

G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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Students Celebrate Venner's Contributions

By Elizabeth Hopper

If you had been teaching for 39 years, what would you do? Well, you could have a well-deserved retirement. Mr. Venner is part of a few teachers at Riggs that will be retiring this year. As previously stated, Mr. Venner has been teaching for an astounding 39 years. He has taught in Rapid City, Pierre's middle school, and here at Riggs. Mr. Venner seems to be infallible when it comes to the history department. He currently teaches American

History and Psychology. He has also taught Economics and Civics. It wasn't always Venner's plan to be a teacher; in fact, he calls himself an accidental teacher. History was a natural thing for Venner. He has always loved the subject. While in college, he earned degrees in sociology, history, and economics. Puzzled about what to do, he sought help, and it was suggested that he become a teacher, so he took this idea and ran with it. Although it was not planned, I think we would all agree he made a great

choice. Something that you may not know about Venner is that he is a licensed crop insurance adjuster. That is one of the many things that he plans to do after retiring, along with doing some traveling to places like New England and to see a luau in Hawaii. He plans to keep busy with life and possibly do some substitute teaching. When asked his advice for teachers and students, he said, without doubt, "READ! Especially the printed media. Put down the social media." We will truly miss Mr. Venner and

his wisdom, and what would Venner be without some "profound" information? So from the mouth of Mr. Venner, "The earth has no gravity, it just sucks."



On behalf of all the students and staff at Riggs, thank you for your years of service, Mr. Venner!

Close Up: an Eye-opening Look at Government

By Marcella Lees

This past month, from March 30th to April 3rd, students had the opportunity to go to Washington, D.C. with trip advisor and Riggs history teacher Terry Becker on the annual Close Up trip. This educational opportunity gives students the chance to learn about America's political system, government, and history while simultaneously meeting new people and having fun. This one-week program is offered throughout the school

year, but Riggs typically goes in the spring. Every week, there are students from all over the entire country getting together to learn more about our nation's capital. "They'll go through a program in which the Close Up program people will run them to activities and teach them about how Washington and our legislative system work. Students get more of an in depth look at how things function in D.C. itself and then Close Up also integrates the learning with seeing the sights," Becker said.

And there is a lot of learning that goes on. "Students learn how a bill becomes a law. They actually have a mock legislative session where they're debating a law. They learn about issues that are really important in our federal government at the moment and then they'll break it down to issues that are specific to each state. It raises your level of awareness of how our political system works and how laws can affect us," said Becker. Another fun thing students get to participate in while on the

trip is Capitol Hill day. On this day, Becker and his group get to meet their congressmen or women if said individuals aren't on recess. "It was Easter week, so we just met with the staffs of senator Thune and representative Noem," Becker said about this year's Capitol Hill day. Despite how good the Close Up program is, Becker typically takes his group off on their own for a day to provide a special experience for just the kids from Riggs. They visit the Holocaust museum and Arlington

National Cemetery. Along with all the learning and sightseeing, Close Up is also a great opportunity to meet new people from all around the nation. If you're still unsure about signing up for next year's trip, Becker has some final thoughts: "I always say that every American should travel to Washington, D.C. at least once in their life. This trip is structured in a way that you're going to get the highlights of D.C. without having to organize it all by yourself. Don't pass up on that opportunity."

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Press the Pause Button

Take a deep breath and inhale every aspect of spring: the radiating glow of the sun, the distant chirping of newly returned birds, the sweet smell of blooming flowers, and the feeling of not being bundled in a heavy winter parka. Once spring starts to kick in, it feels

as if the clocks start tick faster, and time

seems to fly by. In a few short weeks, the senior class will be throwing off their graduation caps and the bell will ring on the last day of school for the year. Wouldn't it be nice to slow everything down so we actually have the chance to enjoy it all?

We live in a society that is too fast-paced for its own good. We're always impatient for the

next big thing, whether that be updating your one-year-old phone for the newest model that is no different than the last or doing the bare minimum on an assignment. Simply put, if we want something to happen, it should happen as easily and quickly

as possible, and we're just as quick to criticize anything that doesn't fit these rapid standards.

