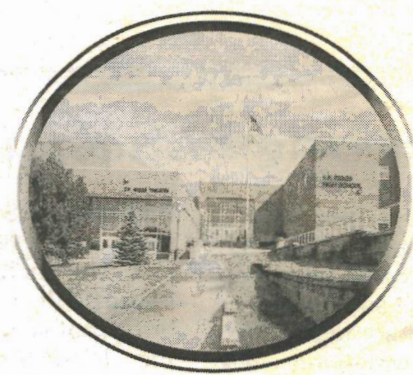


# G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

VOLUME 72 ♦ ISSUE 2 ♦ OCT. 25, 2013 ♦ PIERRE, 57501



## Oral interp team shines at competition



Interpers Annie Woodmansey, Justin Oakland, Lydia Kanz, Louis Mehlhaff, Grant Erwin, and Joni Willoughby celebrate their winning performances.

By Austin Lentsch

Many students enjoy the thrill of competition on the volleyball court or a football field. There's a group of students, however, that spends their Saturdays competing in quite a different medium.

Oral Interpretation, or Interp, is basically competitive acting. Some performances will prompt tears and others laughter, and yet others, both.

T.F. Riggs boasts a highly competitive Oral Interp team that takes home plenty of hardware. They are currently the reigning champions of the most competitive category--Reader's Theatre.

For this event, a group of up to six people have ten minutes to tell some kind

of story with actions and words. One of the teams performs a shortened version of the play *The Newsies*, based on the true story of the strike by paperboys in New York in the late 1800s.

Students in Oral Interpretation practice their piece every day to tell the story in the most entertaining way that they possibly can. Oral Interpers agree that the reason they like it so much is because each person gets to showcase his or her individual strengths and use those strengths to make the team better.

The captains of the team this year are four-year veterans Justin Oakland and Lydia Kanz.

"It's a very unique activity and a great artis-

tic outlet," Oakland said.

Kanz, on the other hand, enjoys the competitive aspect.

"I like the thrill of the competition and getting to meet (and compete) with people that have similar interests," Kanz said.

Both Kanz and Oakland brought home three first place medals from the latest competition and hope to repeat their success at their home meet this weekend.

The new coach of the interp team this year is Jennifer Peacock, who has taken over for English teacher and oral interp coach Shane Cronin.

They have dedicated their year to Mr. Cronin's fight against cancer and are proud to be part of Cronin's Crew.

## Student library helper exceeds expectations

By Lennix-Rodney Lee

They work behind the scenes, lending helping hands even when students don't realize it. They are library workers who dedicate their own time to ensure the library runs efficiently.

Among them is sophomore Emily Rice. Rice started working in the library during her freshman year as an alternative to her study hall.

"I was bored to death in my study hall," Rice said.

"It's a lot of fun. I also like the other aspects of it. Help-

ing students.... helping them find things. Overall, it's really fun because I get to do something that I like," she said.

Even though she was new to the game of library work, Rice's performance as a freshman was already notable. While librarian Keith Christensen was unable to work this past spring because of an injury, Rice set up a book-order project for the library.

Christensen says that he likes when students take the initiative in library work.

"That's caring about the school," Christensen said.

"A teacher didn't set this project up, Emily Rice did."

Rice says that it was fairly simple. "I just sent out an e-mail to the teachers and... I got a pretty good response," she said.

Rice noticed students' lack of interest in current library material and hoped to change that.

"I didn't see a lot of [students] coming in to read the books that we have," Rice said. "I just thought of it one day... that might work to get them in the library, to get them to know

that we're here, we're here for them, we're their library and they have some input on which books [we order]."

"Most [students] don't [remember] that they can do that," she added.

Rice's project is not the first effort to encourage students to read more. The library has also added audio and electronic books in previous years.

Rice enjoys working in the library and recommends that other students give it a try if interested.

"In study hall, it's a free for all sometimes. Here

there's a little more structure; it's a little more organized. I'm not sitting here going, 'Okay. What do I do today?'" she said.

"I'd say just do it. It's so much fun. You meet a lot of different people, do a lot of different things, and it looks really good on your resume and college applications," Rice added.

