

# G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

VOLUME 73 ♦ ISSUE 5 ♦ JAN. 30, 2015 ♦ PIERRE, SD 57501



## Financial Aid Night Prepares Seniors

By Wyatt Rumrill

With January coming to a close, many seniors rush around submitting applications for schools and scholarships. On top of those, many students will fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in order to receive financial aid from the government throughout college.

At Riggs's rescheduled Financial Aid Night last Friday, many seniors learned about what they need to do in order to go through college with minimal debt.

Granted, scholarships help ease the cost, and there are a few lucky ones signing with sports teams, but for the rest, debt can pile up all too quickly. That is why the government steps in and helps with every college tuition, depending on the financial abilities of each student and their family. According to studentaid.edu, the Federal Student Aid sector of the U.S. Department of Education provides north of \$150 billion in loans, federal grants, and more each year to over 13 million students paying for

higher education. This averages to about \$11,500 in aid for each student that year in higher education.

Under the Title IV Act established in 1965, Federal Student Aid manages these programs for student financial assistance. This act allows every high school senior planning on attending college the equal opportunity to receive government aid with respect to his or her individual circumstances. Equalities like this are one of the unique features of the United States.

Students all over the school

are excited and nervous at the same time over the effect financial aid can have on their college decisions. The average cost of tuition and fees for college in 2013-2014 school year was a staggering \$30,000 for private schools, \$22,000 for out-of-state residents at a public university, and \$9,000 for in-state residents attending a public institution, so it's reasonable for students to fret over possible thousands of dollars of debt.

Since it is almost February, deadlines for financial aid from colleges are getting closer. Colleges use each individual's FAFSA to approximate the cost

of attendance for each student. Along with the FAFSA, some universities or colleges request forms like the W2, the CSS profile, and the parental federal tax return to be submitted before the deadlines in order for them to calculate the dollar amount.

For seniors, these upcoming months will play an important role for their futures. With all the decisions that need to be made and applications that need to be filled out, the rest of the school year will be a blur for most seniors. So try your best to enjoy what you can.

## Two Singers Selected for National Honor Choir

By Steph Nelson

Two T.F. Riggs students will get the experience of a lifetime as they travel to Salt Lake City, Utah, to participate in the National Honor Choir.

Senior Joni Willoughby and junior Austin Lentsch were selected from more than 3,500 individuals from across the United States. Both are first-timers to the National Honor Choir, and both are excited for their February trip.

For Lentsch, who will participate in the Mixed Choir, the

trip is an opportunity to try new things.

"The music is quite difficult, which I like. I received my music in December and I have songs written in English, German, Spanish, Croatian, and Latin. They range from folk songs, to hymns, to chachas, so they're pretty varied," Lentsch said.

Willoughby will participate in the College and Community Latin America Choir, which is made up of people who are 18 or older.

"This is a great opportunity for Austin and I to sing under extremely amaz-

ing conductors and learn things that will help us become better musicians. We will get to meet new people from around the country, which will be amazing as well," Willoughby said.

"Since I am in the Latin America Choir, I have 9 songs that are all either in the Spanish language or are a Spanish style song," she said.

The two are required to learn the songs on their own prior to traveling to Salt Lake City.

"The music is self-taught, which means that Joni and I have had

to learn everything by ourselves using recordings," Lentsch said.

Willoughby said practices start the day after they arrive.

"We go down on Tuesday, February 24, and our rehearsals begin the next day and then we have three concerts. I have one on Friday and two on Saturday, but the other choirs have all three on Saturday," she said.

While both students are looking forward to the challenges of learning new songs and the opportunity to meet new friends, one event in particu-

lar will undoubtedly become one of their favorite memories.

On the last day of the event, the five different honor choirs will join the Mormon Tabernacle Choir for a special performance.

"I get the opportunity to sing with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, which is regarded as one of the most elite choirs in the world," Lentsch said.

"I am extremely excited to have the opportunity to do what I love at a level I never dreamed of doing it at," he said.

**This month's issue:**

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# The Sound of Silence

When the majority of people look at January, they see the month as one that is very cold and a cliché fresh start, perfect for making unrealistic resolutions. I can't do much about the cold, but I can give you a resolution that you probably didn't write down.