Call me old-fashioned, but whatever happened to listening to songs longer than three minutes (or, dare I say, an album)? How about using every syllable of words and making grammatically correct sentences? Even something as simple

as watching TV commercials has apparently become too inconvenient. People even realize how ridiculous their "first world problems" are, and yet it's still so easy for them to complain. These trivial issues and the driving desire to rush through life are only hindering us from truly living.

Spring is one of the busiest seasons of the year, but it's still important to "stop and smell the roses." Slow down for one moment and really appreciate everything. Take your time and be thoughtful about your words and actions. Treasure the little details and conveniences that are normally taken for granted. Go out of your way to help someone in need or to just make their day. Put

in the effort to finish the school year strong because, believe it or not, your education is important, no matter what month of the year it is.

Trust me, it's okay if that webpage doesn't load in two seconds, or the stoplight doesn't turn green right this very instant. The apocalypse won't be triggered by receiving an incorrect food order or waking up before nine on a Saturday morning. We're always antsy to hurry up so we don't miss anything exciting, but, chances are, you'll miss some amazing opportunities by overlooking times that feel wasteful. The world is a beautiful place, a garden waiting to grow and blossom, but it's only a background blur if you don't pause to admire it.

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Thank you to all that made this issue possible!

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What's hot and what's not this month

...to prom 2k15
...to one month of school left
...to the senior retreat
...to new spring clothing
...to the post prom hypnotist
...to good April Fool's jokes
...to the girls golf team
...to Erika and John being prom queen and king
...to spring surprises week
...to ONE MONTH OF SCHOOL LEFT
...to baseball games
...to taking naps during your opens
...to dance recitals
...to Mrs. Vogt curving tests
...to yummy treats at lunch
...to DeBoer being a dad

...to the ACT being on the same day as prom
...to hard Honors tests
...to 100-second Snapchat stories
...to all the "lasts"
...to doing grad invites
...to testing week
...to the science part of ACT
...to not getting any rain...except on prom day
...to crappy school lunches
...to not being able to wake up in the morning
...to windy days
...to track meets getting rained out
...to senioritis
...to not winning anything at post prom



Students enjoy a taste of hypnosis at the Post-Prom party at Lariat Lanes.

Courtesy Photo

Student Suggestions for the Best Playlist

With the spring months in full swing and summer months approaching faster than ever, a lot of us are often left with listening to our "old music." Not that there's

anything wrong with older music; it's just nice to change it up every now and then. Just like putting our bulky sweaters and flannel away for lighter clothing, our musical tastes change with the weather. Each new season brings a new type of music and sometimes even new artists. Instead of listening to the usual "Top 50 Pop Hits," why not go out and find a new song or two to add to your playlist? Some of the best recommendations probably come from your peers. Who knows, maybe that girl in the front row with glasses has a really great taste in music. A new song or artist could be exactly what you're looking for to start the summer playlist that is, without a doubt, no going to be legendary. Finding a new artist, song, or album to obsess over is like finding a hidden treasure. It's all about asking



Miranda Rockwood

REFLECTIONS

around and not being afraid to step outside your musical comfort zone. Don't be afraid to listen to songs on repeat, either. Let it all sink in to get the full effect. These ten songs that were taken from senior Allie Knoft's and junior Macy Halverson's playlists are sure to help make yours the best it has ever been!

Macy's playlist, full of catchy lyrics and great beats: "I'm Gonna Find Another You" by John Mayer "Sugar" by Maroon 5 "Erase Me" by Kid Cudi "7/11" by Beyonce "Red Lighter" by SoMo

Allie's playlist, eclectic with an edge of vintage: "Stonemilker" by Bjork "Do I Wanna Know" by Arctic Monkeys "Be Calm" by fun. "Drumming Song" by Florence + the Machine "King of the Mountain" by Kate Bush

Jone-Bear's Advice for Fighting Senioritis

Dear Jone-Bear, It's nearing the end of school, and I have developed a bad case of senioritis, even though I'm not a senior. I just procrastinate so much, and I know I need to finish strong these final weeks, but I can't make myself do it. How do I get over these feelings?