Christensen also encourages students who are hard-working and dedicated to give it a trial run.

"I couldn't imagine [students] not working in the library," Christensen said.

# Reconciliation: not just a one-day event

It does not take a whole lot of thought to conclude why people don't see the importance of something like Native American week. Many wonder why we should remember what happened in the past if it is not very prominent in the present.

Recently, Riggs students had an assembly in which they learned about a documentary titled *Dakota 38*. They were also given a brief history of the men on which the film was based.

Thirty-eight Dakota warriors were sentenced to death in 1862 after being charged with "war crimes," resulting in the largest mass execution

that the U.S. government has ever carried out. The incident itself is difficult to fathom, but what a lot of people don't think about is the others who narrowly escaped death.

Originally, around 300 Dakota warriors were sentenced to death, which was reduced to 39 and eventually 38. That leaves over 200 others who evaded death. Why is this important?

Many people, maybe even some of your fellow classmates, this writer included, would not be here if that original order had been carried out. As descendants, we live with a certain gratefulness to be alive and, un-

fortunately, sometimes a bitterness about our shared history.

From that point forward, Dakota people have focused on healing. Native American week is a good time for understanding, which helps in the healing process.

The school's observance shows that the school does care about the often unknown history of its Native American students while providing information to those who are unaware.

Understand that many may not see everything the same as you do. What can be a day of celebration for you may be a time of remembrance for someone else.

For example, at Christmas break, most think of Christmas and New Year's holidays.

At the same time, others may have on their minds the anniversaries of the Dakota 38 hangings and of the Wounded Knee Massacre, which itself is called the Day of Mourning.

Native American week, like any other acknowledgement of history, should feel relevant to us. A common saying tells us that those who do not learn history are doomed to repeat it.

While it may not be that extreme, we should not take any steps back. A gap already exists. Any steps back will only widen that gap.

We should focus on taking steps forward and strive for a better future. Native American week can help us get there.

## GOVERNOR STAFF 2013-2014

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## Thumbs

What's hot and what's not this month

- ...to sweater weather
- ...to our football team
- ...to Pumpkin carving and haunted houses
- ...to Hockey season starting
- ...to Halloween movies
- ...to returning kickoffs
- ...to Dakota, Hobo, and Gypsy days
- ...to duck season
- ...to Fall in general
- ...to the eye black gang
- ...to welding class
- ...to Ellie Goulding
- ...to hump day
- ...to new Northfaces
- ...to getting accepted to college

- ...to the government shutting down
- ...to not keepin' it classy
- ...to Zesto closing soon
- ...to Breaking Bad ending
- ...to an early winter
- ...to girls pre-maturely wearing UGG boots.
- ...to Govmobile season ending
- ...to Guads being closed
- ...to early morning review sessions
- ...to filling out scholarships
- ...to breaking putters mid-round
- ...to cold football games
- ...to three day weekends

## Hall Talk:

What is your favorite fall activity?



"Watching my boys play football"  
-Abbie Wieseler,

12



"Watching the bitties play volleyball"  
-Ethan Leif,

11



"Riding ostriches across the prairie at sunset"  
-Katie Bartlett,

10



"Crocheting people sweaters while watching leaves fall"  
-Hallie Jerome,

9

## Take a break from typical slasher flicks

Once again, All Hallows' Eve looms and with it, another batch of horror movies.

Oddly, no *Paranormal Activity* in sight.

Anyway, first up is *The Purge* with a nightmarish version of the future, giving a chilling vision of the lengths

the government would be willing to go to for a stable economy. It has a lot of potential that it never completely meets but does a good job trying.

In a world where all crime is legal, where would you stand? The movie also seems to have audiences discussing their own "Purge lists." Best back away slowly from those ones.

Something a bit more supernatural-based this month is *Carrie*. Both a book adaption and a remake, it's more tragic than horrific.

What if a girl whose only parent is a religious fanatic realized she had telekinesis? And what if a few bullies played a horrible prank on her during prom? The answer is catastrophic.

The movie's original release date around prom would have been more in tune with its moral lesson: don't be a jerk or you might spend your prom literally flying across the gym.

