

G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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Talent show highlights Riggs' flair for fine arts

By Samantha Beck

The Riggs High Talent Show was held Feb. 26, featuring all kinds of student performances.

The acts were predominantly musical. The show also featured a couple oral interpretation pieces. There was no shortage of comedic relief either, including the comedy sketch "Celebrity Jeopardy" and an excerpt from the comedic musical *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*.

Juniors Dagne Ode and Annie

Woodmansey sang "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz. Ode, who was a newcomer to the talent show this year, also played the ukulele for the song. Ode said that although this was her first year in the show, she has long wanted to participate.

"I've always wanted to do the talent show, and this year Annie kind of pushed me into auditioning," she said.

Ode says she enjoys music because it is a form of expression and she enjoys performing.

"You get recognized from your peers and it gives you a boost of self-

"When you hear everyone applaud for you, it's just an amazing feeling,"
—Grant Erwin, 11

confidence," she said.

Junior Grant Erwin, on the other hand, has been participating in the talent show for his entire high school career.

Erwin agrees that the night of the performance was his favorite part of putting on the show.

"The adrenaline almost helps you, because that's when you hear ev-

eryone applaud for you and it's just an amazing feeling," Erwin said.

The students agree that the talent show is an excellent way for fine arts students to receive recognition from fellow students.

"For the kids that aren't very willing to put themselves out there, it's a way to show that they have a talent, and there is a way they are different and unique," Erwin said.

"Nobody wins, and nobody loses, and everyone just likes to watch everyone else sing and act," Kaitlynn Deichert, 12, said.



Photo by Samantha Beck

Seniors Justin Oakland and Lydia Kanz perform their selection from the musical *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*, for the Riggs Talent Show.

Students show their love by donating blood

By Marcella Lees

Many Riggs students took advantage of the opportunity to show true love by giving blood and potentially saving a life this Valentine's Day. This is the first blood drive in five years for students at Riggs and it was put on by the Student Senate through United Blood Services. Seniors Justin Oakland and Jennifer Palmer coordinated the event.

Eighty-four people were able to donate

and 92 units of blood were collected. There were also 32 other people who came to donate but were unable to for various reasons.

"My parents always give blood and watching them I always thought how I couldn't wait for when I could give blood and when the opportunity arose I did it," first time blood donor Joni Willoughby, 11, said.

"It's quick, it's painless, it's a good deed, and you get cookies. Do your part and go save people. Giving blood is



Photo by Dagne Ode

Junior Morgan Hluchy provides moral support as junior Allie Hedman, does her part and donates blood.

easy to do and the little pain is nothing to the pain of someone actually getting a blood transfusion," Oakland said.

According to the American Red Cross, 41 to 71 percent of people will need a blood transfusion at some point in their lives. About 41,000 blood donations are needed every day in the U.S. and Canada.

"It's really important to give back. If my mom was in the hospital and needed blood I would hope there would be some for her," first time donor

Lydia Kanz, 12, said.

"It's something small that can help people," Palmer said.

In recognition of their acts of heroism, all seniors who donated will wear a red cord at graduation. In the past the red cord has been for students who have donated three times, but since this was the first school blood drive in five years first time donors will also be allowed to wear one.

"It went really well and it was a good Valentine's Day activity," Palmer said.

Eudcation becoming too costly

For most teenagers, the hottest news of the day probably has something to do with Justin Bieber's latest exploits, Miley's newest hairdo, or the previous evening's episode of "Pretty Little Liars". While all of that is well and good, it's important to remember how many other things are taking place in the world. It's much too easy for high school students to become wrapped up in their own comfortable world. But paying attention to current events is imperative. Most things going on in the world today directly impact today's youth. Both Congress

and the state legislature are working with legislation that is important to high school students now and in the future. Bills regarding education, healthcare, and other important issues are discussed on a daily basis, but perhaps one of the most important topics to teenagers right now is the rising cost of postsecondary education. Some form of training after high school, whether it be technical or trade school or a four-year degree, is becoming increasingly necessary to be successful in today's workforce. Young high school graduates make only about 62 percent of what their degree-hold-

ing counterparts do, according to data from the Pew Research Center. Unfortunately, young men and women who do choose to attend postsecondary school are being increasingly crippled by debt. While a quality education has never come cheap, the cost of college has risen steeply in recent years. Average tuition, room, board and books at postsecondary institutions rose as much as \$11,000, adjusted for inflation, from 1980 to 2011, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. Students are being forced to take out excessive amounts of student loans to cover the rising cost of an education. According to FICO, the average amount of student loans is \$27,253,

up from \$17,233 in 2005—that is a 58 percent increase in just seven years. The federal government turns a sizable profit from lending money to students. The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the U.S. made a record 50 billion dollars off of student loans in 2013 alone. This profit will add up to 184 billion dollars over the next decade. This excessive student debt places a financial burden on young college graduates and is a strain on society. Young adults with high student loan payments to make each month often put off buying homes and cars or starting families, all of which can be a burden to the economy.