Sincerely, Don't Want To Do Anything Dear Anything, Well, I don't really know how to help you because I am in the same boat as you are; everyone else in the school is, too. I feel you on the procrastinating, especially with being in a sport. I have actually started to do my homework in the Suburban to and from my meets,

but I also do some during my opens. You just have to force yourself to work, as unpleasant as that may be. If you get together with other people in your classes and work on homework together, you are more apt to get things done and not procrastinate as much.

This time in school is hard for everyone since we don't have a vacation from school since Easter, and only one half day. It's hard to get motivated. Most teachers will have at least one more test before the end of the semester. It's true: you need to focus and keep working on your schoolwork,

but you should also have some fun. Again, I suggest working and studying together in groups to branch out.

Really focus on working hard and studying even more than you have during the year. If you've tried hard to keep up good grades, everything can go downhill pretty fast with a couple late or missing assignments and botched tests. I suggest writing down what you have for homework every day, and before you do anything, check your planner and do your homework. If you have more than one thing to do, do the one that's due first, or if they have

the same due dates, do the harder one first. If you need help on it the next day, you can work on just the problems you didn't get rather than scrambling to finish it before class.

Basically, think about your homework before you do things like hang out with friends or watch movies or read books (if you are a nerd like me.). And work with a group, because they are less likely to procrastinate with you (but make sure you choose people who won't distract you. That is the biggest problem). If you follow these simple tips, you should be fine finishing the school year out strong and fighting off that dreaded senioritis.

Joni Willoughby
ADVICE

Dispelling the Myth: Prom is NOT Lame

How many times have the words, "Prom is boring," come out of an upperclassman's mouth? Since we are both just juniors, prior to this year's prom, we always believed them because we were never actually there to witness it. But, after attending this year's Mardi Gras themed junior-senior prom, we don't quite understand where that notion of "boring" came from. A few of our friends and we discovered that the night is split up into five parts. You have pictures, dinner, grand march, the dance, and

post-prom, in that order. Aside from post-prom, which was the unanimous winner, the dance came in at a solid second. The thing that we noticed was if you made your own fun, you had fun. This is true for any situation, but especially prom. The people who didn't bother getting up from their tables, or the

people who left early, were the ones that will say it was boring, so don't listen to them.



Macy and Maddie

Listen to the people who actually enjoyed themselves because they stayed and danced. Don't get us wrong, the other parts were great, too, but you really just can't beat dancing and screaming song lyrics at the top of your lungs with your best friends, even if it is just in a decorated

gymnasium. So to all of the sophomores next year, we promise you won't look stupid if you go dance, even if there are only a few dozen people on the dance floor. Also, the more people that are at prom, the more fun it will be. Ask a friend (boy or girl) and find a group. If your friends are more Burger King people than Red Rossa people, then go to BK Lounge for dinner. In closing, thank you to everyone who made this year's prom memorable, and remember... PROM IS FUN IF YOU MAKE IT FUN!!!

New Tutoring Program to Begin Next Year

By Steph Nelson

Next year, many Riggs students will be taking a class like never before. That class will be called Governor 2 Governor (G2G), and its purpose is to help other students. G2G is open to junior and seniors, and the class is aimed toward helping incoming freshmen transition smoothly into high school and help mentor and tutor other students. G2G is actually an idea passed down from Rapid City Central High School. “Mr. Coverdale had the lead for bringing G2G to Riggs. He saw a presentation made by Cobbler 2 Cobbler at a conference, and that led to us going to Rapid City, learning about it, and ultimately bringing it to Riggs for the upcoming school year,” said Mr. Kippley, Riggs teacher. Mr. Kippley is going to be the G2G advisor,

and he seems quite excited for the program. “I’m extremely happy with the number of applicants for the program. We had roughly 100 show interest, and I’m guessing we will end up with around 85 or 90 starting in the fall. With that kind of number, we are going to be able to make an amazing impact on Riggs and the community,” Mr. Kippley said. So why would someone want to join G2G and participate in it? “I decided to take G2G because I want to make a positive impact on my school and help make this school a better place to be,” said Renee Gallagher, a Riggs junior. “More than anything, I hope G2G makes a positive impact on all the students and staff at Riggs. Hopefully our program will be a bright spot in our students’ days and give them something to look forward to on those

