

G T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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Discovery Center will hold 'Discover Engineering'

By Timmi Lunsford

Remember making the trek to the Discovery Center in grade school just to take apart electronics and watch kids' hair stand on end with static electricity?

If it's been a few years since venturing to the big building on the river, it's time to check out some fantastic summer programs for high school students.

First up is Expand-

ing Your Horizons on April 27 at the Ramkota. The day-long program brings together



Photo by Kelsey Curtis

The Discovery Center, along with the South Dakota School of Mines, will be hosting Discover Engineering for the first time.

middle and high school girls from central South Dakota for a day of math, engineering, and science programs.

The hands-on conference includes presentations and workshops in technology and science careers.

The goal is to open the doors to fields not traditionally sought by girls as a career choice. Registration is through the Discovery Center.

Later this summer there will be a unique, first-ever university experience for high school students in this area. The South Dakota

School of Mines and Technology is partnering with the South Dakota Discovery Center to offer "Discover Engineering" academies.

Professor Brian Hemmelman will teach a week of hands-on engineering, exploring robotics, sensors, electronics, solar ovens, structure measurement, and electrocardiograms.

Professional engineers will be present each day to speak to students about careers in engineering. As part of the academy, students will go to the SDSM&T campus

to meet faculty, tour the campus, and experiment in labs.

The camp for male students is July 12-17 at Capital University Center. The engineering academy for girls is June 14-19 at CUC.

Students going into the 8th grade through this spring's graduates are eligible.

The cost of the academy is \$275. Scholarships based on good academic performance or financial need are available.

To register, go to www.sdsmt.edu/learn or call Kristie Maher at the Discovery Center for more information.

Annual Latin Banquet to take place tomorrow

By Jared Holzhauser

Another rite of spring will take place tomorrow as the Latin Club will host its annual banquet at the middle school. To be appropriately dressed, attendees will don their togas.

"I headed it [a Latin banquet] up when I was a sophomore or junior in high school [at Mobridge], and it just kept on going," Latin teacher Jay Mickelson said. The banquet in Pierre has been an annual event since 1974.

Mickelson, currently the only Latin teacher in the state, holds the banquet each year to celebrate over 2,000 years of Roman culture. Almost every Latin student, along

with his or her family, attends the dinner.

Between 150 and 250 people attend the banquet each year, making it the Latin Club's biggest event.

The meal begins at the Capitol rotunda with deviled eggs

"The best thing is the food and togas because you have room for your belly to expand."
—Junior Kayla Pochop

and ends hours later at the middle school with apples, according to Roman tradition.

"My favorite part is the song that Mickelson sings at the end," says senior Graham Schuetzle, that, and watching all the parents wear to-

gas with kids who wear boxers under their togas."

The togas aren't the only favorite; most people agree that the food takes first place.

The menu has been in place since 1964 when, as a high school student, Mickelson researched one of Nero's fancy banquets. "That's where I got the menu," Mickelson said.

The food is probably the most important highlight of the evening. The eight courses

include ham, chicken, pork, cake, and sorbet.

"[My favorite dish is] the pork," says junior Drake Hagen.

"The best thing is the food and togas because you have room for your belly to expand," junior Kayla Pochop, a third-year Latin student, said.

Much of the food for the banquet is prepared the day before the meal by students and parents.

Dakota Mart usually takes care of the pork, but in past years students have roasted and served whole pigs.

"In 1974, we had the first Latin banquet, featuring sixty students and parents in Roman togas, dining on a pig I had butchered," Mickelson said.

Last year, juniors Jacob Wagoner and Ryan Johnson held an eating contest, with Johnson winning by an entire course.

"It was funny to watch them eat until they filled out their togas," Hagen remembers. Perhaps an eating rematch is in order!

'Imperfections' are mostly misconception

With summer finally approaching and warm weather already on the way, the rush for the perfect summer look begins. To some people, it starts with fifteen hours a day of tanning and a fresh coating of bleach in their already damaged hair.

To others, it's the battle of the bulge and endless hours at the gym. Why, though? To look hot? What exactly is "hot?" Is it the six-pack abs and thighs you can almost see through? Is it the ripped biceps and calves you could cut yourself on?