*Gravity* is obviously more of a science-fiction drama than a horror film. It follows a medical engineer who struggles to survive after being set adrift in space. If the character takes one wrong step, she'll float out into a never-ending abyss.



Lennix Lee

### MOVIES

She will then run out of oxygen and possibly suffocate, though she'll probably freeze to death first.

That is more terrifying than most horror films. Makes for a great drama and an intense movie-going experience.

*Fright Night 2: New Blood* is not a sequel. It's more of a reboot of the remake. Seriously. It manages to be very intriguing and completely gratuitous at the same time.

*Trick 'r Treat* is a movie that captures the essence of Halloween. It consists of several stories that revolve around Halloween including vampires, zombie-ghouls, and the like. Equally comedy as it is horror, this anthology should be enjoyed but not taken too seriously.

Also, check out *Curse of Chucky* because nothing livens up Halloween like a possessed killer-doll.

## Jake's Place soars on strength of its wings

A common saying used to describe most every new food anyone eats is "Tastes just like chicken!" Well, in the case of this paper's edition of Good Eats, chicken is exactly what's up. Specifically, wings.

We'll be comparing three local restaurants with wings on the menu: Redrossa (yes, they have wings), the Longbranch, and Jake's Place.

Our first eatery of discussion is the Longbranch, a local bar and restaurant on Pierre Street, where every Tuesday night is Wing Night.

With all the different spicy mix-ups of flavor for every order of wings, what else could

you ask for? The hot wings range from mild to super nuke, and every week features a new special sauce. The downside: tiny, dry wings.

Though the price is right, you feel like you have to order 15 wings

just to fill your gut. The Longbranch takes third place in this category.

Second on our list is Redrossa, Italian Restaurant. Though they have a lack in flavors, having only three (Italian, Barbeque, and New York style), their

quality is above average, with juicy meat and just enough sauce along with properly sized wings. Not to mention their all-around friendly service every day of the week.

The downside: their wings are

only offered during happy hour. Overall, Redrossa takes second place in this category.

Last, but not least, Jake's Place. Coming back as our reigning champion of good eats, Jake's offers succulent wings with just

the right amount of crispiness outside and savory inside, without swimming in sauces

According to some of the Riggs staff, they "just know what a good wing tastes like!" The downside: Somewhat expensive.

But if you're willing to spend a few extra dollars for quality taste, your taste buds will thank you. Jake's Place takes first place in this category.

So whether you're in search of a friendly environment for a group of chums, a place to gorge on finger-food chicken, or somewhere to take a cheap date, there is always a way to incorporate wings into your day.

Lydia Kanz and Justin Oakland  
GOOD EATS

## Let those Friday night lights shine

The lights are shining down, a cold chill accompanies the fall breeze, the band is playing and the boys are walking out on the field. It's Friday night.

I think it's true what they say, football is the pride and joy of small towns. Generations of Pierre residents fill the stands in a sea of green to watch our boys play the game they themselves played out there years ago.

Hearing our classmates get called out on the field is something that feels unreal. It seems like so recently we all sat in admiration of the big kids running out in those green

jerseys. Generations of fans truly stretch from end-zone to end-zone.

Football is not just a game around here, it's more like an event.

Cars are parked in the upper lot hours

and, on occasion, even days before a big game. The pre-game atmosphere almost feels like a college tailgate.

Music is blaring, burgers are on the grill, and a sense of Gov-pride is instilled in everyone. The sun is setting over Hol-

lister Field, and the countdown until game time has ensued. Like I said, pride and joy of a small town.

Nothing quite says small town football like looking at the student section sitting

on a concrete ledge to watch. I wouldn't trade those seats for anything in the world. Those legs dangling off the ledge all belong to a Gov who is more than proud to sit in that spot and cheer on the team.

I love hearing the bleachers roar and see-

ing people jump to their feet after a touchdown. Whether you're a fan, student, parent, cheerleader, or band member, everyone is involved.

The boys of fall bring an entire town together.

Football is timeless, the field lights will always shine bright, and the 'Governor Nation' will continue to be legendary.

These football games are what this town lives for. The pride of Pierre is easily found on Friday nights running down a dirt hill, with full hearts, to a field they can call their second home, to play the game they love the most.