stressful days we all have. We hope this program will help the freshmen have success in and out of the classroom, coupled with helping our mentors reach their potential,” Mr. Kippley said. Not only are G2G students out to benefit others, but also considering the effects that the program will have on their own life. Hannah Shaffer, a Riggs sophomore, said, “I hope, with G2G, I can help people and have a positive impact on their lives. I think by doing that, I will positively impact my own life, as well.” G2G will be one of few programs of this kind in schools in South Dakota, and it will make Riggs stand out from the other schools even more! G2G will not be only for those students in the class. When asked about non-G2G students participating in activities, Mr. Kippley said, “I think our

students at Riggs should expect to have more opportunities to make a difference at our school and the community because of G2G. We all want our students to have success in all realms of life, and this program will give them tools to ensure that happens. I have been telling the mentors that it’s not *what* they will gain from G2G, but how much. My ultimate hope is that, years from now, when all our current students have grown up and moved on from Riggs, they look back and have great, positive memories and experiences because of G2G. Hopefully they can also admit they learned a little something and applied that to benefit their lives and those around them.” Well, watch out next year, Riggs! New experiences and leadership opportunities are headed your way, and you better get ready for them.



Seniors play “Giants, Wizards, and Elves” at their retreat. Courtesy of Capitol Journal

Prom: Under the Mask

By Austin Lentsch

Spring brings its own version of craziness; from graduation to track and other spring sports to the push through those final chapters before semester tests, everyone has their hands full. In the midst of the chaos, however, is a moment to slow down and enjoy one of the perks of being an upperclassman: Prom. This year, we here at the *Governor* decided to do a bit of polling around to see how prepared the attendees were, what they were looking for in their prom experience, and what they thought after everything was said and done. A little bit of research revealed some inter-

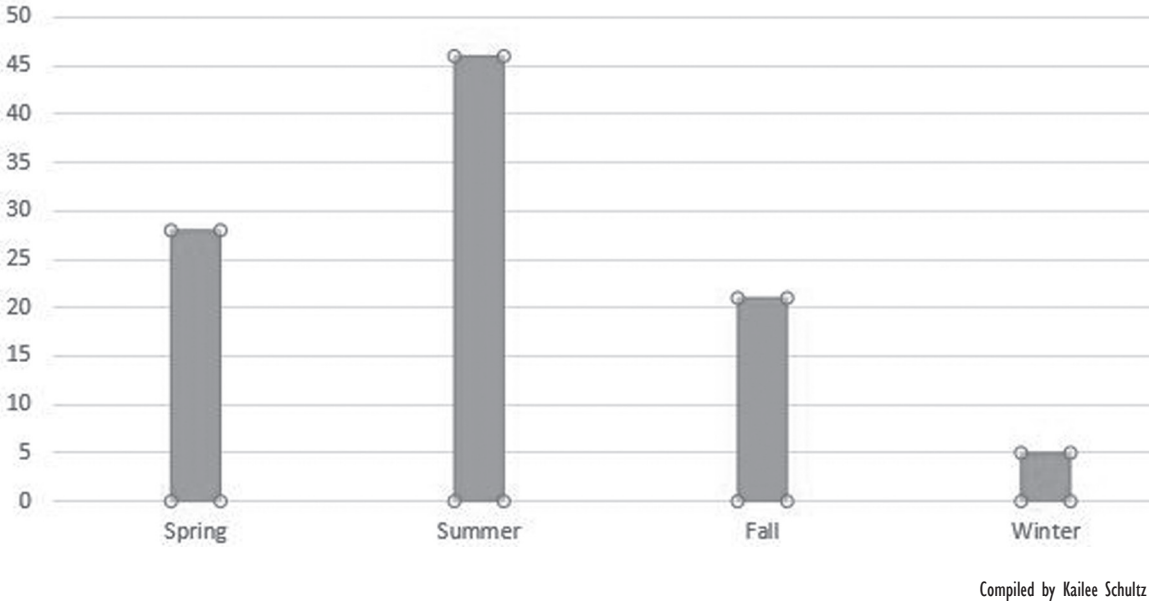
esting statistics. Coming in to prom, our test group was asked to rate their preparedness for the night based on how much effort they had put into planning. Separating the results between girls and guys gave us some rock hard (if not surprising) evidence of who does the work for this event. Other than one guy rating himself at about a 5.0, the average for our men sat around a 1.3 out of 10. On the opposite side of the table, the women’s average rating was about a 9.8. We could go into the argument of whether asking someone to prom is enough work for the other person to handle planning the actual event,