Well...kind of, but that's only one kind of beauty. Beauty is so many different things to so many different people. "Pretty" doesn't have to mean tan and skinny.

"Hot" doesn't have to mean a chiseled jaw and a rockin' bod. Pale is gorgeous. (DayGlo orange was never meant to be a skin color, anyways.) Real bodies are attractive. Pudgy face? Adorable. Extra weight? Work it.

"Hot" is knowing what you've got – and loving all of it anyway. Flaws aren't necessarily flaws; most models these days have something weird about them that makes them the new It Girl/Guy. The most sought-after models are the ones that look unique and don't blend in with the rest of the crowd.

Tyra Banks has a huge forehead and she's gorgeous. She knows it, loves it and flaunts it, which makes

her all the more beautiful. Maybe it's the imperfections that make people so attractive.

This summer go for

a crazy new look: be natural, be yourself, and don't let anybody tell you it's not the hottest thing around.



Skylar & Josh :)

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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.



...to Spring Surprise Week
...to Powerthirst! YouTube it if you haven't seen it yet.
...to rap songs featuring Lil Wayne
...to irony
...to "New In Town" by Little Boots
...to gorgeous weather FINALLY!
...to hide-and-go-seek teams despite a few whiners/cheaters
...to awesome haircuts...(Mel Leveque)
...to shirtless tennis players...(Mel Leveque)
...to a fast recovery for Mrs. Cummings
...to Iron Man 2 coming out soon

...to nice weather having taken so long to get here
...to airing out dirty laundry on Facebook
...to lying/cheating celeb husbands
...to Layne being gone when the paper is coming out
...to yucky textures
...to stealing stuff from the locker rooms
...to pessimists
...to Ronald McDonald getting stolen
...to uber tans making girls look like traffic cones
...to not being able to find a good hiding spot in hide-and-go-seek
...to the guy that stole tacos at TJ's

Hall Talk:

What is your favorite spring sport? Why?



"Tennis because it's fun to watch."
–Trey Maier,
freshman



"Tennis because I'm a stud at it."
–Jared Smith,
sophomore



"All of them because sports are the bomb."
–Taylor Miller,
junior



"Track because I like the uniforms."
–Kimura Mercer,
senior



'Moose call' brings shame

At times in life, we do extraordinary things where reflexes or instincts take over. Many of these moments are heroic and save lives. I had one of these moments, an uncontrollable action—but it wasn't exactly "heroic." It was more of a... distress call?

Whatever it was, it happened completely out of the blue and was completely uncalled for in every way possible.

I was slaving away at work, cleaning and scrubbing, minding my own business. It was almost time to close up for the night, so I assumed no one was in the unnamed shop. A certain ginger co-worker was standing near me, goofing off as always. Pretty average day.

But then something completely unexpected and horrible happened: something dripped on my face! SPLAT. I was absolutely mortified, and I unleashed a god-awful sound.

I can't quite describe how horrendous the sound was, but it was similar to the sound a moose might make when being rear-ended by a train at high speed. Or maybe the kind of sound a sumo wrestler MIGHT be able to produce—not something a teenager girl could generate.

I scared myself with the ear-splitting noise

that came from the depths of my body. Normally, this could have been funny experience that I could laugh at with my fellow workers later. Alas, it wasn't.

See, a few customers were still in the store, and they were now peering down the hall at me in "utter disgust" or maybe

"complete abhorrence." Therefore, I thought quickly and pointed to my red-headed co-worker (who was still in shock from the atrocious bellow) and hid behind a counter. The female customer eyeballed him, and the dude just kind of snarled.

Later, I was confronted about bringing moose-calls into work and using steroids. My poor co-worker still doesn't know exactly what happened. And I still have no clue what dripped on my face. The whole event was recorded on our security camera. My Life is Awkward.



Regan Duvall, Dacey Beck, Becky Plumage

MY AWKWARD LIFE

MY LIFE IS AVERAGE

Today at school I leaned back in my chair, and it made a farting noise. I casually did it again so everybody would know it was the chair. MLIA

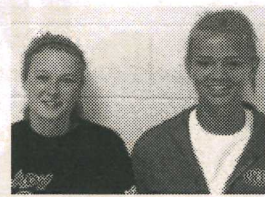
Kick off your spring playlist with Phoenix

Are you tired of the snow, freezing winds, and layers of warm clothing? With spring just around the corner, the upbeat, electric songs of the alt-rock band Phoenix are perfect to jump start the new season.