Tatum Richards  
REFLECTIONS

# Mickelson plans annual ceremony to honor vet

By Allie Knofczynski

Veterans Day is a day when citizens of the nation stop and reflect about the service of countless individuals that have sacrificed so much for so many. It is a day to remember those who have served and those who are currently in the line of duty.

In honor of this holiday, the Pierre community is coming together once again to show local veterans gratitude through a program held in the Riggs theatre.

The ceremony, organized by Latin teacher Jay Mickelson, began as a presenta-



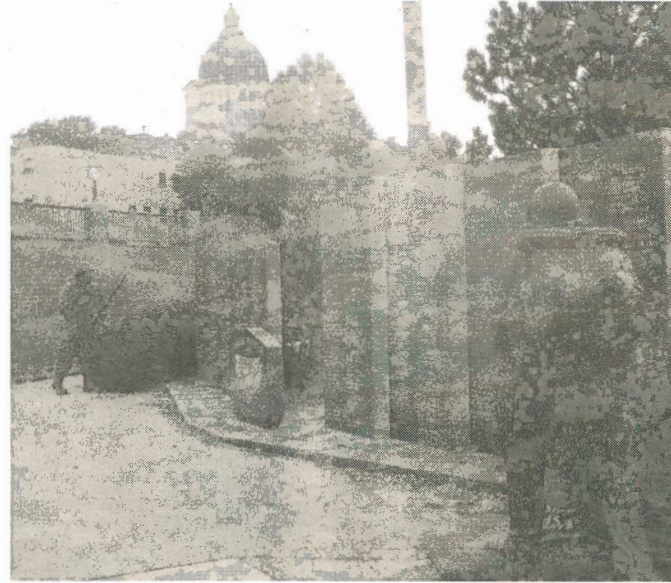
Jay Mickelson

*“By honoring our veterans, we are honoring the people that allow us our incredible freedoms.”*  
**—Jay Mickelson**

tion dedicated to those affected by the events of September 11, and later led to a newspaper article praising the veterans in our own faculty. A few years ago, however, the school district decided not to take a vacation day on Veterans Day. “The veterans were

very angry when they heard the news,” said Mickelson of the reaction to schoolboard’s decision. After receiving this feedback, the school and community, with the help of Mickelson, decided to put together a presentation to commemorate the work of for-

mer and current members of the military. The program was just over an hour and highlighted not only memorable speakers and patriotism but also used the talent of students at Riggs, whether they were singing in the choir or dancing to their hearts’ content or jamming the jazz band in a mini USO show. “The veterans were very impressed by the program, so much so that they wanted to come to us and celebrate with us next year,” Mickelson said. It was so successful, in fact, that the US Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Day National Committee located in Washington, DC, commissioned Pierre as a regional site for celebrat-



The Korean and Vietnam War Memorials stand in the shadow of the capitol building. The memorials pay tribute to South Dakotans lost in these wars.

ing Veterans Day. The region includes South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Iowa, and Nebraska.

Mickelson was very moved by this achievement. “I was honored to have our community selected for such a prestigious certification,” he said.

This year’s program is still in the works, but the theme will revolve around the veteran memorials that are located throughout Pierre, which is an idea that a student suggested.

“I have had next year’s theme planned for years, since it will be the one-hundredth anniversary of The Star Spangled Banner, but this year’s was trickier to come up with.”

Nevertheless, the observance should be just

as successful as last year’s. What should students take away from the presentation? Mickelson has some advice as to just how meaningful this program is.

“By honoring our veterans, we are honor-



A flag is fastened to the belt of the World War II Monument. The monument is part of the theme for this year’s Veterans Day.



Photo by Samantha Beck

The World War II Memorial at Capitol Lake features sculptures representing all branches of the U.S. military.

# terans

## Riggs students, staff serve in military

By Marcella Lees

Students who are lacking direction but still want to make a difference should look at joining the military, Academy teacher and Iraq War veteran Shana Davis said. "It really helps to ease you into the adult world."