but it might not be a great idea to go there. Every person going to prom had his or her own idea of a “successful experience” before walking in, or should I say, walking through the Mardi Gras arch of Grand March. Grant Erwin, 12, was hoping for some good music: “As long as the DJ doesn’t just play a bunch of useless dubstep that’s pretty much impossible to dance to, it’ll be a good time!” Allie Knofczynski, 12, said that the most important thing is being able to roll with the punches: “Everything doesn’t always go according to plan, no matter how well you plan things out; that’s just life. Just relax because it is ul-

timately about having a great time with friends.” As excited as everybody gets for prom, even more people are excited for what comes afterwards. Among all of our interviewees, only one said that she was more excited for the dance than post-prom. This year’s post-prom was one of the largest in memory, with a count of 285 attendees. The after party was a huge success between the bowling and the hypnotist, the talented Richard Barker—not to mention all of the awesome prizes given away throughout the night, totaling over \$9000 worth of merchandise. Sometimes, events fail to live up to the

hype, and many are disappointed after the event. Luckily, however, prom proved this notion wrong: “It was wicked awesome,” commented Josh Slocum, 12, and I’m sure many others agree. As underclassmen are not allowed to go to these festivities (which makes sense—sorry, but it is called Junior/Senior Prom), many are probably wondering if the work is worth it all before committing to the whole process. Allie insists that the experience shouldn’t be passed up: “Even if you don’t like formal dances and you think it’s lame, going to prom is a classic high school experience everyone should do at least once.”

POLL:What is your favorite season of the year?



Seniors Attend Retreat and Parent Party

By Marie Zander

One of the best parts that comes with the title of being a “senior” is the Parent Senior Party. This year, the party, themed Tropical Paradise, was on April 11th and certainly was a night to remember. The senior parents had a huge night planned out with many activities and games, corn hole and tacky tourist relay being huge hits. “I liked the tacky tourist relay because it was creative and funny,” said Julia Jares. As all the seniors and

parents walked into the lobby of the high school, they were all welcomed with Hawaiian leis to help adjust their mindset in the spirit of the party. A photo booth filled with tacky tourist props, such as coconut bras and grass skirts, enticed many parents and seniors to take goofy photos that they can look back on for years to come. While eating dinner, which contained some delicious fruit and pork roast sandwiches, a huge slide-

show of all the seniors and their baby pictures played on repeat. “Yeah, seeing everyone’s baby pictures was funny,” said Cassidy Frahm. Next on the agenda was the main entertainment, illusionist Reza. He was very audience-involved, often calling up several volunteers to help dazzle the crowd with seemingly impossible coincidences, mind games, and, of course, magical stunts. “The way he was able to guess all this seemingly random information

was really impressive,” said Renae Kueter. The entertainment did not stop there, though, to the senior’s surprise, the parents decided to put on a few skits, such as a dad “boy band” coordinated dance mashup to some of our favorite One Direction songs and many other boy band classics. Overall, many seniors made some great last memories with their soon-to-be-departing senior class and families. Also in that week, on April 9th, all the se-

niors were invited by the school to participate in the fairly new event of the senior retreat. A group from Minneapolis came to present their program all about transitioning and enjoying your last moments with your graduating class. No one really knew what to expect when walking in. “It will either be really emotional or just fun. I’m not really sure what to expect, but I’m going in with an open mind,” said Ashtin Greene.

It turned out that it was a little of both. Like the respect retreat in fall for the freshman, the retreat opened up with icebreaker games such as sticking a spoon through everyone’s shirt as fast as they can. “The games were definitely the best part,” said Sammy Merrill. Toward the end, the retreat took a turn toward the emotional side of things. Many students recognized each others’ strengths and accomplishments and decided to share some personal sto-

-ries, and some people were even brought to tears. “I really enjoyed seeing people open up because it made feel more comfortable to open up myself,” said Frankie Peterson. Many seniors had different feelings about the whole day, but it definitely left us something to talk about and remember as a part of our last year at Riggs, helping us gear our thinking more toward the future and what lies ahead for us.