Your goal for **EDITORIAL** however long you can keep

it up is to respect everyone. Fairly simple, but this challenge is coming from a proud introverted person. I can probably assume that you have only a faint, stereotypical idea of what "introverted" means, so I'm here to give you the rundown.

Introversion and extroversion are the extremes on the personality scale. Extroverts

make up the majority of the population. They gain energy through socializing and can solve problems through talking things out and hearing what others have to say. They feel comfortable in group situations. Introverts, on the other hand, gain energy

through self-reflection and ideas. They prefer to do things alone or with one to two people. Everyone has a few aspects of each personality type, but we all lean one way or the other.

As I mentioned earlier, people don't really understand introversion. Growing up, I always thought that my reserved personality was one that was

wrong. Outgoing peers thought that it was weird that I enjoyed working alone. It turns out that I am very introverted. Needless to say, it was very reassuring.

Everyone is different, but here are a few tips for handling an introverted personality. Don't be offended if an introvert has little to say; it is not because he or she is necessarily shy. Introverts do not like to bother with small talk. For me, small talk is the bane of my existence. Introverts would much rather rant for hours about something important, such as music. Don't even get me started on Neutral Milk Hotel.

It's important to not put introverts into situations they feel uncomfortable in. Think of ex-

troverts as solar cells and introverts as nuclear power plants. Respect their need for privacy and alone time, which helps them "recharge their batteries." They probably enjoy socializing, but don't make them to go to a large party, or at least don't plan to hear from them for a few days.

The point is to embrace everyone's differences. Just because someone might not jump out at you with an outgoing personality doesn't mean that they aren't worth noticing. Chances are, you will have some of the best conversations with introverted people. Introverts, don't be afraid to step out of your shell every once in a while. Let's make 2015 a year of respect.

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Published monthly as an extra-curricular activity by the newspaper staff of T.F. Riggs High School  
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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 surprise New Year's kisses  
...to the band playing at hockey games  
...to KOH proposals  
...to warmer weather than usual  
...to Pierrecussion rocking half times  
...to basketball boys dressing nice  
...to vouchers saving grades  
...to relaxing in tanning beds  
...to paging at the Capitol  
...to intense football games  
...to Levi Stoltenburg pinning Spencer Holt  
...to double headers for basketball  
...to Grey's Anatomy starting

...to Christmas Vacation being over with  
...to homework  
...to boring Januarys  
...to our freezing school  
...to failing chemistry tests  
...to those extra holiday pounds  
...to Twitter fights getting out of hand  
...to backing out of New Year's resolutions  
...to filling out scholarship applications  
...to hard honors books  
...to cosway vs. everyone else drama  
...to awkward silence  
...to accidentally sending snaps to the wrong person

## JANUARY TRIVIA

Which team has appeared in four Super Bowls, but never led any of those games for even one second?

Write down your name and your answer on a piece of paper and turn it in to Mr. Kippley for a chance to win a \$10 gift card to Wal-Mart.

All correct answers will also be kept for the grand prize drawing in May.

The January winner will be drawn at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, February 4.



## A New Year Means New Music

As the New Year passes, many of us say we are going to make a change in our lives. Some of us look forward to the New Year because we finally have a specific reason

to change, and we actually have to hold ourselves accountable for it. We spend time looking back at the past year, or even longer, and think about what we want to change. Some of us

changes small things, like the length of our hair, but others change everything in their lives for the sake of a fresh start.

Sure, we might start working out, or spend less time tweeting, but most of us don't actually change. The thought of changing is much easier than taking the time and effort to really change. Why do we not try harder to accomplish our yearly goals? Of course, as teenagers, we are known for finding the easiest, laziest ways for just about anything, especially if it involves making an unrealistic resolution. Maybe we're content with our lives and what's going on in them, no matter how often we com-

plain. Maybe we're just afraid to change, but what is it that we're all so afraid of that even changing our nail color is hard for us?

Whatever it may be that is holding us back,



Miranda Rockwood

### REFLECTIONS

one good way of pushing past that fear is finding a new song that possesses everything we want to help us change for the better. The following songs might not help you find what it is you want to change, but a catchy chorus seems to help in every situation, and if you decide to change only one aspect of your life this year, a great way to start is to find a new song, album, or artist to obsess over for the rest of the year.