For many students, coming from a life where everything is taken care of to one where they suddenly have to figure how to pay bills and taxes and find a house and get a job is hard enough if they know what they want to do with their lives. For kids who still don't have any definite direction for their lives, the military can be an excellent choice. They can get college paid for and housing, food, and clothing is often taken care of.

"It's worth it, you get the experience of being away from home and you learn a lot about yourself. There are also the educational benefits," Davis said.

So why do some students join? For many military service runs in the family, and they simply grow up knowing that's what they want.

"I always wanted to join; I want to see the world," said senior Xzander Henderson, a member of the US Army Reserves.

Davis knew the military was what she wanted to do when she was in elementary school.



Courtesy Kelsey Garber

Riggs senior Kelsey Garber was sworn into the South Dakota National Guard earlier this month. Garber said she spent a day at a Military Entrance Processing Station doing paperwork and medical checks before taking an oath and being sworn into the Guard.

It was definitely a family thing since her dad, cousin, grandfather and great uncle all had been in the military. Her great uncle was even part of the D-day invasion of France in World War II.

"I had an Air Force poster in my room, and I always thought that was such a cool and exiting thing to do," Davis said.

"When I was a kid, I was always playing Army," said math teacher and current member of the US Army Reserves Justin Kappes. "It was always what I knew I wanted to do."

Military service provides a lot of lessons.

"I think it's made me a better teacher, and being a teacher has made me a better military instructor," Kappes said.

"I'm way more organized and calmer," Henderson said of his time since joining the Reserves.

"It helps you to become more focused and goal-oriented. It teaches you to always look forward," Davis added.

Kappes said that the job is important simply because it is a matter of being prepared. Our country needs to be ready to defend itself at any time.

"I was in the military during 9/11, and it was scary knowing we

could be attacked at any moment," Davis said.

Even if we don't need a huge army right now, Davis stressed the need to keep numbers up because if something like 9/11 were to happen again, we need to be able to act, and an army can't be trained in a day.

"If we didn't have the military, the United States wouldn't be here," said Henderson.

It's not all hard work though. Most of the people in the military genuinely enjoy what they do.

"I love it. I have fun with it," said Henderson.

"It's been a positive ex-

perience for me; it's taught me a lot," said Kappes.

"I enjoyed the camaraderie between the fellow soldiers and serving the country in a meaningful way," said Davis.

If it hadn't been for a medical discharge, Davis would still be in the Reserves, and Henderson and Kappes are both still a part of it. Neither Henderson nor Kappes have any intentions of quitting either.

"What keeps me involved is helping younger soldiers become who they want to be. Knowing I'm making a difference keeps me going," said Kappes.

Both Kappes and Davis did tours in Iraq with Kappes doing additional tours in Hungary, Bosnia, and Kuwait. Kappes is nearing his 19-year mark while Davis was in the military for eight years. Both Kappes and Henderson hope to stay involved as long as they can.

"When we went overseas, one of the things that was hard for me as a teacher was seeing the kids dirty, not in school and just not cared for in general. They were used as bait for ambushes. It's hard to see kids complain about school when there's kids over there who would love to go to school," Davis said.

"The opportunity to serve your country is not offered to everyone, so take advantage of it, and protect your country," Kappes said.



Photo by Samantha Beck

the Capitol building. The

ing the people that allow us our incredible freedoms at Riggs and in this country. Also, students should know that veterans are real, and veterans should realize that students still recognize and appreciate their sacrifices," Mickelson said.



Photo by Samantha Beck

one of the sculptures of the monuments at Capitol Lake near the Veteran's Day Assembly.

# Leong honored with Spirit of Max award

By Samantha Beck

Depending on the season, senior Eileen Leong might be busy with Student Senate and church activities, running track, or shining on the tennis court—all while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

Leong was honored for her achievements this month when she was given the Spirit of Max award at the girls state tennis tournament.

This honor is given to one senior girl and one senior boy each year based on tennis achievement, academic achievement, sportsmanship, and community involvement.

Girls tennis coach Wade Kippley says

he was confident Leong would win when he nominated her.

"I knew she was going to win just because I know the admiration she has from everyone in the tennis community," Kippley said. "It's a great award because I think it illustrates the impact she has had on other players and other coaches."

Leong, on the other hand, says she didn't expect to win the award.