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What's hot and what's not this month

- ...to Valentines Day
- ...to state championship rings
- ...to KOH
- ...to Matt Booth
- ...to Coop throwin' down dunks
- ...to the senior slide
- ...to The Great Fratsby
- ...to weather warming up
- ...to hockey team upsets
- ...to Olympics
- ...to pickup basketball
- ...to pineapple juice
- ...to surprises
- ...to cow suits
- ...to winter trips
- ...to theme parties
- ...to retail therapy
- ...to Snyder shoveling

- ...to final college decisions
- ...to six more weeks of winter
- ...to thumbs down for what?
- ...to Honors without Mrs. Vogt
- ...to riding the bus
- ...to scholarship interviews
- ...to Swens' loud mouth
- ...to random snow storms
- ...to procrastinating
- ...to yellow teeth
- ...to school project overload
- ...to bad drivers
- ...to senioritis
- ...to filling out scholarships
- ...to snow after hunting season
- ...to 47-year-old high school students.

Hall Talk:

What was your favorite part of KOH?



"Dancing on the DJ stage with Tatum and Kels,"
—Kyla Karst,

12



"My dread of hair after the dance"
—Sydney Kinsella,

11



"Taking pictures with my friends,"
—Macy Halverson,

10



"Dancing with Hallie!"
—Hunter Jockheck,

9

Oscar nods expected, but still enjoyable

The shortest month of the year comes to an end, as all good things must. Not that February was a particularly wonderful month, but graduation and/or summer break are a bit closer, so there's that.

Academy Awards, or Oscars, are perhaps the snobbiest awards in film. Well, "selective."

Each year's nominees are usually a batch of same old, same old. This year ... is exactly that. Not to fear, however, as there are always some films that are more entertaining than sleep inducing.

"August: Osage County" is a movie based on a play about a dysfunctional

family that comes together after the disappearance of a key member. The movie stars Meryl Streep, whose Oscar recognition is simultaneously famous and infamous. The film proves that "dysfunctional family" should be cut to simply "family" to prevent redundancy. Expect tragic drama that reaches soap opera levels of strange in this well-acted dark comedy.

"American Hustle" stars Jennifer Lawrence, just getting that out of the way. It is also loosely based on true

events. The film's style gives audiences the feel of a movie much older than what they are actually watching. It works.

The movie has its actors looking and sounding very different from what they actually look and sound like. It may not be everyone's "cup of tea," but watch it for the surprisingly comedic Jennifer Lawrence sprinkled throughout.

"Lone Survivor" is the true story of a capture-or-kill mission that does not go according to plan. The movie is unrelentingly brutal in its depiction of violence and as tragic as the title suggests.



Lennix Lee

MOVIES

Of course, there is "Gravity," the terrifyingly visceral gem of a movie. It may not be quite the same experience on the small screen, but Sandra Bullock's performance is strong nonetheless.

These four are only a few in a long line of Academy Award nominees, with "Captain Phillips" (true story about real-life pirates!) and "Dallas Buyers Club" (HIV: get educated!) also among them.

If the typical nominees are not your thing, you can always watch "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" again.

Chocolate leaves you satisfied

February is commonly known as the month of love. So, what do we have in store for this month's Good Eats, you ask? We'll give you a couple hints: we crave it, we savor it, it's absolutely our favorite. Have you guessed what it is? It's chocolate!

All around the world, people cherish this savory hunk of happiness. Chocolate actually increases the release of endorphins in your brain, making it truly the sweetest of candies. This month, we will be comparing three different popular brands of chocolate bars in America: Dove, Ghirardelli, and Hershey. These three are the most commonly bought up chocolate bars in Pierre.

