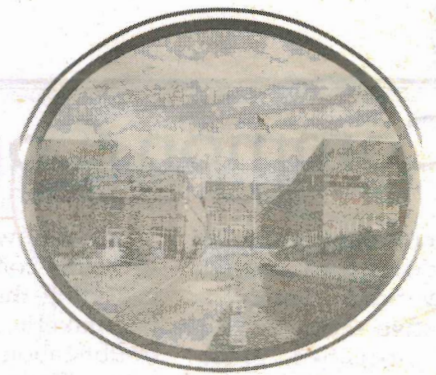


G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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Students visit legislature to gain perspectives

By Allie Knofczynski

Teachers and students agree that the best learning often happens during hands-on experiences, ones that do not involve sitting in a classroom or reading a dull textbook. Students at Riggs have a multitude of teachable moments available just a block away.

Seniors in Skip Kurth's government class had the chance to go to the Capitol and see democracy take place right before their eyes. Everyone has some form of opinion about government, but it unanimously agreed that the pro-

cess is very important. "Legislators enjoy when young people visit the Capitol during Session and observe," Kurth said.

Ashley Siedschlaw, 12, and Rebecca Deyo, 12, had never witnessed the legislative session in progress before their government class visited the Capitol.

Deyo wanted to see the education committee, because of her interest in funding the fine arts. "The fine arts are an outlet for me to express myself, so it is very important that they receive the funding they need to stay alive in our school," Deyo said.

Another significant

bill in discussion that could affect schools drastically is the Common Core curriculum. The syllabus, which forty-five states have already adopted, imposes universal standards across the country that focus on accelerated English and mathematics learning to compete with other countries and better prepare students for college and the modern workforce. The system plans to take into effect the next school year, but there are many who see limited benefits to the educational plan.

Both Deyo and Siedschlaw agree that the Common Core will

most likely not be effective. "Not all students are strong in math and English and will not need advanced skills in those subjects in their careers and lives," Siedschlaw remarked.

"If the United States is trying to compete with other countries, especially in Asia, the Common Core will not help out much. I would rather focus on life skills I know I can use in my life and be able to still have time to participate in extracurricular activities," Deyo said.

Ultimately, students and teachers think paying attention to state and national government is crucial. "The



photo by Lennix-Rodney Lee

Students in teacher Skip Kurth's AP U.S. Government class engage in a class discussion.

decisions being made will eventually affect us. We need to pay attention so one day we can be a part of the process," Siedschlaw said.

"Whether the issue being discussed directly affects the students,

it is a law they might have to follow eventually. Our entire democracy is based on the consent of the government, so as State Dakotans and Americans, we need to be aware," Kurth remarked.

2014-15 school calendar to end first semester before xmas

By Marcella Lees

Say goodbye to Christmas-themed study sessions and all night cramming with "Jingle Bells" playing in the background. As of next year, the schedule for Riggs will change, the biggest adjustment being the placement of semester tests before Christmas.

For most students at Riggs, this is a long awaited blessing. "It'll make it a lot easier for me because I'm a per-

son who wants to just be done with something; I don't like things drawn out," Emma Mesman, 9, said.

"Christmas break will be a lot more relaxed without tests in the back of my mind," Canaan Smith, 10, said.

"No one ever studies during Christmas break anyway, and test scores will definitely improve," Renee Gallagher, 10, said.

"Our students have done very well on semester tests, but it will

be interesting to see if some kids do any better," principal Kevin Mutchelknaus said. "I certainly hope it has a positive effect on the achievement of students. I also think doing it before Christmas gives [students] a chance to leave it behind them. Ultimately it's about providing more instructional time and improving achievement."

Of course, every decision has its downsides. "I don't like it,"

Caitlyn Hemmelman, 9, said. "It's probably helpful for a lot of kids, but there are some that don't want it because it will be more of a rush [to study]."

"I honestly can't say whether I am pro-or anti-calendar change because I am not sure what effect it is going to have on the material I am going to be able to cover in class," health teacher Todd Palmer said.

Among the many people who welcome

this change, some can still see better implementations of it.

With the new schedule, the second semester will be six days longer than the first, though Mutchelknaus says that the state-mandated testing in the spring will even it out.

For yearlong classes, the change makes little difference for teachers. For semester-long classes, the discrepancy in lengths of semesters could prove a challenge, which could lead to ex-

tra work for students.

"It will be hard for teachers to get all their grades in before the holidays without a great deal of stress, especially those who have to correct term papers... but for most teachers and students, there will be less worrying over the break," Latin teacher Jay Mickelson said.