"It was special because it shows how you don't have to be an amazing tennis player to be recognized, and people don't just care about your tennis record; they care about who you are as a person."

The award was

well deserved—Leong played varsity tennis for five years and played flight one singles for three. Throughout the years, she strived to show good sportsmanship.

"I show that I love the game but I have the same attitude on and off the court—whether I win or lose, I always try to be nice to my opponent. Being a respectful and good, balanced person is more important than winning matches," Leong said.

A balanced person is right. Leong says she does her best to stay involved in the school and community.

"Being a well-rounded person is something that comes in handy

in life. Being involved in different activities is fun because it lets you get to know lots of different people."

Kippley has nothing but praise for Leong and the example she sets for other athletes.

"Eileen has been the greatest role model I could ever imagine having on my team. Not only for the other girls on the team, but for me as well," Kippley said.

"I know our younger girls, just from working with her every day, have already grown up in a sense. They will take the things they learn from Eileen and pass those things down to kids that come up the next year and the year after that."



Senior Eileen Leong is awarded the Spirit of Max Award at the girls state tennis tournament earlier this month.

## Volleyball

Record: 7-11

Last game: Last Saturday at Aberdeen

Next Game: Tonight against Mitchell

Player comment: "The best part of volleyball is win' that J.V. dream!." -junior McKenna Halverson

## Girls Cross-Country

Last meet: last Thursday in Huron

Next meet: State on Saturday in Rapid City

Player comment: "I'm excited to see how well our girls team can do." --junior Rachel Propst

## Boys Soccer

Record at State Tournament: 1-2

Last match: Washington at the State Tournament

Player comment: "Overall I felt the season went well, but we could've made a bigger impact than what we did." -senior Tanner Farnsworth



## Boys Golf

Last tournament: State at Brandon Valley

Player comment: "Golf is just too easy and way too much fun, and it doesn't frustrate me." -senior Cash Anderson

## Girls tennis

Last Tournament: State in Sioux Falls

Player comment: "This year is a good year for rebuilding and showing the girls what it's like to not only win but be a true teammate." -senior Eileen Leong

## Boys Cross-Country

Last meet: Last Thursday in Huron

Next meet: State on Saturday in Rapid City

Player comment: "My racing strategy is to get out fast, try to get in the front group, and pace myself until the second mile. At that point, I pick people off until I can go into an all-out sprint to the end." -freshman Porter Jones

## Football

Record: 6-1; results from last night's game were not available at press time.

Last Game: Yesterday against Aberdeen

Next Game: first round of the playoffs

Player comment: "I feel like we are where we want to be as far as ESD standings and playoff seedings are concerned. I think we still have yet to play our best football, and we have a lot of momentum, so I'm excited to see how we do in the playoffs." -senior Nate Blaseg

Compiled by Wyatt Rumrill

# Tennis, golf, and soccer teams wrap up seasons

By Chris Rumrill

The first sport to finish its season was boys' golf. The boys' golf team competed at the state tournament on October 7 and 8 at the Brandon Valley golf course. During the state tournament Cash Anderson, Austin Hoss, Ben Deis, Matt Booth, Coleman Varty, and Andrew Van Gerpen competed for the Governors' team that finished tied for 15<sup>th</sup> out of 18 teams.

Van Gerpen, a freshman, placed the highest of all the Governors at the state tournament; Van Gerpen finished

ished tied for 37<sup>th</sup>.

"Cash Anderson is our only senior. He will be missed. Cash is a fine young man, and his leadership on and off the course is appreciated," head coach John Knox said.

Girls tennis completed their state tournament October 10-12 in Sioux Falls. The girls' tennis team finished 17<sup>th</sup> out of 20 teams.

Although the girls team didn't finish as high as they hoped, they still had a successful season because they "became better in every aspect of life," according to head coach Wade Kippley.

The members of the state team included, flight 1 Eileen Leong; flight 2, Jolee Smith; flight 3, Sam Beck; flight 4, Peyton Forney, flight 5, Gracie Jones; and flight 6, Chloe Ryan.