When asked their favorite chocolate bar

amongst the three choices, seniors Ashley Slama and Ashley Grambihler concurred on Ghirardelli. Kelsey Garber, 12, answered very specifically

her favorite chocolate: "A dark-chocolate Hershey's. All day, everyday. No question about it."

Let's see how this month's breakdown goes for the passionate chocolate connoisseurs!

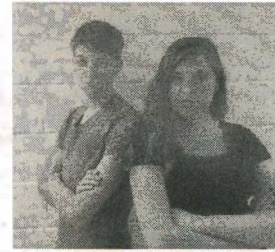
Third in our running

for Best Bar is Hershey's milk chocolate. Though

the brand is immensely popular, its reasons for being so widely regarded have more to do with how inexpensive it is rather than the quality of chocolate. Her-

shey's has a very sweet taste but the texture isn't quite creamy. Their chocolate bars are better for s'mores and a quick fix rather than an experience.

Our runner up this month is the Dove bar. Dove has created a creamy smooth choco-



Lydia Kanz and Justin Oakland
GOOD EATS

America is, always will be the best

Four-man bobsled, luge, skeleton, curling, figure skating, cross-country skiing, biathlon. These are just a few of the sports most Americans don't care about until the Winter Olympics. For four years the American public focuses on our powerhouse sports: baseball, football, basketball and hockey.

Then when Sochi, Russia, called, America answered. We gathered all our no-name Olympians with all their gear for some sports most of us have never heard of, cheered for them until they won or lost, and acted like we cared.

Making a journey halfway across the

world, America wanted to medal in sports only other

countries care about. We cheered through the triumph of our Olympians and wept through the failures of others. In the end we still only cared about winning, because we know we are the best.

The media made the Olympics seem like a disappointment because of an opening ceremony failure and poor performanc-

es by American favorites. With this much

fuss over a few things, the US ended up second in the medal count. Of course, being American, we were mad we let "the communists" win.

If that isn't the American spirit, then I don't know what is. I mean, we beat other countries at what they care about and since we don't win the medal count we get mad? Seriously, most of the Amer-

ican population has never heard of most of these sports but, gosh darn, we must win! The Games solidify America as the best country in the world. Hold on for the next four years, forget about all these different ways to slide across snow or ice, enjoy real American games, and get ready for the next Winter Olympics, because the U.S. will be ready to go.

The number one chocolate bar in our countdown is Ghirardelli. Despite being a slightly spendier bar, the texture and flavor balance is enough to get us down to the store. The delectable, square-pieced bar is worth every penny you spend.

Catch us next month for our review on local restaurants pancakes and breakfast food!



Cash Anderson
GUEST COLUMN

Riggs students seize chances to g

Seniors get up close and personal with lawma

By Allie Knofczynski

Senior year, of course, is a time for students to cherish their last experiences of high school and prepare for future endeavors, but it is also the appropriate year for some students to take part in an opportunity only a block away from our school's front steps.

Several Riggs seniors have been recently participating in the page program during the 2014 S. D. Legislature session at the capitol. These seniors joined other high school students from around the state to serve South Dakota's legislators and learn more about how laws are made.

Among those who paged this year were Jacey Jessop, Abbie Wieseler, John Reiners and Joe Schueller, who each had rewarding experiences during their stays in the S. D. House of Representatives and Senate.

Legislative pages do varying types of work. Many mornings, they sit in on committee meetings or do paperwork. During the afternoons, they observe



Photo courtesy of John Reiners

John Reiners (middle row, left) and Jacey Schueller (front row, center), along with other pages, pose with the First Lady Linda Duagaard and Governor Dennis Duagaard in the Governor's mansion. A trip to the Governor's mansion is one of the perks of serving as a legislative page.

legislative session. Pages are responsible for everything from distributing bills and journals around the capitol to fetching the legislators coffee.

Although pages must work during their time in the capitol, they are also exposed to various levels of the legislative system. Pages get an inside look at the democratic process while mak-

ing connections with other politically-minded youth and legislators.

Schueller found about the program through his older sister. He said, "She really enjoyed paging and said I should do it, too. I am somewhat interested [in] government, so I thought it would be nice to be in the capitol and get to know some of the senators and repre-

sentatives. Also, I jumped at the chance to miss two weeks of school."

Other pages heard positive feedback from older friends who have made their way through the program. Wieseler said, "I decided to become a page because a lot of my friends had done it last year and I knew it would be a good experience and it would

"Before being a page, I never realized all of the things that go on besides session."