1. Turnin' by Young Rising Sons  
2. Grow up by Paramore  
3. Reflections by Misterwives  
4. Shut Up and Dance by Walk The Moon  
5. On Our Way by The Royal Concept

## Jone-bear's Take on Scholarships

Dear Jone-bear,  
*What would you suggest to getting ready for and hunting down/applying to scholarships?*

Sincerely,  
Without a Plan

Dear Without a Plan,  
This is the ultimate question in my opinion. Scholarships are super important, especially if you are like me, who has almost no money for college. Most of them take a lot of work, but it is WAY better than having to work all through college and still have huge student loans. Do the scholarships, and I recommend as many as you can.

There are scholarships for literally everything. There is a scholarship for being over six feet tall! Anyone can

apply for anything, as long as you are eligible for it. You just have to look for them.

That is another bad thing for us seniors: actually having to work to look for them and fill them out. "Senioritis" is in full swing, as usual. Deadlines will come up WAY faster than you think, and if you have to get reference letters, people will not be happy about being rushed. Kick that senioritis habit now before it gets any worse throughout the remainder of the year.

Seniors, also keep a lookout for scholarships that you can apply for while you are in

college. Some scholarships are for after you finish either after your first or second semester of freshman year. Look for them now because I'm sure you won't be thinking about scholarships next year, in the midst of studying and having fun and just being college students. Write them down some-

Joni Willoughby  
ADVICE

where so you can come back and fill them out.

It isn't just seniors that need to look out for scholarships. Some that are just for juniors, and since many juniors don't look for scholarships, the ones who apply are almost certain to get at least some of them. So, underclass-

men, you need to be looking, too. Check the scholarship fliers to keep tabs on what scholarships you can apply for when you do become seniors. Highlight the ones you can apply for, keep them somewhere where you can remember them, and check and make sure that you are applying for them when your time comes. I wish that someone would have told me to do this stuff when I was younger. It is never too late to start looking for scholarships.

Scholarships are super important to continue you on with your education in the future. Keep working on them, and don't let Senioritis get you down!

## Tips for Enjoying Your Very First KOH

With the annual King of Hearts dance right around the corner, all of you that have not previously attended are in for a real treat. We want to give all of you young bloods (or newbies) a few tips of what (and what not) to do before, during, and after the dance. Ladies first. Make sure you don't get ready too early because otherwise, your hair will fall flat and your makeup will smudge. Don't wait until the last minute, either; otherwise, you'll be rushed and won't look your best. The busiest time at the

Capitol to take pictures is probably from 3:30 to 5:00. To some people, that's a good thing because they have a lot of people they want to take pictures with. If you want to avoid a huge crowd (which can be very stressful), we would suggest going around 6:00 because most people will be eating then. First and foremost, wear tennis

shoes to the dance. No one will judge you if you wear your Nikes that don't match your dress. Your feet will be stepped on, so close-toed shoes are a must. Be sure you bring a ponytail. Your hair will most likely end

up in some form of nest, so put it up before you even get to the dance. Be sure to wear spandex under your dress so in case you break it down too hard on the dance

floor, you're covered. As for the guys, you can wear your comfy tennis shoes too. Comfort is key. Be sure to give your suit coats to the coat check and remember the number they give you. Hang your tie with your coat as well. No matter your gender, you will get sweaty. Don't be surprised when someone pours water over everyone because it actually feels like heaven. King of Hearts is a great experience, if you make it one. You only get to enjoy it four times, so make sure to make the most of it!



Macy and Maddie



# Paging: Government in Action

By Marcella Lees

As legislative session rolls around, the thing most Riggs students care about is that there will be extra traffic. There are a few juniors and seniors every year, however, that choose to get involved in the process and become legislative pages. As a page, students serve as assistants to legislators for two week periods during the two-and-a-half month “Legislative Season.” These positions are open to upper classmen around the state and give students real insight into how government actually works. “You’re hired based on the application and a couple letters of recommendation [students must also get sponsorship from a legislature]. Then they have you come for two weeks during session and basically you just go and