Overall, the attitude toward the change is positive. "I think it's a positive step in the right direction," Mutchelknaus said.

Common Core has the right idea

In recent months, the buzz over the Common Core State Standards Initiative, or CCSSI, has intensified greatly on the national level. Groups of teachers and parents who oppose the new program, which is to be fully implemented during the 2014-2015 school year, have grown more and more outspoken.

The CCSSI was organized by groups of state governors and school administrators with funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The standards are meant to promote career and college readiness in students. Forty-five states, including South Dakota, chose to implement the universal standards.

Now, however, amid growing concerns surrounding the program, lawmakers are having doubts about the Common Core Initiative.

Opponents argue that not enough teachers were involved in the writing of the standards, resulting in numerous problems in implementation. According to *USA Today*, some teachers say that standards force them to cover fewer topics more in depth. Others complain that it works younger students too hard, but doesn't push top high school students hard enough, especially in math classes (Politico).

One of the most concerning aspects of the CCSSI for many is the emphasis on standardized testing in classrooms. There are worries that too much focus on test performance will cause crucial gaps in education. Standardized tests are necessary to gauge progress and compare progress among different schools and states. It is imperative, however, that test results are not punitive for teachers. Schools that perform poorly are often schools that need more funding, not less. At the same time, if teachers know that they will lose their jobs or state funding if their students do not perform well on tests, these teachers will resort to teaching nothing but the test, creating the broad gaps in education many critics of common core fear.

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It is important to remember that the true point of education is not simply to remember facts and formulas that will lead to good test scores. High test scores do indicate good students, but some of the most important things for students to learn—curiosity, creativity, teamwork, empathy and responsibility, to name a few—cannot be accurately measured by any standardized test, nor can they be taught out of a textbook.

The CCSSI is a good start, and the initiative has the right intent. At the same time, however, Americans must remember that being ready for a career is about much more than test results.

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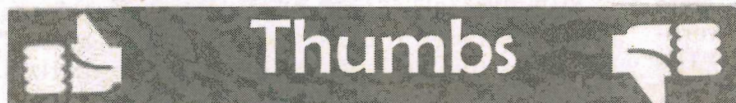
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The policy of the Riggs High *Governor* is to report the news accurately and objectively and to provide a forum for the expression of its readers' views. Views expressed in the editorial reflect the concerns and opinions of the editorial board and 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.



What's hot and what's not this month

...to Mrs. Vogt
...to Swens & A-nors bear coats
...to having one semester left
...to playoff football
...to senior trips
...to no more government
...to Cash Anderson
...to an easy second semester
...to new classes
...to road trips
...to KOH prep
...to 100 people New Year's gatherings
...to Lettin R' Buck at basketball games
...to good vocabulary
...to Jimmy Tattro
...to the flow(Only Bo's)
...to Workaholics

...to going to school in sub-zero weather
...to *Giants in the Earth*
...to college football being over
...to scholarship apps
...to New Year's day practices
...to semester tests
...to the guidance office being packed
...to being stuck on Candy Crush
...to ghosts at the State 123
...to Richard Sherman's rant
...to cracked iPhone screens
...to not having school spirit
...to forgetting to bring literature books to class
...to no more Mythology

Hall Talk:

What is your New Years resolution?



"Buckle up more,"
—Brandon
Swenson, 12



"Get skinny"
—Connor Shoop,
11



"Harass Mr. Darby less,"
—Morgan
Merriman
10



"Fill up my jar of memorable moments this year,"
—Jessica Darnall,
9

New flicks haunt the new year

Now that the rush of semester test week is over, we can all rest a bit easy... not really, but still.

With the New Year come the notorious creatures known as the New Year's Resolutions. They are a strange species known for their unreliability.

We oftentimes set aside any notion of real change. Bad in some instances but good in others, such as the consistency in our movie viewing, whether at the theater or on Netflix. That shall never change.

January is a bit of a dumping ground for movies. The month usually marks the release of films with little chance

of success. Nowadays, though, January is the time when Oscar-nominated films rush to the big screen to gain more audience members. Those movies, however, are sometimes just snooze-fests.

Among the releases this month is the surprisingly good home-invasion film *You're Next*. At first, the movie feels like it is just going through the motions of a typical slash-flick: unlikable characters, remote setting, and masked killers.