- John Reiners, 12

look good on a resume."

To apply to be a page, students need to fill out an application, including at least two letters of recommendation, a signature from a principal or superintendent and a signature from a legislator or legislator-elect. Pages must also be in good academic standing and be able to serve during one of the five two-week terms available. The head of the house of representatives or the senate selects the pages who will serve in their chamber for the upcoming session.

For many people who have not seen the legislative process, it can be surprising to see what really happens behind the scenes.

Reiners said, "Before being a page, I never realized all of the things that go on besides session. Legislators have many meetings to attend throughout the day. As

pages, we have a lot of paperwork to take care of before session starts, and days can be very long."

It might feel intimidating to work alongside experienced legislators, but Jessop found all of them very welcoming.

"The legislators were very friendly! They wanted to make the most of our two weeks paging and were very generous. They were always willing to teach us more about the legislative process and all the different tasks legislators do," she said.

The paging experience brings different benefits, as well as drawbacks, for each student.

Reiners loved meeting new people and making friends.

He remarked, "I really enjoyed being able to build such strong friendships with the other pages and spending our free time together."

Jessop loved the variety of work she performed. "I paged for two weeks and no day was the same. Some mornings we would be in committees while others we would be doing mail or answering phones," she said.

Students serving as pages are also responsible for all the schoolwork they miss while

et involved in law and government

kers

they are serving in the legislature, which often-times is a daunting task.

"My least favorite part of paging was swimming through the flood of make-up work when I got back to school," said Schueller.

To someone who is not used to waking up very early for school, the transition to the paging schedule can be difficult.

Wieseler commented, "I did not enjoy waking up extra early to be at the Capitol at 7:15 a.m. every day."

Even for those not interested in state legislature, paging can be an eye-opening, worthwhile experience.

"I recommend anyone that wants to learn more about our state legislature to apply to be a page. I had no idea how the process really worked and now it is very interesting to me," stated Jessop.

Wieseler agrees that everyone can find something to learn from paging. She remarked, "I think anyone who wants to experience something new should consider paging; you don't have to be interested in government to enjoy it. The atmosphere is fun to be around and I think anyone that wants to see what it is like should apply."



Photo courtesy of Samantha Beck

The Central Teen Court Mock Trial team poses with its Court of the Year trophy. Pictured, from left to right are Kellie Shuman, Melisa Forest, Arden Koenoke, Haley Kettler, Claire Lentsch, Emily Urban, Harrison Armstrong, Rebecca Urban, Emily Plumage, Nate Cronin, Samantha Beck, Brittany Brave, Matthew Pugh, and Wyatt Rumrill.



Photo courtesy Samantha Beck

Rebecca Urban, 11, and Samantha Beck, 12, served as attorneys for the Central Teen Court Mock Trial Team. Both have been involved in the program for over three years.

Central Teen Court named "Court of the Year" at Mock Trial Competition

By Lennixx-Rodney Lee

Suits and pencil skirts probably aren't what most teenagers are wearing at 7 a.m. on a Saturday.

On Feb. 21 and 22, though, a group of students from Riggs were dressed professional attire, preparing to present their cases at the fifth annual South Dakota Association of Teen Courts Mock Trial Competition.

The competition, held in Pierre at the Hughes County Courthouse, allows Teen Courts

from across the state to meet and test their skills in front of judges.

The local chapter of teen court, Central, walked away with the Court of the Year Award. This award is given to the team with the highest total points from all judged positions: prosecution attorney, defense attorney, bailiff, and jury.

In addition, Riggs senior Samantha Beck was awarded Prosecutor of the Year.

The team is the first from the Pierre area to earn the Court

of the Year award.

"We were well put together, well prepared, and very professional. I was proud of the younger members who stepped up and did well," said junior Rebecca Urban, who served as the defense attorney for Central Teen Court.

"It helped us get recognized in the community and it showed everyone that we really are important and doing a good job," Urban said.

"Central Teen Court does incredible things in our community, and it is

great to be recognized for that," Beck said. "It is an honor to be named Court of the Year, and it is something we all have worked really hard for. The fact that we had the highest point totals shows that we have amazing volunteers in every position, not just a few that are carrying the program, and that means a lot. Hopefully this award will inspire our younger members to stay involved and repeat our victory next year."