do whatever they need doing. You deliver a lot of mail, get a lot of coffee and talk to a lot of really cool people,” said junior Austin Lentsch, who was the only person from Riggs paging in the first session. (There are other Riggs students paging during different two week periods.) So basically, paging is getting to be a personal assistant for a legislature during session. It even pays! Besides the fifty dollars a day Riggs students collect for giving up their time, there are a variety of reasons students choose to be involved in paging. “I wanted to be a page because I am part of an organization called TARS (Teen-Age Republicans) and it got me interested in the legislative process,” Lentsch said. “Students decide to become pages for a variety of reasons. A lot of

them just want to learn about the legislative process. Some of them are related to legislators. Others are interested in politics or how government works. Being in Pierre, I think a lot of our students are connected to people in government and just want to be part of the process,” Riggs counselor Bobbi Brown said. The downside of the whole thing is that students have to miss two consecutive weeks of school. That’s a lot of homework to make up. “It’s a lot of work that students have to make up and that can sometimes be overwhelming. I think our students have been great though about communicating with teachers before they go to be a page, and while they’re still paging, to try to get all of their homework and stay up to speed with the class. It’s a lot of work, but the benefit is that you

really do get to see the legislative process, how it works, and you get to meet people and become friends with leaders in our state. I know for a lot of our students those relationships have been a huge benefit to them either while they’re in college or even as they start careers,” Brown said. “Missing two weeks of school is obviously a little bit rough, but you get so much out of the experience. In school you learn about this sort of thing, but this is where you can actually see in action and you get to be part of the process. You learn about the legislative process and how a bill moves from a bill into a law. You learn how it goes through different committees and then hits the floor. You learn how a bill gets written and how a legislature has to sponsor it. Then, besides that, you learn a lot about the

individual legislatures and about how they got elected and about their political journey. You even get to have a meal with the governor, actually. All the pages get to have an evening meal one of the nights with the governor. You get to talk to him and he’s a really cool guy,” Lentsch said. So while students are missing school, they are certainly gaining a real world education in politics and government. “They really get a close up look at the whole legislative process that you may not get from a textbook,” Brown said. Whether you are a junior or senior next year, take the time to apply to be a page. I guarantee you will not look back and go, I wish I had been in school instead of paging. The lessons you learn and the people you meet will more than make up for the makeup work.



Courtesy Photo

Students who decide to be legislative pages spend two weeks working in the Capitol building.

By Austin Lentsch

Everyone knows about it, whether they are going or not. For underclassmen, the annual King of Hearts dance is arguably one of the most hyped-up events of the year. This is true for freshmen especially, as they only have rumors and stories to piece together in an attempt to understand what will actually happen. We in the journalism department have boiled the dance down to the three things that everyone needs to know about KOH: the ask, the dress, and the meal. In an attempt to create a crash-course guide for the procrastinators waiting until February to ask, we have collected data from Instagram

and found some interesting information about KOH asking techniques. The King of Hearts dance is traditionally a girl’s choice occasion, so this section is for our female readers. An old proverb says, “the way to a man’s heart is through his stomach.” Many have used this ancient knowledge to their advantage, with almost 88% of asks involving food of some sort. It is possible, however, that food is too expensive of an option. In that case, a new trend has been developing that may be a good alternative. Statistically, 60% of asks were made with a pun written on poster board. It is often being referred to as the PP method. The second step to having the perfect KOH

experience is figuring out what to wear. The most important thing to remember is to NEVER tell a girl what to wear. If she went to the trouble of asking, the least that you can do is let her choose her own dress. Many guys rent a tux for the night, but some prefer to wear a suit instead. Either is fine, as long as your shirt or tie match your partner’s outfit. Most people already know all of this, but they may not be aware of the process behind buying a corsage and boutonniere (the flowers that guys pin to their jackets and girls wear on their wrists). We could explain a whole bunch of stuff about complimentary colors and other boring matters, but here is what you need to

know. Girls choose, guys buy. That way, the girl isn’t frustrated at having to wear an ugly corsage, and the guy contributes to the process, too. It’s a win-win situation. After you have a date, and you’re looking fly, you need a plan for the evening meal. Several options are available for the all-important meal before the dance. The least expensive option is having a meal at someone’s house. If you are part of a group, everyone can chip in and put together a pretty nice meal for a fairly inexpensive price. If you are really running late, the BK Lounge is always available. Not terribly classy, but it’s out there. Figured I’d make it an option. Last year, Red

Rossa also proved a very popular choice. The last option is probably the best for ambiance, but the worst for your wallet: La Minestra. Arguably the classiest place found in Pierre, it will definitely start your evening off on the right foot. Through these three things, your KOH experience (and that of your partner) will be memorable in a good way. A message to everyone on the fence about going: it is worth a second look. The King of Hearts dance is surely something not worth passing over. And to everyone that will be going, have a good time! (But stay safe and be smart!)

