawaiian flow to it. Cast members have been practicing almost daily to polish and perfect the dances that they have been taught by the choreographer Deb Workman. "Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat" shows December 3, 4, and 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Riggs Theatre. Admission is \$4 for students and \$5 for adults, but to save a little money, activity tickets will be accepted. The play is directed by chorus instructor Will Hanson, band instructor Larry Johnson and drama teacher Hyrma Zakahi. So to stay away from the cold weather during these next few nights, warm up in a nice comfortable chair in the theatre and watch a good play.

In your face

Meet the head coach

Kacy Kienholz

varsity volleyball



- Kacy Kienholz**
- ♦Kacy Kienholz
 - ♦Married 7 years
 - ♦husband Peter Kienholz
 - ♦three children: 5 years old, 3 years old, and 7 months old
 - ♦Graduated from O'Neill, Public School, O'Neill, NE
 - ♦Bachelor's Degree from Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall, MN

- Q What did you do differently this year as opposed to last year?**
- A** Last year we instilled their confidence and skill and just a continuation of last year.
- Q What is the best and worst part about being the varsity volleyball coach?**
- A** The best part is being able to work with the girls this year and working with the team and athletes, and the hardest part is taking time from family.
- Q Would you have changed anything this season?**
- A** I think we were successful. Looking back, there wasn't a whole lot that I could have changed. I think everything we did worked until the State Championship.
- Q Why do you think this season turned out so well?**
- A** It was due to the girls we had to play. They worked hard in practice every day, and their heart and commitment to the program made it successful.
- Q Did you play volleyball when you were younger? Why did you become a volleyball coach?**
- A** I started playing in fourth grade and continued through college. When I moved to Pierre, I coached at the club program.