You're Next soon becomes something un-

expected. Where *The Strangers* is moody, *You're Next* is visceral. It also features one of the most refreshingly proactive heroines in horror film history. The "final girl" may have a somewhat ludicrous backstory, but it just makes the movie that much more unusual.

The title also uses proper grammar, which is always a plus.

This past October was odd because of the lack of *Paranormal Activity*. Apparently, it

was just waiting for January because nothing says "gloom and doom" more than welcoming a new year.

Paranormal Activity: The Marked

Ones is not *Paranormal Activity 5*. It is more of a companion movie but with events relevant to the *Paranormal Activity* universe...I think.

Carrie has now arrived on DVD just in time for King of Hearts. If you happened to forget the movie's moral lesson: be nice at dances or you may literally go flying across the dance floor.

January is over. Now on to February, and we all know what that means... we're that much closer to the Academy Awards, of course. What else?



Lennix Lee

MOVIES

Coffee contenders share the cup

In the morning, most teenagers and adults, rather than grabbing a cereal bowl, will grab a mug and fill it with the life juice of American coffee. In the U.S., about 100 million people consume coffee every day, thirty million being specialty drinks like lattes, espressos, and frappuccinos.

This month at the Good Eats headquarters, we've decided to undertake this beverage as the object of comparison, specifically the traditional mocha latte, among three competitors: Pier 347, Shell's Gas Station, and Mostly Chocolates. We will be taking flavor, presentation, and ingredients into consideration.

First in our count-

down, but third in our ratings, is Shell's Gas Station. We have nothing against the variety that Shell's offers; however, they lack the traditional coffee house vibe and quality that our other two contestants possess and the rich chocolate-ness that we sought. Shell's, however, receives honorable mention for the convenience of their drive-thru window allowing Papa to get his cup of Joe without leaving

the comfort of his car.

Second in the countdown is Pier 347 on Main Street. Pier 347 has the warm and cozy feeling that we love about a coffee house environment. Pier 347 offers a full espresso bar offering lattes, frappuccinos, Americanos, and everything in between. They generally utilize Da Vinci syrups and real chocolate and caramel pump to flavor their treats, which may not be as sweet as some but is safer on the waist.

Last, Mostly Choc-

olates is tucked away on the Rushmore Pavilion on Sioux. Mostly Chocolates excels in all things sweet. They have an assortment of truffles, chocolates, and fruity treats. Mostly Chocolates offers many of the same coffee drinks as Pier 347; however, they mainly utilized flavored powders to flavor their drinks. This means more preservatives and sugar, but a drink to satisfy any sweet tooth.

In a way, the last two contenders this week are so similar, yet distinctly different that it's impossible to choose a clear winner. We are calling this one a tie! That's all for this week, Riggs; we'll see you next month with pancakes!

Lydia Kanz and Justin Oakland
GOOD EATS

Friends bring memories, motivation

Everyone has a close-knit group of friends who are always there, those few people that have your back no matter the situation. They know all the ins-and-outs of your life, your family, and yourself. In some cases, they might be even more like a family than just a group of friends.

This group has probably worked you through a pointless problem or two. They're the first people you call when you encounter a bump in the road. They are your number-one fans and your biggest support system. They believe in you so

aggressively that you have no choice but to believe in yourself.

They cheer the loudest from the sideline and praise you for every victory in life. These are the friends that steer you in the right direction when

you go rogue. Your best interest is always their first thought.

Most importantly, these are the people that make you laugh harder than anyone else. Whenever you're together,

you can expect endless bouts of laughter.

These sets of hysterical giggles are usually accompanied by some sort of shenanigans. This is the group of friends that usually gets in trouble together but works each

other out of it in the end.

After all, if you have crazy friends, you have everything. With them, every public event is turned into a scene. These are the people that enable you

to forget about daily stresses, the ones you are totally comfortable around. This is the group you want to have along for the ride.

Whether it be your bros or your best girls, be sure to show them some love and appreciation every now and again. They do a lot for you, and for most of us, it's hard to imagine where we'd be without them.

Here's to the fam, and our four crazy years of adventures and mischief. We've never had it all together, but together we've definitely had it all. Thanks for being the best.

Tatum Richards
REFLECTIONS

Technology brings change

By Lennix-Rodney Lee

Beautiful moments are hard to come by. When they do, it is probably best to immortalize them on Instagram. Whether it is doing research on a computer or playing Candy Crush on a phone, technology has changed the way everyone views and interacts with the world. The same goes for education.

Virtual classroom

One of the most prevalent technological advancements is the availability of online classes. Students use the program Edgenuity to take courses not offered at Riggs.