Phoenix is a French band that first debuted its unique sound in 2000. The band draws musical influences from '70s art-rock, '80s R&B, and synth-pop. The band is part of

a rare group of French performers that write and perform all their songs in English. In the first eight years of existence, the band put out several albums and collaborated with bands like Daft Punk and Air. Their latest album, Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix was released in May of last year. The album's first

buzzing singles, 1901 and Lisztomains, released in February of this year, have peaked



Molly Burke and Alexi Gusso
MUSIC, MEDIA AND MORE

on alternative billboard charts. The songs have also appeared on many commercials and movie trailers such as Where the Wild Things Are, Alice in Wonder-

land, and Valentines Day.

The band has performed live on Saturday Night Live, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, and The Late Show with David Letterman. Phoenix won a Grammy Award for Best Alternative Music Album on Jan. 31, 2010.

This band has the perfect mix of twinkling, carefree tunes and edgy lyrics ideal for beating the winter blues and easing into a breezy, summer mood.

Stuck with winter blues? Get outside!

Tired of those winter blues? Ready to break out of that shell and party like yo' mama taught ya? We bet you are, so get ready for spring.

It is getting nice, and everyone is sick of sitting inside all winter, so get up, get out, and get moving. You could go to the park with your hot friends, or you

could go frolicking or long-boarding down to the causeway and look at the view. Spring is a time to have totally awesome fun before summer starts, preparing you for the hot and



Charles Gageby and Morgan Finley
THE 411 ON EVERYTHING COOL

tennis or go to a track

sweaty summer days. It is also an awesome time to watch sports, so get out there and watch some

meet to support your school and its athletes.

Not feeling school when it's super nice out and you're crammed inside? Talk your teacher into having class at the amphitheatre so you can get some sun and procrastinate at the same time!

Happy Spring, everyone!

Treat spring fever with outdoor fun

Now that the sun is finally starting to shine again after five long months, everyone is becoming more upbeat. The temperature is rising slowly but surely, and the fresh smell of spring is in the air.

There are many things to look forward to this season with the matchmaker dance, prom, and best of all, only eight weeks left of school! Spring fever can be defined as a feeling

of restlessness, excitement, and high-energy spurts brought on by the coming of spring. It is much easier to stay active during the spring compared to winter because the body has been cooped up for far too long.

There are many choices of activities including rollerblading, bike riding, going for

walks, and many more. Participating in physical activity will release endorphins and make you in an overall better mood. The smell of blooming flowers and leaves



Michael Lindbloom and Laura Severyn
HEALTH BEAT

growing on the trees will surely put you in the right mindset as well. It can sometimes be

hard to participate in physical activity without the help of a friend, so encourage each other. Ask one of your buds to go for a walk on the bike path or go to the courts at Griffin and play tennis.

You will feel better and might even get a little tan if the sun happens to be shining.

Therefore, our best advice for you is to take advantage of the awesome weather, get outside, and do something!



TEENAGE DRINKING

Teen Dr in the US

Students should know underage consequences

By Sarah Moreno

When most teens think about underages, they think about police officers, handcuffs, and mad parents. These are all components and consequences of underage alcohol consumption, but many people forget how underages can affect every day life and activities.

When I received an underage last October, I was mainly concerned about how mad my dad would be and how long I would be grounded. I didn't even stop to think about how my life would change.

I knew that school wasn't

going to be too fun on the Monday following my underage weekend. I figured the whole student body would be talking about who all got busted and how much trouble everyone was in, but I was in for a rude awakening when I got called down to the Guidance Office.

Because I broke the law, I was informed that I could no longer be a part of the National Honor Society. This news really crushed me. I had completely forgotten about all of my after-school activities and how my underage would affect my standing in them.

Due to my underage, I

couldn't perform with the Pierrette Dance Team, an activity that I had been involved in all four years of high school. It was really hard because it was my senior year, my last year, and I couldn't even dance.

I also felt that I lost a lot of respect from people, especially adults. It probably surprised them that I would be the type of person who would go out and drink yet act so reformed and school. An underage is nothing to be proud of.