Track athletes set eyes on the home stretch

By Nathan Bader

The end of April marks the end of the second month of practice for the track team. With a third of the season left, there remains plenty of room for improvement.

Junior sprinter Seth Neal is in his first year of track.

"The workouts are a lot more intense than most of the other sports I've done due to the, obviously, large amounts of running we do in track. It also didn't help that I hadn't done track since 8th grade," Neal said.

Seth has quickly established himself as one of the top sprinters and a leader on the team, even though this is just his first year.

"It feels great that being in just my first year, the underclassmen already look up to me and allow me the ability to motivate them," Neal said.

The success Neal is having this year is not something he takes lightly. He is always looking to compete against the best sprinters from around the state.

"I am really excited to compete against the top runners. I mean, I am close to the qualifying time for the state meet, and once I do that, then I can really show what I can do against the best of the best," Neal said.

Neal is not the only athlete who is

having a spectacular season. Triple-threat Jamaal Covey is one of the top competitors in the state in not one or two events, but in three events: hurdles, high jump, and long jump.

"The school long jump record is less than a foot away from my current personal best. That record is definitely a motivating factor for me to push myself dur-

"Coach Nue, in her first full year as a coach, has helped the hurdlers. She ran her high school track in Pierre, so she knows how to get us better," Covey said. Jamaal's third event is the high jump.

"Dan Snyder's constant coaching of us 'boneheads' motivates us and gets us better each time we practice," Covey said. Jamaal is a proven

"We are improving in all areas. We have had a great two months of training and everyone has been working hard. We just need to stay consistent with our training and keep getting better," Starr said.

Coach Starr acknowledges that the team can always improve.

"We need to be able to compete in the field events and the sprinting. We are in a tough conference, and in order to compete, we need to be well-rounded in these two areas. Our distance program is really doing well and our other areas need to follow suit," says Starr.

Coach Starr believes the team can still achieve a lot this year.

"We have had a great year of training and we just need to stay healthy and get everyone to the post season. If all our athletes are healthy, we have a great opportunity at both ESD and state, Starr said."

The boy's track team is looking forward to a very competitive month of May, including trips to the Howard Wood Relays in Sioux Falls on May 1st and 2nd, the Black Hills Track Classic in Sturgis on May 9th, the ESD conference meet in Brookings on May 16th, and the State Track Meet in Rapid City on May 29th and 30th.

"We have had a great year of training and we just need to stay healthy and get everyone to the post season. If all our athletes are healthy, we have a great opportunity at both ESD and state."
-head coach Greg Starr

ing each practice," Covey said.

Covey is known as a positive leader on the track team. He described his role.

"I was someone who learned that they had to follow before they could lead. So I push everyone because I was in their position at one time or another, and I want everyone to be their best," Covey said.

Covey is also one of the top hurdlers in the state.

leader who follows up his talk with a solid performance at each meet.

Head coach Greg Starr describes Jamaal Covey, Luke Snyder, and Bennett Eisenbeisz as three seniors who do a great job leading in their respective areas. They perform on the track and keep everyone motivated. Coach Starr is very proud of the team this year and how the team has progressed over the two months of the season.

Boy's Track and Field

Last meet: Last Sat. at Track-O-Rama in Rapid City

Next meet: American Legion Relays today in Pierre

Athlete comment: **Why are you in track this year?** "Track is life, and it's a fun experience."
 -freshman Evan Rumrill

Girls' Golf

Last tournament: Last Friday at Yankton Invitational

Next tournament: Today at Mitchell invitational

Player comment: **What drives you to continually improve in the sport of golf?** "To help myself improve every week to improve my score at every match."-senior Alli Hedmann



Baseball

Record: 8-2

Last game: Yesterday against Rapid City Stevens

Next game: Sunday at Spearfish

Girl's Track and Field

Last meet: Last Sat. at Track-O-Rama in Rapid City

Next meet: American Legion Relays today in Pierre

Athlete comment: **What is your favorite part of the track season? What is your least favorite? Why?** "My favorite part of the season is when we go to the meets because I like the bonding time with me team. I hate when track ends. That's like my least favorite part." -junior Courtney Dowling