"Our seniors' (Eileen and Sam) impact on the girls and the character that they displayed will have a lasting effect that I will undoubtedly see the next five years in our younger girls. Because of that, I have no concern that our program is in fantastic shape I also know that Eileen and Sam will have as much to do with that success as

anyone else" coach Wade Kippley said.

Both boys and girls soccer finished their season last weekend in Sioux Falls. Both the boys and girls soccer teams qualified for the state tournament. The girls' soccer team put up a fight against Sioux Falls Lincoln in their first game by striking first, but Lincoln proved their strength by scoring four goals to win 4-1.

In their second game, the Lady Govs defeated Sioux Falls Washington 2-0. Their finale was the most thrilling. Tied with Brookings 1-1 af-

ter regular time and overtime, they went to penalty kicks. In penalty kicks, the Lady Govs defeated Brookings 4-2, thanks to a couple of key saves by keeper Kayla Rounds.

The win earned them the consolation championship, 5<sup>th</sup> place. "I had the privilege to get to know all my wonderful teammates and also help mentor the new members of the team each year. That was what mostly mattered to me—making and keeping my friendships with everybody," senior Gabby Vizcarra said. The boys' soccer

state tournament went similarly to the girls' tournament. In their first game, the Govs lost to Yankton 1-0 on a goal scored just before halftime. In their second game, the Govs struck first by scoring a goal in the second half and Brandon Valley evened the score. The game remained tied at 1-1 after overtime. The Govs won in penalty kicks 4-2, thanks to a couple of great saves by goalie Riley Sears.

In the final game, they faced Sioux Falls Washington. Washington got one early goal, and they kept their lead for

the rest of the game.

"It was a mirror image of our season—low scoring games and playing everyone tough. Our first game against Yankton was a very well-played game that ended in a 1-0 loss. We were the only first round game that was not decided by at least a three-goal differential. The most unfortunate thing coming out of that game was the loss of Tanner Farnsworth to injury. That definitely hurt our attack going forward." head coach Brad Cruse said. The Govs still had a decent 6<sup>th</sup> place finish.

## Football team poised to begin campaign for state championship

By Micah Howard

The football team has already put up a strong year, but post-season success could truly solidify 2013 as a year to remember.

They didn't, however, decide on a winning record the night of the first game. The team made that decision in December of last year.

"Our work ethic in the offseason has been paying off in the games," head coach Jayson Poppinga said. Poppinga also com-

mented that the team's senior leadership has been a deciding factor in the team's success.

"As a coaching staff, we're really proud of our kids, their work ethic, and their senior leadership," Poppinga said.

In the post season, they will also be looking back at lessons learned during the regular season. The team's loss to Yankton served as an important wake-up call.

"We learned that we can't just show up and expect to win. It takes all 11 guys on the field and

the entire team to win a game," Poppinga said.

Going into the playoffs, the Govs will look to improve upon their consistency, line play, and special teams. Poppinga has a simple set of expectations.

"I expect that our kids come out and play hard every game. If we do that, we'll have good performances," Poppinga said.

In order to take home a state title, Poppinga commented, many things will have to go well. Injury avoid-

ance will be key. Just one bad game could send the team home.

Quarterback Alex Gray says that the team's mentality will not change going forward.

"We're going to play as hard as we can, as long as we can," Gray said.

Two teams will battle for the 2013 Class 11AA title on November 15. If the Govs can carry their regular season momentum into the playoffs, they will have a good chance to line up in the Dome on that Friday night.