# The Pros and Cons of Vouchers

By Shelby Guthrie and Raegan Winder

Every student gets a little on edge at the end of each semester when taking finals, but the school tries to help give you a little leeway on your semester tests. This leeway is called a voucher, which is a useful tool to cushion the blow of a bad grade during semester test season. Let’s get started with what we think is positive about vouchers.

The positives to vouchers are that they give you the opportunity to score 20% below your resting grade on your semester tests, without it affecting your letter grade. This makes the tool extremely useful when your semester grade is borderline. They also help to take some stress off your harder classes. Some negatives of the vouchers include the

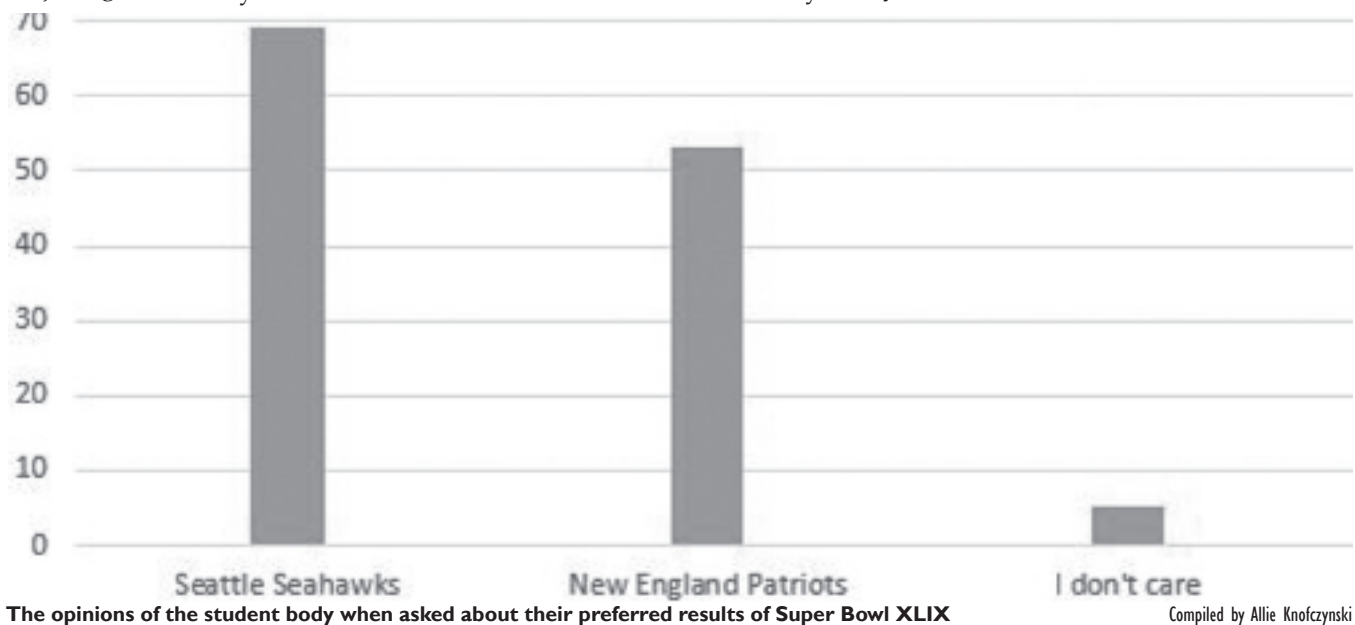
fact that they don’t give very much leeway to students with a high percentage in their respective letter grade. By this, we mean that the percent you need on your semester test in order to keep your letter grade, is lower than the voucher allows. This causes added stress knowing that your voucher is unable to help you. The vouchers you receive also cannot be carried

over to other semesters or years, so if you want to use it, make sure you have earned one for the semester. Another con of the vouchers is that they are awarded for attendance and not any disciplinary reasons. Compared to other schools across the state, our vouchers pale in comparison. These are some things to think about when using your vouchers on semester tests.