"It helps you... go at your own pace. If you feel that you've mastered something, you can just go ahead and go on. Or if

you need to spend more time [on] something, you can take time to really work on that area before you move on," Rachel Propst, 11, said. Propst is taking advanced placement psychology on Edgenuity. Propst knows some of the challenges the format presents, including unclear questions.

Propst also admits to preferring a real classroom to a virtual one. "I still like a real classroom... just the interaction and being able to ask questions and have that accessibility to your teacher is always a good thing," she said.

Riggs Academy, which is in its fifth year, primarily uses Edgenuity for credit-recovery. Teachers at the high school and middle school also use Edgenuity in class.

Director/teacher Sha-

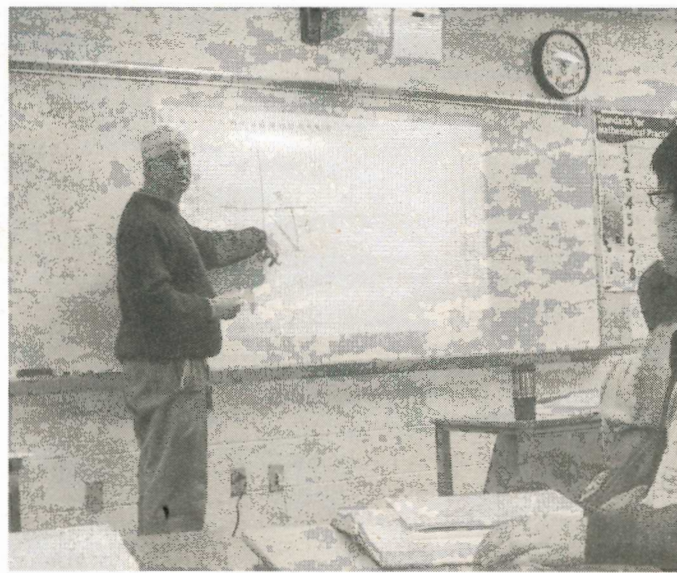


photo by Dagne Ode

Math teacher Jay Schwartz uses his Mimio board to work through a math problem with his class.

na Davis says that while feedback at Riggs Academy has received overall mixed reception, several students prefer the computer program to a real classroom.

"You're always going to have to have a teacher in a classroom to kind of guide students and... help motivate them. But with Edgenuity... the lectures embedded in it are [recorded by] certified teachers. It does not necessarily replace teachers... but teachers are kind of used in a different way than a traditional classroom," Davis said.

Even that, however, may not be as effective as a real classroom. "Teachers on Edgenuity can be from really anywhere in the country... [but] if your teachers are right here in the school building, they can relate

it locally," Davis said.

Edgenuity could potentially be a good resource for students who want to go beyond what Riggs has to offer. "Right now, we primarily do credit recovery, but we kind of work towards doing more alternative education," Davis said.

Classroom evolution

Technology has not only provided an alternative to a traditional classroom but also modified those traditional classrooms. Every student has a school-issued laptop, and Smart Boards are in almost every room.

Another big piece of technology that most students use on a daily basis is a calculator. "When I first taught, not everybody had a calculator. Now, almost everybody



Samantha Ullmann, 11, looks at her school-issued computer while allowed to have their phones out in the lunch room and lobby due

has [them]," math teacher Jay Schwartz said.

Schwartz has been teaching math for seventeen years and has witnessed the growth of calculator use. One of the worries of math teachers is that students will use a calculator incorrectly. His views on calculator use also reflect his views on technology in general.

"It's great, but it's only as good as the person using it," Schwartz said. "There [are] a lot of things you can do with it, but you have to be educated on how to use it."

He also comments

on his use of a Mimio board in his classes. He had previously used a Smart Board, which he actually had only been using for four years.

Schwartz and other math teachers also worry about the effect calculators will have on students. "In the math department, we've been concerned that some [students] are relying on their calculators so much that their mental math skills are diminishing," he said.

Schwartz also says that some math problems are unsolvable without a calculator, proving that it



photo by Dagne Ode

Alli Hedman, 11, checks her phone after school. Students are not allowed to have their phones out in the halls between classes.

s in education, social norms



Carly Peterson, 11, reads updates on her phone. Students are using their free time.

photo by Dagne Ode

has become a necessity.

Outside the classroom

Technology is not only prominent in class but also in some extracurricular activities such as the school newspaper and yearbook. Now, the yearbook staff relies heavily on computers. Yearbook advisor and English teacher Tiffany Roderick would definitely not want to go back to the old days.