I was lucky enough to be 17 years old when I got my underage. I was able to participate in the Central South Da-

kota Teen Court program. Because of Teen Court, my underage does not appear on my permanent record.

Though I wish I never would have gotten an underage, it has taught me that I have to take responsibility for my actions. I've also learned that I need to be prepared for the consequences of my actions, even if I don't like the outcome.

One night of drinking and having fun isn't worth the cost of an underage. I wish more teens would think about their friends, family, and futures before they drank. I know I wish I did.

43%
of students grade 9-12
states have had at least one
alcohol on one or more days
the past 30 days

26%
had five or more drinks
a row (i.e. binge drinking)
30 days

74%
had at least one drink
one or more days during
the past 30 days

king

he United
e drink of
casions in

alcohol in
in the past

alcohol on
their life

Students in the
Pierre School
District charged
with underage
consumption
of alcohol from
June 2009 to
date:

29

28 attend Riggs
High School

One attends
Georgia Morse
Middle School

Getting Help

Al-Anon-Ala-
teen: 1 (888)
4AL-ANON

What is Teen Court?

Teen Court
offers a second chance to
juveniles who get in trouble with the
law.

It is a diversion
program
offered for
those ages 10-
18. When teens
get in trouble
with the law,
they receive a
sentence from
their peers.

Typical sentences
might include return-
ing to spend time on ju-
ries, community action
points, drug and alcohol
classes, and counseling.

The teens who vol-
unteer for Teen Court
go through training
and act as defense and
prosecuting attorneys,
bailiffs, and jurors.

Once juveniles com-
plete their court sen-
tences, they may chose
to come back as vol-
unteers if they wish.

Teen Court is based on restorative justice. The
focus isn't on punishment but on repairing the
harm that was caused.

Benefits:

++ no juvenile record

++ underages won't ruin
applications for jobs and
scholarships

++ peer sentence is more
meaningful

Columnists pick men's Final Four brackets

We are going to give you our Final Four picks, possible bracket busters, and some players to watch in this year's NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

East Regional-Watch for the Kentucky Wildcats (#1 seed in this region).

OPINION Freshmen **John Wall** (16.9 points per game) and **DeMarcus Cousins** (15.3 points per game, 10.1 rebounds per game) are already leaders in their first year. The West Virginia Mountaineers (#2 seed in this region) also feature some great players. Forwards **Da'Sean Butler** (17.4 points per game) and **Devin Ebanks** (11.8 points per game, 8.2 rebounds per game) carry this very

athletic Mountaineer team. A potential bracket buster in this region is the #6 Marquette Golden Eagles. Marquette has been playing well lately as they surprised a lot of people by taking second place at the

Big East Tournament last week. We like **West Virginia** to make it to the Final Four out of the East Regional.

Midwest Regional-The Kansas Jayhawks (#1 seed) go into this tournament as the top team in the nation. **Sherron Collins** (15.6 points per game), **Cole Aldrich** (11.2 points per game, 9.9 rebounds per game), and **Xavier Henry** (13.6 points per game) carry the load offensively for the Jay-

hawks. The Ohio State Buckeyes (#2 seed) feature **Evan Turner** (20.3 points per game, 9.2 rebounds per game) and the Georgetown Hoyas (#3 seed) have big man **Greg Monroe** (16.1 points per game, 9.5 rebounds per game) so watch for those two teams to make it a ways as well.

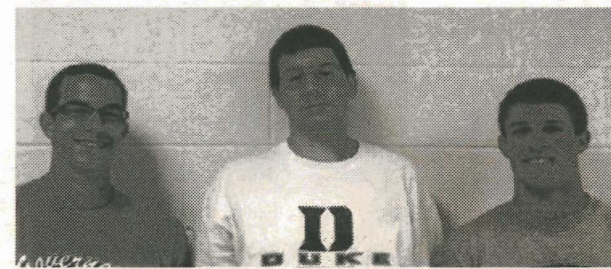
Houston (#13 seed) could be a bracket buster as they have the nation's leading scorer in **Aubrey Coleman** (25.6 points per game, 7.4 rebounds per game). We like **Kansas** to make it to the Final Four out of the Midwest Region.