Courtesy Photo

Although it can be expensive, La Minestra is a classic location for pre-KOH suppers.



# Hard work, high rewards: meet Riggs' student-athletes

By Micah Howard

A typical, track-season Tuesday for senior Rachel Propst would be a terribly daunting 24 hours for many. Adding together 6:00 a.m. track practice, a morning meeting, an entire school day, and an afterschool practice, Propst figures that she many times faces a 12 hour school day. After the school day, however, homework and evening activities still lie in waiting.

Propst's case is typical for student athletes, as well as kids heavily involved in other extracurricular activities. Propst says the life of a student-athlete certainly has its challenges.

"It's hard to give yourself the time to dedicate to training when you have a lot of homework. There are always hard decisions to make. On the bus to a track meet, it's often doing homework versus sleeping. There are always sacrifices that you have to make. Obviously you don't want to sacrifice your academics, but you always want to perform well. It's about finding a compromise," Propst said.

The right compromise does, unsurprisingly, yield great rewards for student athletes. Great grades, times, and records are only a part of the merit earned by the hard-working student

athlete. More notable are the traits student athletes naturally develop.

Propst says athletics and school-work have combined to teach her dedication and perseverance.

Principal Kevin Mutchelknaus, commenting on what makes strong students strong athletes, says that another one of those traits developed by student athletes is confidence.

"I think it has a lot to do with the

Basketball and track coach Skip Kurth, who has been coaching since 1974, agrees that athletics help to teach one of the skills most essential to success: time management and prioritization.

"It [balancing school work and other activities] helps students learn how to prioritize their time. It's a big key in life, because everyone is going to have a career; most people are go-

collegiate running career at SDSU.

"I think this year is a good test for next year. I'm taking a lot of college classes while trying to do a lot athletically. Hopefully trying to manage that this year will help me take it to the next level next year," Propst said.

Victories and defeats on fields, courts, and courses also serve as a great metaphor for life's ups, downs, failures, and successes, Kurth states.

"I firmly believe, for anybody to be successful, they're going to have to fail several times to understand and appreciate what it takes to be successful and then to maintain success," Kurth said.

And success has been a defining characteristic for student-athletes at Riggs, as evidenced by numerous academic all-state awards won by its teams.

The selfless dedication of teachers, coaches, students, and athletes has ultimately made Riggs a place where every student-athlete has the opportunity to thrive.

"Our student-athletes represent Riggs High School at the highest level. And that's evident in that recognition that we get from the state on a yearly basis," Mutchelknaus said.

*"There are always hard decisions to make. On the bus to a track meet, it's often doing homework versus sleeping. There are always sacrifices that you have to make. Obviously you don't want to sacrifice your academics but you always want to perform well. It's about finding a compromise."*

*-Senior track and cross country athlete Rachel Propst*

whole idea of sound body, sound mind, and just expanding yourself. Extracurricular activities teach confidence, which rolls into success in everything you do, whether it's in academics or on the workforce. Building confidence and applying that to every aspect of your life is really a primary role of extracurricular activities," Mutchelknaus said.

ing to have a spouse; they're going to have children. Everybody wants your time. If you desire to be successful, you have to put in the time. And therefore, you have to weigh what is the most important priority," Kurth said.

Propst says that the time management skills she has learned during her high school career will likely be of great benefit heading into her

## Girls Basketball

**Record:** 8-2

**Last game:** Last Thursday at Mitchell

**Next game:** Friday against Brandon Valley

**Player comment: What is the most rewarding part of coaching basketball?** "The most rewarding part about coaching any sport is working with your athletes and being able to witness them improve and meet their goals. Hopefully they will benefit from the byproducts of athletics in their future." -Coach Skip Kurth

## Girls Hockey

**Last game:** Last Sunday at Watertown

**Next game:** Tomorrow at Sioux Falls

**Player comment: What's your favorite part of hockey?** "My favorite part of hockey is knowing all the girls and seeing how they play so you can learn new ways to help yourself improve." -Freshman Hailey Harris