"It would be a disaster. I think it would be a disaster for the [students] too," she said.

"We're not sending in pieces of the page to a company like they used to have to do. [Students are] creating the page right in front of their eyes... It's like instant gratification," Roderick said. "We already think it takes a lot of time now. It would take [twice] as much work and time as it does now [if we didn't have computers]."

Roderick, however, believes that one of the biggest issues with forms of communication such as email is what students lose in not talking face to face.

People may say things they normal would not.

"I think the big thing is that people may take things out of context," she said.

Pros and cons

The school laptops have proved to be a valuable resource as well as a source of frustration for both students and teachers.

"I think that it really probably gives students a leg-up when they get to post-secondary because... they'll have the experience with researching on the Internet and... the expectations of using the Internet [and] different programs," Davis said of the positives.

"I think the good things are they have access to all the information that's out there. However, you have to be very limited with the time that they have to find the information that they need to be using with the Internet," Roderick said.

Programs such as BlackBoard Learn allow students to familiarize themselves with certain Internet programs and set ups. "You really get to have that advantage too of being able to maneuver through those programs," Davis said.

"As a teacher, you have to be aware of what they're capable of doing with the computer and kind of work around what they should actu-

ally be doing," Roderick said of the negatives.

One of the constant struggles of school laptops is students' concentration being elsewhere with distractions such as computer games. "It's almost like [some students] are addicted," Schwartz said.

"You have so much more information at your fingertips, but you have to be more careful with the information that you're getting [to make sure] it's reliable," Davis said.

Technology can be a bit of a hindrance outside of school as well. Davis remembers seeing whole families looking at their phones while not talking to each other at all.

"We kind of lose some of that communication... you don't even realize it," Davis said.

Despite the problems that arise from overuse and misuse of technology, most agree that it is a necessary evil that people must work towards eliminating.

Moving forward

"It definitely is harmful if students are just playing games all day when they're supposed to be in class doing their work," Propst said. "I think it would have a place for benefitting students in their education if they use it properly."

Technology and its use in school will continue to grow. "It would

just be a matter of getting used to that technology," Propst said

Students rarely see the inside of a library when doing research. "They don't necessarily know how to use it properly; they think that it's easier for them to go to Google and find the stuff that they want," Roderick said.

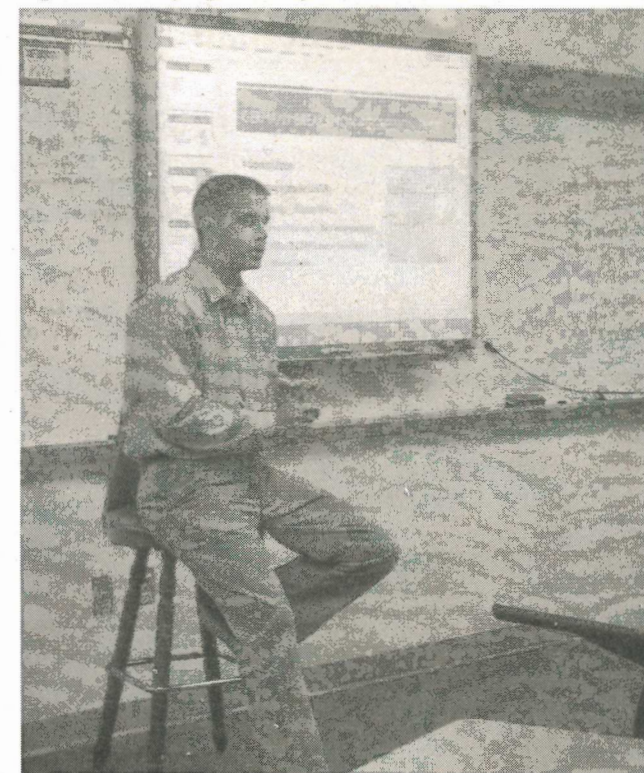
Even with the good and bad changes, technology will continue to be an important tool, such as applying to colleges and for scholarships.

"We'll adapt because it's not going anywhere. I think there are things that we lose, but I don't think those are ever going to totally go away.

I really just think that technology came at us so fast that we're now just sorting through [everything]," Davis said.

"I think technology has its place. It can't replace the understanding part of things, though. So that's what I try to strive to [do] when I'm teaching. I'm always trying to incorporate technology but not to the point where it replaces old-fashioned understanding," Schwartz said.