Boys' Tennis

Last meet: Yesterday at Aberdeen

Next meet: Tuesday in Pierre

Athlete comment: **What is the most challenging thing about tennis?** "Mentally keeping yourself focused even when you aren't playing very well." -senior Patrick Bollinger

We've got Spirit, yes we do: cheerleaders win high honors at state



Photo courtesy of South Dakota Public Broadcasting.
Left to right, head coach Jill Caauwe, Savannah Heckenlaible, 10, Jessica Weber, 10, Maddie Jones, 10, and Mikayla Thomas, 11, stand with the Spirit of Six trophy. Pierre had not received the honor since 2001.

By Micah Howard

On the night of the first home basketball game last fall, four cheerleaders took to the floor of the Riggs high school gymnasium with a combined one year of cheerleading experience. This inexperienced squad, however, with the help of trust in its coach, itself, and its home crowd, went on to win South Dakota cheerleading's highest honor: the Spirit of Six Award.

At the beginning of the season, head cheer coach Jill Caauwe, determined to make this year something special for Riggs cheerleading, looked for a specific quality in the selection of her athletes.

"What I decided when I chose the girls was that I was going to

choose girls who were excited about being cheerleaders. I didn't really care if they had great jumps. You can fix skills, but you can't make someone love the sport or have the passion for it. The girls, with a lot of encouragement from each other and from me, decided that they were out there for the team and for themselves, and they really enjoyed doing it. That was the big difference between all the previous years and this year," Caauwe said.

Three of the four cheerleaders—junior Mikayla Thomas and sophomores Maddie Jones and Jessica Weber—were brand new to the sport. Sophomore Savannah Heckenlaible had cheered her freshman year. In the beginning that in-

experience was an obstacle for the team.

Cheerleading, Caauwe says, has many layers that most people don't recognize. The sport requires lengthy memorizations, strong team chemistry, and a considerable amount of mental fortitude, as cheerleaders perform in a very intense environment, close to public scrutiny.

Junior Mikayla Thomas commented on the team's progression.

"We just really pushed each other, and our coach really pushed us to get better. We enjoyed what we were doing, and we knew it was our job to get everyone else involved," Thomas said.

Sophomore Maddie Jones, who decided to try cheerleading as her first winter sport,

grew a passion for what she was doing.

"I just really enjoyed being out there and seeing everyone cheering. It was a lot of fun," Jones said.

Aside from a passion for the sport, Caauwe said the team's unity was a big key to their success, and Thomas can attest to the formation of that team chemistry.

"I'll definitely remember the fact that the four of us girls came in, none of us really knowing each other, and now we're all super close...We just absolutely love each other and we're like sisters now," Thomas said.

The Spirit of Six memorial award itself is awarded on specific criteria including appearance, crowd control, genuine excitement, and positivity regardless of the score.

Thomas says that while some of the selection for the award relied on crowd control, the fans and athletes themselves also made

a huge contribution.

"If it wasn't for the student and community sections, we would've been cheering to no one. When the crowd has energy, that gives us more energy and the drive to cheer harder and get louder for the team. The crowd helped us a lot. We won the award not just for ourselves but for them and the team," Thomas said.

Caauwe said that another integral part of the team's success this year was the respect it received from the crowd, the community, and the athletes on the court. Caauwe recalled a moment of the season that stuck out to her.

"The girls had gone out to do a crowd cheer...And then I turned around and looked up, and the entire Pierre crowd was standing up. It just seemed like the town of Pierre owned that gym. That was ours. For those girls to orchestrate that and to have that ener-

gy that you were feeling in there was amazing. To see that the crowd really respected the cheerleaders and what they were doing was a really big thing for me," Caauwe said.

Caauwe mentioned other instances of great respect for the squad. The girls' basketball team players were asking about the award at their tournament. The cheerleaders were invited in on team pictures. The student section was quick to receive new cheers.

These examples characterize what the squad was able to do this year. On game nights, they successfully merged a community, a team, and a school. In the end, Caauwe said the award was just icing on the cake.

"I had people coming up to me from other towns saying how wonderful our cheerleaders were. Even if we hadn't won the trophy, that was an achievement enough for me," Caauwe said.