**GO GOVS!**

Compiled by Wyatt Rumrill

## Gymnastics

**Last meet:** Last Saturday in Rapid City

**Next meet:** Saturday in Pierre

**Athlete comment: What makes gymnastics the tough sport it is?** "The injuries you have to deal with. Anything you do, if you don't do it right, you could break an ankle or sprain a wrist." -Sophomore Ari Cournoyer

## Girls Swimming

**Last meet:** Last weekend at Aberdeen invitational

**Next meet:** Feb. 7-8 in Pierre

**Athlete comment: What are your goals for this swim season?** "My goals of to get another 'A' time in the 50 free and to improve on all of my times." -Sophomore Kylie Light



## Boys' Swimming

**Last meet:** Last weekend at Aberdeen Invitational

**Next meet:** Feb. 7-8 in Pierre

**Athlete comment: What are your goals for this swim season?** "To make my sectionals cut." -Junior Nick Mahowald

## Wrestling

**Last tournament:** Saturday, East West Duals

**Next tournament:** Tomorrow at the Brookings Invitational

**Athlete comment: How have you enjoyed your first year of wrestling?** "I enjoy it, but it's tough." -Senior Jamaal Covey



# GO GOVS!

Compiled by Wyatt Rumrill

## Boys' Basketball

**Reocrd:** 7-4

**Last game:** Tuesday at Rapid City Stevens

**Next game:** Today at Brandon Valley

**Player comment: What is your favorite part of basketball?** "The Pierre home crowd." -Junior Trey Livermont

## Boys' Hockey

**Last match:** Last Saturday against Mitchell

**Next match:** Today at Mandan, ND

**Player comment: How do you see the team doing this year during the second half of the season?** "I don't know. I've had too many concussions." -Senior Riley Bren

## Quick questions: Senior Matt Booth



Pierre's Matt Booth elevates and snags a rebound.

Courtesy Photo

**Q: What are your goals for the team this year?**

Booth: Our first priority is getting rid of this losing streak and just going game

by game, and then to eventually make the state tournament.

**Q: In what areas does the team need to improve?**

Booth: We need to

focus during practice, listen to what Coach Becker has to say, and then execute during the game.

**Q: What is the benefit of playing in front of the home crowd?**

A: The Pierre fans are great! It's a nice kick-start that helps get our energy up during warm-ups. The student section is just great with how loud and rowdy they are for every game!

**Q: What makes this team special?**

A: I'm thankful that we have great team chemistry this year that helps us play together on the court.

**Q: What has been the best moment this season for you and for the team?**

A: My personal favorite moment was hitting my first varsity three against Mitchell. Brevin's last second tip in against Huron was great because it capped off an emotional win in an exciting way, and anytime we can beat Huron is a great day!

## Gymnasts eye ESD meet

By Marie Zander

This year's gymnastics season has already been full of ups and downs, but that fact hasn't stopped the team from pushing onward according to head coach Deb Snyder.

"The team got a rough start because Melissa got hurt before the first meet, but the other girls have done a great job at filling in the spots as Melissa would have been our all-around athlete."

The loss of Bobby has meant many of the younger athletes have had to rise to the occasion to fill the gap.

"We're still a young team. Melissa was our only senior, and she has been out this entire season due to her injury, so many of the younger girls have had to learn how to compete at a higher level that they would not have had done otherwise, including some of the JV girls that have moved up to compete at the varsity level," Snyder said.

But despite being a young team, the athletes have all risen to the challenge and have a very strong work ethic to overcome their obstacles.

"They are hard workers, and they are willing to accept a challenge and work toward it. They understand that to qualify for state as a team they will have to work towards doing their absolute best to achieve the

*"They are hard workers, and they are willing to accept a challenge and work toward it. They understand that to go to state they will have to work towards doing their absolute best.."*  
-head coach Deb Snyder

goal of going to state," Snyder said.

Even though Bobby has only been able to support her team from the side, she has been watching her team and has been helping them grow.

"The team started out weak but has grown over the past two months. Everyone has put in extra effort in all their practices," Bobby said.

That statement is great news to hear with only one more meet before ESD. This last meet will be on January 31, and the team is more than ready to use this as a tool in preparation for ESD.