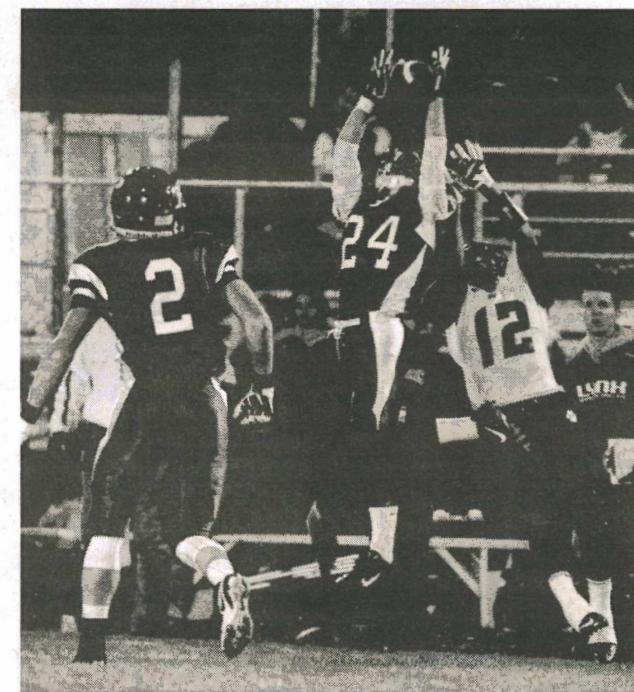


photo by Bob Gill

Ethan Case reaches up to intercept a ball in the game against Brandon Valley while Austin Christopherson pursues.

## Bachelor of the Month



**Graham Protexter, 12**

**Eye color:**

Not sure. All who look into them are turned instantly to stone.

**Personality:**

I'm a bit of a softy.

**Hair color:**

Ginger... if you look close enough

**Height:** Tall enough

**Favorite leisure**

**activity:**

Reading a nice, leather-bound romance novel in the dim firelight.

**What qualities do you look for in the opposite sex?**

Money

**What celebrity would you like to go out with?**

Susan

Christopherson

**Looks or personality?**

Still money

**Pursue or be pursued?**

I'm a bit of a pursuer. Some say stalker.

**Do you have an age preference?**

How old is Susan?

**What is your ideal first date?**

When she picks up the check.

**What would your ideal girl be like?**

Trying to escape.

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

At Riggs for my fifth straight senior year.

## Bachelorette of the Month



**Tatum Richards, 12**

**Eye color:** A dazzling hazel with flecks of glitter

**Personality:** Sassy, classy, and spunk, with a hint of Kim Kardashian

**Hair color:** Golden like a lion. Can't tame the mane!

**Height:** 5'8"

**Favorite leisure**

**activity:** Toss-up between dance competitions or golfing with my girls!

**What qualities do you look for in the opposite sex?**

Big boots, big truck, bad grammar.

**Looks or personality?**

Better have both.

**Pursue or be pursued?**

You come to me.

**What is your ideal first date?**

Take me fishing and I'm yours.

**What would your ideal boy be like?**

They have to be able

to put up with my friends and I (we're kind of a package deal.)

**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

I don't even know where I'll be tomorrow, so that's a good question.

**Would you ever date someone shorter than you?**

They have to be taller--no compromise.

**If you could go on a date with a celebrity who would it be?**

Judge me but I got that Bieber Fever.

Compiled by Sedona Kintz

## Fresh faces at Riggs

Get to know new staff members this fall



**Kara Wevik- AMC and Algebra II**

**Why do you like math?** Because there are right or wrong answers.

**Why did you become a math teacher?** I really liked math in high school, and I really like working with students.

**Hobbies:** Working out, reading, and watching movies



**Scott DeBoer- U.S. History**

**Why did you choose to be a teacher?** The people who had the biggest impact on me growing up were teachers, and my parents are both in education.

**Why do you like history?** I think it's interesting to see the impact people can have.

**What do you enjoy about Riggs?** Being able to be around kids every day and seeing how my previous seventh graders have grown.



**Jami Morris- Special Education**

**Why do you enjoy teaching?** I get to help kids that might struggle.

**What do you enjoy about Riggs?** Riggs is very welcoming. Among the staff there is a tight community.

**Hobbies:** Swimming, playing with kids, softball, and quilting.



**Brenda Hardwick-Secretary**

**Previous positions:** A legal secretary for nine years, then a kindergarten aid for eight years.

**What do you enjoy about Riggs?** Interacting with students.

**Hobbies:** Camping, fishing, and reading



**Rick Helgeson- Custodian**

**Previous positions:** Worked at Marvin's Windows and Doors as a jack-of-all-trades.

**What advice do you have for students?** In the future, you may use the classes you don't think are useful. I use chemistry, and I'm a janitor. As for numbers that aren't even real, they can be used to find things that are real and useful.

**Hobbies:** Fishing, hunting.