South Regional-The Duke Blue Devils (#1 seed) have their 'Big 3' in **Nolan Smith** (17.3 points per game), **John**

Scheyer (18.6 points per game), and **Kyle Singler** (17.6 points per game). Duke is a threat because it is impossible to stop all three of the guys on a given night.

The Villanova Wildcats (#2 seed) have **Scottie Reynolds** (18.5 points per game) and the Siena Saints (#13 seed) could be the bracket buster in this region because they play a weak #4 seed in the Purdue Boilermakers in the first round. **Duke** is our team to make it to the Final Four out of the South Region.

West Regional-The Syracuse Orange (#1 seed) lost in the first round of the Big East Tournament but is still one of the best teams in this tournament. **Arin-**



Taylor Becker, Kyle Brees, Stephen Bollinger

ze Onuaku (10.5 points per game, 5.1 rebounds per game), **Wes Johnson** (16.0 points per game, 8.4 rebounds per game), and **Andy Rautins** (11.7 points per game) have the experience to take the Orange a long way. The Kansas State Wildcats (#2 seed) have been underrated all year, and they feature guards **Jacob Pullen** (18.9 points per game) and **Denis Clemente** (16.2 points per game). There are two

bracket busters in this region. The UTEP Miners (#12 seed) have won 16 games in a row with the help of **Randy Culpepper** (18.0 points per game). The Minnesota Golden Gophers (#11 seed) could also pull off some upsets. The Gophers have **Lawrence Westbrook** (12.6 points per game) and reserve **Colton Iverson** (5.0 points per game, 4.3 rebounds per game). **Syracuse** is our pick to win the West Regional.

Graham Schuetzle '10

How long have you been in basketball?

I've been playing football since I came out of the womb, but I've been playing varsity football for three years.

Are you going to continue football in college?

Possibly, but I might get into rugby at SDSU.

What awards have you received?

All-ESD Defensive Back junior and senior year, Top 10 All-Time Touchdowns in Governor history,



Best Offensive Back, Best Defensive Back, Defensive MVP, SD All-Star Game in June, Oahe Prep Bowl MVP, Athlete of the Week junior and senior year, and Player of the Game.

What is your favorite

memory from all the years of playing?

My first and last varsity football game in Brandon Valley.

What are you going to miss most about football at Riggs?

I'm going to miss hanging out with the guys and smelling my hands after wearing sweaty football gloves.

What advice do you have for upcoming players?

Don't sit on the sidelines during practice; get in and play!

Paige Burkett '10

How long have you been in basketball?

I've been playing since I was five.

Are you going to continue basketball in college?

I'm undecided right now.

What awards have you received?

[Lady Gavs] haven't had the banquet yet, but in the past I've won MVP, Most Inspirational, Most Points, Most Steals, Most Assists, Gatorade's Will to Win, and this year All-ESD First Team.



What is your favorite memory from all the years of playing?

Probably beating Watertown at state to get into the championship game my sophomore year...just any time the whole team

got together because something funny would always happen.

What are you going to miss most about basketball at Riggs?

Hanging out with the team all the time and becoming friends with the underclassmen.

What advice do you have for upcoming players?

Work hard every day in practice. The off-season is when you need to get better, not when the season starts.



Track and field, tennis seasons off to good start

By Regan Duvall

Over 80 students have been running up to nine miles a day to prepare for the tomorrow's track Al Sahli season opener in Aberdeen.

"We are very excited about the upcoming track and field season. Both our girls' and boys' numbers are up, and the athletes have been working hard. We are really looking forward to getting outside more and our first meet, which is an indoor meet in Aberdeen on March 27. We have high goals for both squads this season," head track coach Misty Larson said.

The weather has not been a huge issue so far this year, but a little sunshine would be appreciated. "I wish the sun would come out so we could enjoy practice outside and get a sweet tan," senior Kris Monroe said.

Some practices are at the middle school, but when it's not ridiculously cold, they run through Pierre. Junior Dacey Beck's favorite route to run is The Capitol Run.

It is not all about running though; track offers other competitive areas like discus, pole-vaulting, jumping, hurdling, and shot-put.

"The whole throwing team is growing beards this year as

they chuck boulders and toss saucers," senior Garret Weber said.