"That will be the last meet before ESD, so it will be a good meet to end on to see where we are for ESD," Snyder said.

ESD will be held in Pierre this year on February 7 in Pierre, and anyone is welcome to come support the team on their quest to make it to state.

## Bachelor of the Month



**Louis Mehlhaff, 12**

**What is your signature move with the ladies?**

Being present in the same room.

**What is your fool proof pick up line?**

I like your shoe-laces.

**What is irresistible about you?**

I'm long, tan, and \*Licks braces\* handsome.

**What is your type?**

I don't discriminate.

**If you had one million dollars what would you do with it?**

Have the best "5 year anniversary of you asking me

this question" party.

**What is your ideal date?**

The kind where we just have fun, be ourselves, and not care what other people think.

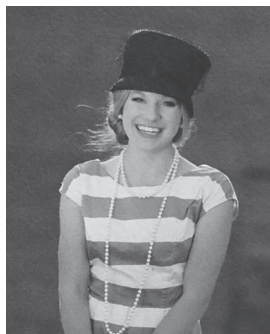
**Where do you see yourself in five years?**

Celebrating the 5 year anniversary of you asking me this question!

**What is your type?**

I don't discriminate.

## Bachelorette of the Month



**Brittni Faddoul, 12**

**Personality:**

Old soul, head-strong, optimistic, independent  
**Looks or personality in the opposite sex?**  
Personality, no doubt.

**What is your ideal first date?**

Surprise me! I like being spontaneous.

**Favorite leisure activity:** Planning my next trip/adventure.

**Pursue or be pursued?**

Pursue. Someone's gotta do the work.

**Eye Color:**

Peculiar blue-green

**What is your pet peeve?**

**What is your favorite pick up line?**

I wish I was your derivative, so I could lie tangent to your curves.

**Who is your celebrity crush?**

Josh Duhamel

**Do you have an age preference?**

No, I prefer some maturity, but I like someone who brings out the kid in me.

## BAD GRAMMAR

## Actors to State Festival

**By Amanda Pugh and Moina Syed**

Recently, the students of the Riggs High Drama department have been very busy preparing their play to take to the State One Act Festival on February 5-7 at O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls. This year they will be performing *Vocal Work* by Ed Monk. The cast is made up of Joni Willoughby, Allie Knofczynski, Sarah Kanz, Julia Jares, Hannah Booth, Claire Lentsch, Brittani Snow, Louis Mehlhaff, Austin Lentsch, and Davis Anderson, along with director Ms. Zakahi.

This play is about a sound studio director whose schedule is chaotic and whose day not going as planned. The play is about 30 minutes long, and at the festival they will have a 45 minute limit to set-up, perform and tear-down. During the festival this year Riggs will be competing with 16 other AA schools, 14 class A schools and 16 class B schools.

Ms. Zakahi said the part of One Acts that she enjoys the most is, "Working on a show with kids who get to study characterization and character interaction." She also said that for her, the most important part of the competition is the experience that the students gain from watching and participating in plays during the three day festival.

The Students performed the One Act play at Riggs on the evenings of January 24 and 26, as well as another short One Act, *The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon* by Don Zolidis. This play is a recreation of all of the Grimm Brothers fairytales narrated by Julia Jares. Although it is not attending the State One Act Festival, it is a great opportunity for actors to step into a fun character in a more relaxed setting rather than a full length production.

Make sure you wish these actors good luck as they prepare for the festival!

## January Sibling Rivalry

**Katie (11) & Emily (10) Nielson**

**Q: With how different your personalities are, what do the two of you do together?**

A: "Do we do anything together? I mean, we don't even watch the same TV shows"—Emily. "About all we do together is ride in the car with each other."—Katie. "Yeah, she gives me rides to school. I think that's about it."—Emily.

**Q: Did having two siblings that are both quite older than the two of you affect your relationship?**

A: "I am really close to Steven because we are a lot alike in personality and interests."—Katie. "And I am pretty close to Maggie."—Emily. "It hasn't really brought us closer together, because they have almost always been in the house with us except over the past few years."—Katie.

**Q: Who is the favorite child?**

A: "Our older brother Steven is probably the favorite."—Emily. "Since he moved out, though, Emily is the favorite. I always get in trouble even when it is her fault."—Katie.