Teen Court is a juvenile diversion program that benefits teenag-

ers who have committed misdemeanors such as underage consumption or petty theft. Teen Court allows the defendants to be sentenced by a jury of other teenagers. The sentences are meant to be constructive and normally include community service, essays and projects meant to keep the teens from reoffending.

Teens from Riggs, Georgia Morse Middle School, Stanley County and other area schools all volunteer with the program.

Pierre swimmers ready to dominate at state

By Chris Rumrill

The 2014 South Dakota Swimming State Championship Meet is now upon the Pierre Swim Team. The meet is being held in Spearfish on the Black Hills State University campus in their 25-meter pool. The meet started Feb. 28 with the mile and ends on March 1 with the half mile.

The swim team has spent the past five months training hard in anticipation of the state meet, and then in the past two weeks, they tapered, trying to maximize their success at the meet. The Pierre Swim Team finished second at last year's state meet by a narrow mar-

gin, and this year they are looking to outperform Sioux Falls Snowfox for the top spot.

Senior Blake Dean and Sophomore Nick Mahowald both say they expect the team to win a state title. Winning a state title is a tough challenge, but the team has a good shot this year because Pierre qualified 82 swimmers for the meet and 73 of them are swimming at the meet.

Head coach Kent Huckins is confident in the abilities of his team.

"The team looks strong and should contend for one of the top three spots at the meet."

The Pierre Swim Team heads into the state meet with an advantage over the swim

"My goals for the state meet are simply to help my team succeed in every way possible and to leave everything I have in the pool for one final meet before the end of the season." -senior

Allison Meintsma

teams from eastern South Dakota because most of those teams have swam only in 25-yard pools during the winter, while the Pierre Swim Team attended two previous meets in Spearfish in the 25 meter pool. Not all of Pierre's swimmers, however, swam in one of Spearfish's meets earlier this season.

"It will be a big

change for swimmers who have never swam meters before, but I think our swimmers are up to the challenge," said Senior Allison Meintsma, who hasn't competed in meters.

How well the team tapers will have a lot to do with how well the team will face the challenge of swimming in meters and what place it will finish in. In a

competitive swimming taper, swimmers practice at race pace, but don't swim as far during a practice. Even though the swimming is harder, the reduced distance allows the athletes muscles to recover and prepares them for their big meet.

After a season of strenuous practices, senior Joseph Schueller enjoys the reduced training.

"Taper makes me feel like I'm swimming through sunshine and that everything is right in the world," Schueller said.

Feeling rejuvenated from their rest, the high school students have set personal goals as well as team goals.

Senior Michael Hanson and sophomore Sarah Haberman look forward to swimming well at the state meet. "My goals for the state meet are to swim my best and cut as much time as possible," both said.

Meintsma also is looking forward to performing well. "My goals for the state meet are simply helping my team succeed in every way possible and leaving everything I have in the pool for one final meet before the end of the season," she said.

This attitude will give Pierre the best chance of bringing home the team title, so best of luck to all 73 swimmers, and remember to leave it all in the pool.

Boys Basketball

Record: 17-3

Last game: Tuesday at Huron

Next Game: Next Tuesday night against Aberdeen

Player Comment: "We feel confident going into the post-season and looking forward to a state tournament run." -junior Charlie Anderson

Girls Basketball

Record: 12-8

Last game: Tuesday against Huron

Next game: Next Monday night against Aberdeen

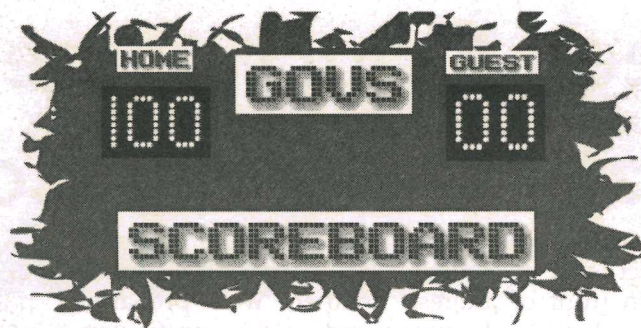
Player comment: "Going into the post-season, we have a lot of momentum with [these] last couple wins and our team chemistry is really good." -junior McKenna Halverson

Wrestling

Last meet: Saturday Region 3A tournament in Chamberlain

Next meet: State tournament today in Rapid City

Athlete comment: "Well we've worked hard up to this point and we'll go out there and get what we deserve and do our best." -senior Alec Williams