In addition to track's opener this weekend, the first tennis match will be April 6 in Pierre. Practices started a few weeks ago, though the first practice consisted of shoveling snow off the courts. Players are now getting back in tune.

Jeff Schlekeway has been coaching boys tennis for several years with the assistance of John Forney.

"Schlekeway is a great coach who likes to have fun," said senior tennis player Stephen Bollinger. He adds, "The boys tennis team is looking for some strong leadership from Mel LeVeque



Photo courtesy of Gumbo
Junior Tanner Johnson works out his backhand during practice

and Ryan Lauseng." Junior Conner Forney is confident in the team's skills. "ESD is ours to win," he said. ESD will be held in Yankton on May 14.



Photo courtesy of Gumbo

Pierre runners seniors Sean Snyder and Alec Anton and junior Aaron Propst stick together and break away from the group.

SDHSAA adds soccer as school-sanctioned sport

By Kelsey Oligmueller

Rumors have swirled for years, but now the talk is legitimate: soccer can officially become a school sport.

Unfortunately, this plan will not take effect until the 2012-2013 school year, but a whole lot of kids are going to have a great soccer experience thanks to this decision.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors earlier this month voted 5-3 to make soccer a school sport in South Dakota.

The directors also gave

schools a five-year transition period to adjust from club soccer to a school-sanctioned sport. According to the *Capital Journal*, South Dakota became the 50th state to announce soccer as a school sport.

"I think it took so long because of a strong club organization doing such a great job," said Riggs athletic director Dan Whalen.

Soccer has become one of the world's most famous and celebrated sports with more than 100 countries including soccer as a huge part of their culture. In the United States, more than three million kids between

the ages of 5 and 19 play in a youth soccer program.

"I believe it is a great idea. It needed to happen sometime considering its one of Pierre's best performing sports in the past five or six years. I'm disappointed I never got to play for the school. Hopefully it will encourage more students to play soccer," senior soccer player Jacob Parsons said.

Although not very many current Riggs students that will get to experience this achievement first hand, it will be a great start to many years of soccer for future Riggs attendees.

"I think it's cool that it's

becoming a school sport, especially since every other state in the nation has it as a sport. It's a bummer that it's going to be a school sport after I graduate though, because I think it would've been more fun," senior Paige Burkett said.

"The next step, really, would be for the soccer association and school personnel to get together and visit about implementing soccer as a school-sanctioned sport in Pierre," said Whalen. "Once we have that meeting, we'll be able to figure out how much it will cost, when it will all take place, et cetera," he said.

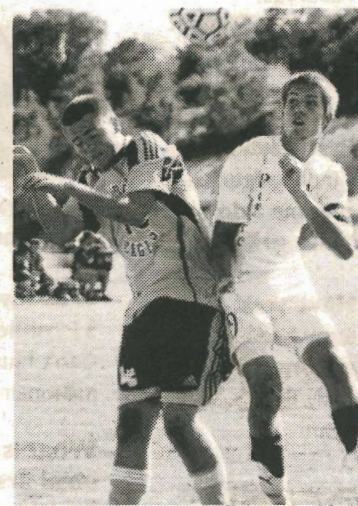


Photo courtesy of Gumbo

Senior Jacob Parsons rams his opponent out of the way to gain possession of the ball.

Bachelor of the month

Ryan Blake '10

Eye Color: Hazel
Height: 6'0"

Personality: Easy-going

Favorite Movie:
Gladiator or Saving Private Ryan

When was your first girlfriend?
Daycare. I was a stud back then.

Have you ever broken anyone's heart?
No, but Shelby THINKS she broke mine.

How long was your longest relationship?



With Shelby in 7th grade.

True love or \$1 million? Money, money, money, money.....MONEY!

What's your ideal first date?
Roaming around Europe with my dream girl.

Who should get the check on the first date?
Not me, I'm broke.

If you could go on a date with anyone, who would it be?
Megan Fox, hands down!

What is your biggest pet peeve? IF THEY CHEW WITH THEIR MOUTH OPEN!!!

Do you have an age preference?
Within a couple years of me. Sorry, freshmen. You're off-limits.

Bachelorette of the month

Shelby Magorien '10

Eye Color: Green
Height: 5'4"

Personality: Fabulous!

Favorite Movie:
Twilight

When was your first boyfriend?
Kindergarten...he gave me a dollar to be his girlfriend.