"[Students] are always going to pass notes; they're always going to text... We just have to kind of get over that and think of it maybe as a tool to use instead of a nuisance," Davis said.



History teacher Scott DeBoer uses his Smart Board during a lecture.

photo by Dagne Ode

Swimmers prepare for final home qualifier meet

by Chris Rumrill

Many of the fastest swimmers from South and North Dakota will compete in Pierre's Capital City Qualifier meet Feb. 8 and 9 in which over 300 swimmers, including approximately 150 athletes from the Pierre Swim Team, will take to the pool.

For the ten seniors on the team, this meet will be their last home swim meet. Everyone on the team, especially the seniors, will look to improve their times. One of those seniors is Blake Dean.

"I'm competing in the Aquatic Center for the last time. I want to make it my best," Dean said.

Senior Allison Meintsma is also excited for the meet.

"The Pierre Meet is going to be awesome to swim in . . . the competition is going to be tough, and it will be fun to see all the swimmers," Meintsma said.

This meet is the last chance for many of the swimmers to qualify for the 2014 South Dakota Short-Course State Swim Meet to be held Feb. 28 through Mar. 2 on the Black Hills State University campus.

The entire team has endured many exhausting practices, and senior Michael Hanson can attest to that.

"The hardest part about swim practice is just finding the courage

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

—head coach Kent Huckins

to get in the pool for warm-ups because you know it's only going to get harder from there," Hanson said.

The mid-season practices for the high school swimmers involve swimming approximately two and a half miles daily while the Christmas break practices involved logging three miles daily. These workouts are paying off and have the team swimming fast.

"Heading into the Pierre meet, the

team looks strong and should contend for one of the top three spots at the State Swim Meet," said head coach Kent Huckins.

Huckins also welcomes everyone to come watch the meet and support the swimmers. "The Pierre Meet gives people a chance to support the youth in our community and see firsthand many of the top swimmers in South Dakota," Huckins said. Senior Joseph Schueller also encourages

people to come watch the meet. "Watching the Pierre meet is like watching awesomeness in motion!" Schueller said. As always, coming to view the Pierre swim meet is free, and food is always available at the concession stand.

This meet follows the team's trip to North Dakota to compete in the Aquastorm Category 5 Swim Meet at the Bismarck State College pool.

"Bismarck gave us a chance to compete against the top swimmers from both North and South Dakota. It was our best overall performance of the season," Huckins said.

Pierre Swim Team

came in second, just a few points short of the Bismarck Swim Team who won the meet. Pierre, however, defeated the eight other South Dakota swim teams that participated in the meet. The swimmers will look to top that performance this weekend.

The high school students who garnered first-place finishes at Bismarck include Jordan Lutmer in the Men's 13-14 200-yard medley relay and 200-yard free relay, Wyatt Rumrill in the Men's 15 and Over 100- and 200-yard breaststroke events, and Ashley Theobald in the Women's 15 and Over 100-yard breaststroke race.

Boys Basketball

Record: 9-2

Last game: Tuesday against Rapid City Stevens

Next Game: Tonight against Brandon Valley

Player Comment: "In basketball I enjoy kicking [butt] and taking names!" --senior Cody Somsen

Swimming

Last Meet: January 17-19 at Bismarck

Next Meet: Next weekend in Pierre

Athlete comment: "We don't wear shirts, what more do you want from us? Come to the Pierre meet!" --senior Blake Dean

Wrestling

Last meet: Last Saturday in Pierre

Next meet: Tomorrow at Brookings

Athlete comment: "Wrestling teaches me to be in good [body] position." --senior Alec Williams



Girls Basketball

Record: 5-5

Last game: Last Thursday against Mitchell

Next game: Tonight at Brandon Valley

Player comment: "I feel like our next game should be pretty good. We just need to execute the offense and work together." --junior Jory Mullen

Boys Hockey

Record: 14-5-1

Last game: Last Saturday at Mandan

Next game: Saturday against Aberdeen

Player comment: "You miss one-hundred percent of the shots you don't take, that's a Wayne Gretsky quote." --junior Riley Bren

Girls Hockey

Record: 3-1-1

Last game: last Sunday at Brookings

Next game: Saturday at Mitchell

Player comment: "We still have a lot of work to do, but everyone's working really hard and trying their best." --senior Morgan Puepke

Gymnastics

Last meet: Last Saturday at Rapid City Invitational

Next Game: Tomorrow against Rapid City Central

Athlete comment: "The event I enjoy the most would definitely be the bars!" --sophomore Demeri Hanson

compiled by Wyatt Rumrill

Govs wrestlers shoot beyond expectations

By Micah Howard

A young Governors' wrestling team is making no excuses on its way through a successful season campaign as it heads into the state tournament next month.