Swimming

Last Meet: B Championships at Aberdeen

Next Meet: State meet this weekend in Spearfish

Athlete comment: "I feel that the state meet will give us all an opportunity to open our wings and show the state what we're made of, and that's pure awesomeness!" -senior Joe Schuller

Boys Hockey

Record: 10-4-1

Last game: Sunday at Sioux Falls

Next game: Today at Aberdeen

Player comment: "Our hockey state tournament is in Brookings, SD, on March 15-16. Come watch us play. Go Big Capitals!" -junior Riley Bren

Girls Hockey

Record: 8-12

Last game: Sunday against Mitchell

Next game: State tournament March 7-9

Player comment: "Being a senior, this final state tournament will be bitter sweet. I hope we conquer our foes." -senior Gabby Vizcarra

Gymnastics

Last meet: Last weekend AA State meet in Aberdeen

Results: Team finish, 9th; junior Melissa Bobby, 22nd in all-around competition

compiled by Wyatt Rumrill

Lady Govs look to districts

By Micah Howard

After two strong performances in their final games of the regular season, the Lady Govs' basketball team intends to keep its momentum heading into the postseason.

The team's strong defensive core has been one of its defining features. The Lady Govs allowed Huron to score only seven points in the opening quarter of Tuesday night's game.

"I think they've really bought into our team defensive concept. That's been our staple and it's been noted that defense is what has won a lot of games for us," head coach Lisa Bahe said.

On the offensive side, the team just needs to hit its shots consistently.

"We need to continue to become a little more consistent. We've had nights where

we shoot 50 percent and nights where we shoot seventeen percent," Bahe said.

Leadership, a quality that doesn't show up in the box score, has also been a critical component of the team's success. Seniors Katie Berg and Kaitlyn Severyn have been key leaders for the team, Bahe commented. Leadership, however, has stemmed from the entire team over the course of the season.

"It's interesting because I think along the way you have a lot of other kids that step up in different ways and are leaders. It's not always the people who are vocal leaders. A lot of times it's by what you do," Bahe said.

Bahe says that the team has made a lot of progress since the conclusion of last year's season.

"We've come a long ways.

We've really grown into our roles as individuals, we've bought into the team concept, and we've become a lot better defenders. Offensively, we have a lot of weapons that can score. It's just finding the balance. We need everyone to contribute on every night."

Heading into the postseason, the Lady Govs will look to overcome their district rivals and ultimately drive their way deep into the state tournament. The Eastern South Dakota district's top team, Mitchell, has only one loss.

"Mitchell's a team I feel we can play with. We just need to put together a game plan and follow that game plan," Bahe said.

The Lady Govs will take the first step in their postseason campaign when they host Aberdeen Central Monday night.



Photo by Bob Gill

Pierre's Kaitlyn Severyn rises up and takes a jumpshot in a regular season contest against Sturgis. Severyn has been a key leader for the Lady Govs.

March Madness: Gildemaster's Final Four picks

Frustration, anger, upsets, and failed brackets can only mean one thing— it's time for March Madness. I have watched countless hours of college basketball this season and these are my Final Four predictions and a few sleepers that I think have a run at a Cinderella story.

My first and probably the most obvious pick would be Syracuse University. They have been ranked number one overall for most of the year, and deservedly so. They are coached by one of the greatest coaches of all time, the master of the zone defense, Jim Boeheim. Syracuse is led by their senior forward C.J. Fair. He is currently averaging 16 points per game and he can flat out play defense. My second Final Four



Austin Gildemaster

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

team is University of Florida. Florida stumbled out of the gate this season with a couple losses to University of Wisconsin and University of Connecticut. They also had a few close calls against terrible teams. Since then, they seem to have turned it all around with a school record 19 wins in a row. They

are coached by a man who knows a little about winning championships, considering he has 2 — Billy Donovan. Florida's leading scorer is their senior forward Casey Prather, who is shooting a scorching 61 percent from the field and is averaging 16 points per game. The Gators have one of the most suffocating defenses in the country, only allowing 58.3 points a game. If there is a weakness to this Gator team it would have to be their offense, which is currently 181st in the nation in scoring. I believe that the defense will help them reach the Final Four, but that's it.