Have you ever broken anyone's heart?
Only Ryan's. Sorry, Ryan!

How short was your shortest relationship?



With Ryan in 7th grade. Seriously!

True love or \$1 million?
Can't I just marry a millionaire?

What is your ideal first date?
Anywhere with a vampire in a Volvo.

Who should get the check on the first date?
Ryan. He's rich.

If you could go on a date with anyone, who would it be?
Three-way date with Robert Pattinson and Taylor Lautner.

What is your biggest pet peeve?
When people smack when they're eating. UGH!!!

Do you believe in love at first sight?
Not even a little.

Juniors to take Dakota STEP Tests

By Jenaleah Block

The South Dakota State Test of Educational Progress, more commonly known as, the Dakota STEP Test, will be given to juniors April 13-16. The test will be during school but at different times so that students will not miss the same class each day. The Dakota STEP test is a required test that is taken only by juniors.

The Dakota STEP test is "state required in conjunction with No Child Left Behind," said Principal Mike Fugitt.

The South Dakota STEP Test is written by educators and teachers from the state. The test covers state standards in the areas of reading, mathematics and science.

The South Dakota STEP Test is graded on four levels. These levels are below basic, basic, proficient, and advanced. Three years out of the five or six years that T.F. Riggs students have taken this test, we have been one of the few double A high schools on the distinguished list.

According to

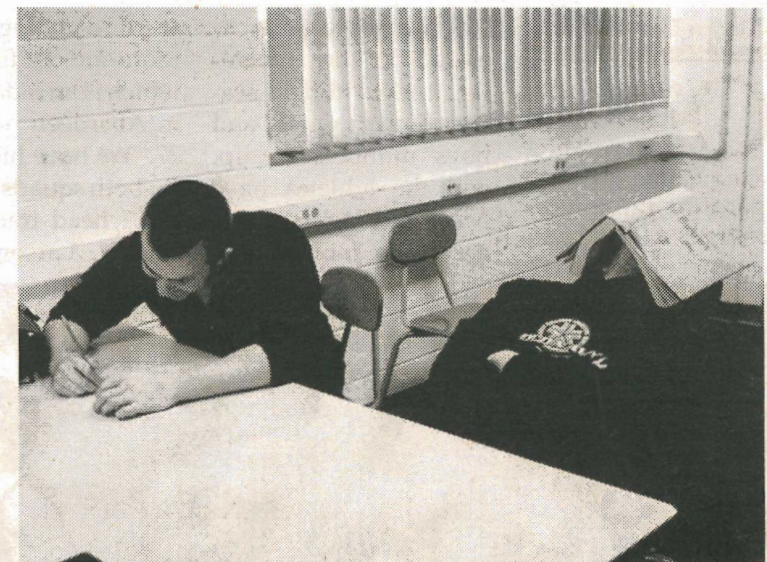


Photo by Kelcy Curtis

Juniors Tayler Owens and Quinn Mortensen prepare -- or not -- for the upcoming Dakota STEP test.

Fugitt, a "distinguished" award means that "at least 80% of the juniors have scores of either proficient or advanced."

Having the distinguished record of achievement which T.F. Riggs holds means more than just distinction for our school. One incentive to do well on the test is the fact that juniors who score either proficient or advanced in both reading and mathematics will have the option of exemption from one of their semester tests when they are seniors.

The scores the juniors receive on the South Dakota STEP Test decide the high

"Just take it seriously and you'll do fine."

—Senior Amy Jurgensen

school's standing. It does this by measuring the schools Annual Yearly Progress, or AYP. This means that if the junior class doesn't meet the AYP, the school goes on what is called "alert." No junior class has ever scored in such a way as to place T.F. Riggs High School on alert.

Senior Amy Jurgensen said that the benefits of taking it are "being prepared for the ACT and having a semester test pass." Having a semester

test pass means that if you score well enough on this test, you can throw out one of your semester tests when you are a senior.

Seniors Kelli Stuewe and Amy Jurgensen both believe that the test is not hard. In fact, Jurgensen does not believe that most students would need to study for the test. "It's not worth the stress or time. It's all stuff you already know. Just take it seriously, and you'll do fine," Jurgensen notes.