In his first year as head coach, Shawn Lewis has taught an aggressive, point-scoring attitude. Lewis says his transition into the coaching position was smooth, and he is pleased with how the wrestlers have performed thus far.

"For the most part I think we've excelled, we've done well, and we've competed with the best in the state. We just haven't made the leap to beating the best teams in the state yet, but I think we're really close," Lewis said.

As for what to improve upon, the team is making small improvements, one by one, every single week.

This year, the overall youth of the team has been

one its defining attributes.

"Last season we had ten seniors in the room and a lot of leadership. This year, we have four seniors in the room, to which, at times we've either had two or three of them on varsity at a time. Our team has consisted of over half freshmen and eighth-graders," Lewis said.

A lack of seniors can also mean a lack of leadership. Those leadership roles, Lewis says, are slowly being filled.

"Leadership has been developing, and it gets better each and every week out of our seniors."

Since the Governors lost such a significant portion of their team to graduation, it's easy to see how strong teams throughout the state could quickly drop Pierre off their lists of worthy opponents. The Govs, however, have made a point to make no excuses, and they look forward to showing

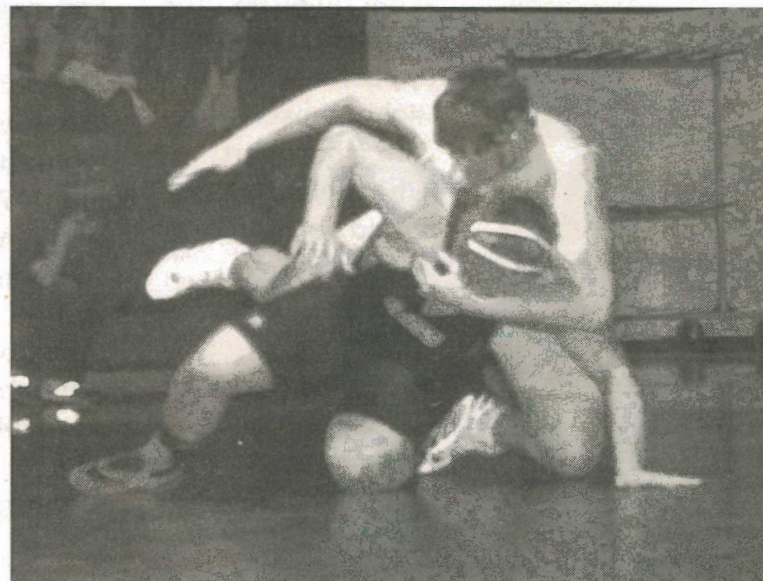
"We just haven't made the leap to beating the best teams in the state yet, but I think we're really close."—head coach

Shawn Lewis

what they're made of at the state wrestling tournament.

"After us losing ten seniors last year, a lot of people around the state counted Pierre out, even to place in the top six. But we have pressure on ourselves because we have high goals for ourselves. We don't care about the excuse of being young. We know what we're all capable of, and if we can get it done all together on the same day, this team is capable of very great things."

Lewis says that a top-four



Courtesy Photo

Dylan Bennett, 12, takes down his Bobcat opponent in Brookings' home gym. Bennet and the Gov squad will again compete in Brookings tomorrow.

finish at the state tournament is definitely doable. Individually, the team will shoot to claim at least three individual championships. As a team, of course the Govs, will seek as a high a place

within that four as they can get their hands on. They will have a shot to surprise some teams come February 28.

The wrestlers will hit the mat again tomorrow at the Brookings Invitational.

Gymnasts prepare for state

By Micah Howard

With less than a month to go before the Class AA State Gymnastics Meet and only a week before ESD, the Lady Governors' gymnastics team is working hard to improve as much as possible.

The team has had an overall successful year thus far, while fighting to overcome an injury to Dani Ullmann. After Ullmann's injury, the gymnasts had to put in extra work to fill the gap, says junior Melissa Bobby.

"Since Dani got hurt, everyone on the team has stepped up to take her place in every event," Bobby said.

Bobby says that floor has been the team's best event so far, while vault could use some improvement.

After competing in the ESD conference championship in Mitchell on Feb. 8, the Lady Govs will set out to Aberdeen to compete in the state meet on Feb. 21.

Bobby says that the state meet will be different than the others in that success will only come with adequate mental preparation.