The squad, which was the smallest group at the AA tournament, poses at center court. Photo courtesy of Jill Caauwe



Bachelor of the Month

John Erickson, 12

How do you think the ladies would describe you?



Courtesy photo

You would have to ask them.

What is your favorite part of being a senior?

The class load has been pretty light. It's nice.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Working in a garage, doing restorations.

Describe your best quality.

I feel like I'm a pretty honest person.

Where and what is your ideal date?

Fishin' in the dark.

What is your go-to pickup line?

Girl, you must be a beaver, 'cause dam.

Bachelorette of the Month

Erika Wounded Knee, 12

How do you think boys describe you?

As an awkward but friendly person, I'm sure.

Who is your dream man?

I already found him...

What was your initial reaction when becoming prom royalty?

Complete shock. I still don't think I believe it.

What is your favorite part of being a senior?

Good question. I don't really know, but it's been a good year. I can't complain.

Things you're excited for next year?

Meeting new people and rising to new challenges.

Do you have any signature flirting moves?

PFFT! Ha, that's a good one.

Your best quality?

My optimism?

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Nursing and humor-ing humanity.

Where and what is your ideal date?

Probably skydiving from a plane in a hamster ball...crazy, I know. It's not about the danger; it just sounds fun to me.

Last words to the school before you graduate?

You are all aces in my book!

Compiled by Marie Zander and Wyatt Rumrill

Band Travels to Chicago

By Amanda Pugh and Moina Syed

Every two years, the Riggs Symphonic Band travels to the WorldStrides Heritage Performance Program, also known as the "Heritage Festival," in Chicago. This year, along with the Symphonic Band, the Riggs Jazz Band will also be traveling to the festival. During the Festival, the bands will be competing against other bands from all over the country. Band director Mackenzie McKeithan says that "The important part of this trip is the experience the band will get as a family, bringing them closer together, which will help them grow as musicians."

During the Chicago trip, the band members will also have the opportunity to go to the Field Museum of Natural History, the Shedd Aquarium, a

Broadway play, and Millennium Park. The bands also get to see the Blue Man Group and go to Medieval Times for dinner and the show. Ms. McKeithan says that it is a great experience for students because "Many students may not have the chance to see a larger city such as Chicago. I feel like this experience will open their eyes to what else is out there beyond Pierre and South Dakota. We are going to many educational places. Although this trip centers around the competition, I don't feel it is the most important part."

Both groups have been practicing challenging music for weeks to prepare for the competition. We wish them the best of luck and safe travels as they experience this memorable trip!

"I'm so excited to go on this trip. I know it will be the highlight of my senior year, and maybe even my high school career."

- Senior Joni Willoughby

April Sibling Rivalry

Avery (11) & Alex (9) Allison

Q: Which child is the favorite?

A: Out of us two...-Avery *IT'S DEFINITELY ME!*-Alex Oh, I don't think so. I am the first child, so I am the first favorite. Yeah, case closed. It's me.-Avery *Our youngest sister, Andy, is the favorite out of all of us. She gets everything she wants.*-Alex She is really spoiled, but I am still the favorite. Dad likes me more.-Avery *Of course he likes you more. You're the only boy. Mom likes me more, though.*-Alex So we're even then?-Avery *Fine, even.*-Alex

Q: Who starts the most fights?

A: Umm Alex probably does. Yeah, she is very hmm...emotional.-Avery *I don't just start fights for no reason. You have to be picking on me or doing something to me.*-Alex No, I might just be there eating my food and you start yelling at me for eating.-Avery

Q: Who wins the fights?

A: *I WIN!*-Alex. No, no you don't.-Avery *Yes, I do! Mom always lets me win!*-Alex She makes you win only cause she helps you! I have to fight both of you to win an argument.-Avery *But, I still win the fights!*-Alex No...you think you win the fights, but its more like you think you won the fight, but, in reality, I actually won. You just convince yourself that you won.-Avery

Q: Let's get this settled. So neither of you win the fights. Your mom actually wins the fights?

A: *No, I still win the fights.*-Alex No, no, no, no way, mom wins! You don't.-Avery

Compiled by Nathan Bader