Next is a team that was no. 1 for a while until they had a couple really close losses, and that team is University

of Arizona. In my opinion, they are the favorite to win it all. This Wildcats team is a double-overtime game and two points away from an undefeated season. They have beat some very solid teams this season with wins over both Duke and University of Michigan. Their best player and future lottery pick Aaron Gordon can just flat out play. Gordon does it all. He scores, rebounds and plays solid defense. This team doesn't have a weakness.

My fourth team is probably the most unpredictable, Wichita State. How can you not pick the only undefeated team in the country? The only argument against them is they haven't played any good teams. Well, I disagree. The Shockers got a solid vic-

tory against the St. Louis University Billikens, which, if you haven't been paying attention to college basketball this year, is a top ten team.

Now I'll share my pick for the team that always screws up your bracket, the Cinderella story. It's always hard to pick this team but I believe it is going to be George Washington. They come out of a very underrated Atlantic 10 Conference. This team is definitely a candidate to play the role of spoiler. They put up two very impressive wins over Virginia Commonwealth and Creighton Universities.

In all honesty it is nearly impossible to predict what is going to happen in March. One thing is for certain though. It's going to be exciting.

Bachelor of the Month



Justin Oakland, 12

Eye color:

Wait, mine or hers?

Personality:

Quirky, funny, and sweet. Like Peeta but with less muscles and more bread.

Hair color:

Sandy brown, with burnt marshmallow accents.

Height:

Six feet of solid hunk.

What qualities do you look for in the opposite sex?

Someone who likes being spontaneous, enjoys having fun, and laughs at my lame jokes.

What celebrity would you like to go out with?

Let's just say I'd go into the Quarter Quell with J-Law any day.

Looks or personality?

In the words of the Old El Paso girl, "Why can't we have both?"

Pursue or be pursued?

Pursue, I'm too oblivious to notice anyone pursuing me

anyway.

Do you have an age preference?

How old is Jennifer Lawrence?

What is your ideal first date?

Bingeing on froyo while curling up with a Oscar-nominated film

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Depending on the amount of scholarships I receive: A successful biomedical engineer who discovered a cure for cancer or a homeless street performer

Bachelorette of the Month



Sedona Kintz, 12

Eye color:

Green with brown sprinkles

Personality:

Fabulous

Hair color:

Dirty blond

Height:

5'5"

Favorite leisure activity:

Tubing

What qualities do you look for in the opposite sex?

A great sense of humor and a great smile.

What celebrity would you like to go out with?

Josh Duhamel

Looks or personality?

Personality

Pursue or be pursued?

Pursue.

What is your ideal first date?

Snuggling on the couch and watching

a Lord of the Rings Marathon.

What would your ideal boy be like?

Good-looking, funny, and they have to love action movies.

Would you ever date someone shorter than you?

Absolutely not, I want to gaze lovingly up, not down!

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Being rich and owning a Bugatti.



Photo by Samantha Beck

Sophomores Austin Lentsch and Haley Ketteler control their robot, Cerberus. Pierre's First Technical Challenge Team built the robot from scratch.

FTC heads to nationals

By Austin Lentsch

Hours of practice every week, working on technique, handling, and strength. There is always something to fix about one's skill and the game plan. Teamwork is a must. Blood, sweat, and tears have gone into this moment, and finally, the team is ready. They have to be.

It may sound kind of like basketball, volleyball, or football, but really, this can apply to any sport in high school, even an unexpected one: Robotics. It could be argued that Robotics is or isn't a sport, but at the end of the day, it is almost exactly the same as basketball. The only difference is that students have built a robot to

"It is great learning experience and a chance to meet really cool people."

—Haley Ketteler,

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do the work for them.

Pierre has its own First Technical Challenge (FTC) Robotics Team, known as Team 5250—Loading....There are eight members on team Loading...: Sophomores Haley Ketteler, Seth Snyder, Zayn Snyder, Nathan Remmich, Austin Lentsch, Samuel Ryckman, Matt Darnell, and their robot Cerberus. They recently competed at the Wyoming State Cham-

pionships, and walked away with the The Inspire Award. This is for the team that scored the highest across the board, and the award is highly competitive.

They are one of two teams in the entire state, and now, the first team from South Dakota ever to qualify for Super Regionals, which is essentially nationals. If they do well enough at the Super Regionals in California, they have the opportunity to advance to the World Championship and compete with 128 teams from across the globe.

"[FTC] is great learning experience and a chance to meet really cool people. Through FTC I have met many awesome people from all over the United States," Ketteler said.