"We need to have our heads in the game. It [the state meet] is not like a normal meet. It's more mental, and you have

to be prepared for it."

The team's overall goals for the state meet are relatively simple. Every gymnast on the team wants to make a positive impact and have fun.

"We all want to contribute to team effort and have as much fun at state as we can. But we also want to be serious at the same time."

Bobby says what she is most looking forward to about the meet is spending time with her "family" of teammates. The Lady Govs next competition will be the conference meet in Mitchell next Saturday.

Sochi 2014: what to watch

All events listed will be featured on NBC Primetime (KDLT), central time.

Men's Half-pipe 7:00 p.m. on February 11

Ski-jumping 1:30 p.m. on February 8

Men's speed-skating 3:00 p.m. Feb. 10

Women's Alpine Skiing 7:00 p.m. Feb. 10

Women's Half-pipe 9:00 p.m. on Feb. 12

Figure Skating 7:30 p.m. Feb. 16

Freestyle Skiing 3:00 p.m. Feb. 17

Bachelor of the Month



Brett Samuelson, 12

Eye color:
Brown
Personality:
Obsessive
Hair color:
Brown
Height:
5 feet 12 inches
Favorite leisure activity:
Brandi-watching

What qualities do you look for in the opposite sex?
Highly conservative with a big heart.
What celebrity would you like to go out with?
Brandi Ziebart.
Looks or personality?
Looks like Brandi.
Pursue or be pursued?
Pursued by Brandi.
Do you have an age preference?
18
What is your ideal

first date?
Anywhere with Brandi Ziebart.
What would your ideal girl be like?
Brandi Ziebart.
Would you ever date someone taller than you?
Definitely.
Where do you see yourself in five years?
With Brandi Ziebart.

Bachelorette of the Month



Gabby Vizcarra, 12

Eye color:
Hazel
Personality:
Friendly
Hair color:
Dark Brown
Height:
5'2"
Favorite leisure activity:
Reading/playing

video games.
What qualities do you look for in the opposite sex?
Intelligence and a great sense of humor.
What celebrity would you like to go out with?
Chris Hemsworth (if he wasn't married)
Looks or personality?
Personality. I don't want to waste my time with someone I can't stand
Pursue or be pursued?
Be pursued; I have better things to do

than chase someone.
What is your ideal first date?
Fishing then eating at a restaurant
What would your ideal boy be like?
Tall, handsome, healthy, outdoorsman, no "women-in-the-kitchen" jokes
Would you ever date someone shorter than you? Probably not. He's be a midget.
Where do you see yourself in five years?
Starting medical school



photo by Hyrna Zakahi

Brianna Zimmerman, 12, Jennifer Palmer, 12, Eileen Leong, 12, Joni Willoughby, 11, Kaitleyn Klave, 10, and Hannah Booth, 9, perform a dance-off scene. Leong and Willoughby's characters clash several times throughout the play.

Drama students prepare for State One-Acts Competition

By Austin Lentsch

Students recently attended Augustana College's traveling production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* a couple of weeks ago. Almost two hours long, the play has five acts.

Unlike this full-length play, two one act plays are the currently offerings of the Riggs drama department, directed by Hyrna Zakahi. These plays are titled *The Audition* and *Candid Shots*.

The Audition is about a group of people auditioning for a play. These actors range from timid and quiet to absolutely outrageous. Eileen Leong, 12, plays a crazy dancer that challenges

the stage manager to a dance-off to decide who is a better dance captain.

"Yuma is so spontaneous and unpredictable; I got so excited when I was picturing how it would play out on stage, and I knew Yuma was meant for me! I am having so much fun with it and now I have a reason for me to bring out my crazy dance moves and willingly act like a fool on stage," Leong said.

Candid Shots shows the struggle of freshman James Getty to gain acknowledgement at his high school. He eventually creates his own "underground yearbook," displaying every personal and embarrassing thing that the usual school yearbook would not dare display.

Alex Hahn, 11, who plays the lead role of James Getty, is a huge advocate for theatre. "One-acts are really fun to do! And I guess more people like to do them because there isn't any singing involved. It's just an all-around great experience," Hahn said.

In addition to the usual performances at the Riggs Theater, *The Audition* will also compete at the State One-Act Competition in Brandon on Feb. 7.

Mary Shrake, 12, plays Sarah, a girl with a scary crush on a boy. Shrake will be going to the state one-act competition for the first time.

"We've all been working really hard [rehearsing the play]... we're all really excited," Shrake said.