

# G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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## Annual Program Evokes Veteran Appreciation

By Elizabeth Hopper and  
Steph Nelson

While many had the day off to celebrate Veterans Day, those of us here at T.F. Riggs High School showed our support by learning more about veterans.

For example, did you know that in 1918, on the eleventh day of the eleventh month during the eleventh hour, time seemed to stand still as the fighting of World War I came to a halt? This day was later to be announced as Armistice Day, and later changed to what

we know now as Veterans Day.

Did you know that the veterans of World War II were so modest about the time they served that South Dakota journalist and former NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw wrote a book about them called, appropriately—*The Greatest Generation*.

So why do we gather every year to celebrate veterans? Simply put— they are kind of a big deal. Veterans are men and women who risk their lives for us, so we can enjoy the freedom of education and religion.

They risk their lives, so we don't have to. If you really take a look around you, so many things are possible for us because of the hard work and bravery of so many veterans.

This year, as always, the Veterans Day assembly was phenomenal. Mr. Mickelson, a Latin teacher at T.F. Riggs, considers this program, now in its 14th year, a labor of love.

"My father and father-in-law were both Marine veterans of the South Pacific in WWII, and I want to honor them," Mickelson

said when asked about a special meaning behind this program for him. He also added, "I also felt a great deal of sorrow for my contemporaries who had fought in Vietnam and were never honored properly for their service."

So how can we as high school students honor our veterans throughout the year? You can send letters and packages showing your appreciation or go visit a retirement home and talk with some veterans. If they are willing to talk about their experiences, listen to them and take in what they have to share with you. If there is a local

organization, find out how to get involved. We live in the generation of technology. There are endless ideas online that you can use to determine which way you would like to help.

Just remember that those who have served and are currently serving gave up a lot. Whenever you see a veteran or someone currently serving, make sure to thank them. Many times our freedoms are taken for granted because we are so used to having them. Remember that people went through many struggles to make this life possible for all of us.

## Ballot Participation Steadily Declines

By Marcella Lees

With the first flakes, then drifts of snow, always comes election season. On the fourth, adults all over the country went to designated areas to cast their ballots. Among them were some seniors from Riggs. These new young adults took the time to go and make their voices heard. Unfortunately, the majority of young adults, including many from Riggs, are not hitting the polls.

According to an article featured in *The Economist*, "In 2010, only

24 percent of millennials (18-29-year-olds) voted, compared with 51 percent of Americans aged 30 or over." That is a low number.

"The 18-20 group is generally disinterested in politics. They have more immediate concerns," Government teacher Skip Kurth said.

With the ever increasing pressures put on high school students, it is not surprising that many newly 18 year-olds don't bother registering to vote. There is daily homework, activities, college preparations, and jobs to keep them busy,

and any thoughts of going to register seem to be put on the back burner. Then of course, there is just pure apathy. This generation is increasingly apathetic in matters of politics. "Some [students] may have the feeling that their vote doesn't matter, when in reality, it does," Kurth said.

"I just didn't feel the need [to vote]," senior Melissa Bobby said. "I wasn't ready. I didn't have enough time to listen to the news ever. I'm too busy."

Bobby brings up a fair point, though: readiness. Should stu-

dents who really don't know what is going on politically, vote?

"I encourage everybody who is informed to vote. Anyone who isn't informed; don't mess up our future and complain about it later," Kurth said.

Ignorance is not, however, an excuse for young adults to just stay at home and watch Netflix when the next election rolls around.

"It's not just our right to vote, it's our responsibility," Kurth said. "It's your civic duty to be an informed voter."

America is the land of freedom and op-

portunity. Freedom is having a say in things, a political voice; refusing to vote takes that freedom away.

"Many students don't vote because they're not informed on the issues and they think it won't matter. What they don't realize is that every vote counts," first time voter and senior Renae Kueter said. "We are the future and if our opinions are not heard, America will decline."

"Democracy does not guarantee that every one of us will get our way; however, it does give every-

one an opportunity, if they take it, to have a say," Kurth said.

### This month's issue:

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Page 8: Bachelor/Bachelorette of the Month, Sibling Rivalry, Fine Arts

# A Week for Riggs's Best

November is a pretty eventful month. With Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and just one month closer to Christmas, it's the opportune time to display your gratitude, but there seems to be an important week of the year that often fails to be recognized

of our district. Have you ever heard of American Education Week? Yeah, I didn't either until I was searching for an editorial topic. It was actually first observed in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1921 to raise public awareness of the importance of education after World War I. This year, the week falls on November 16-22.

Throughout American Education Week,

each day is dedicated to a different aspect of the education system, celebrating the people who spend countless amounts of time ensuring each of us receives a quality education.

It's hard to believe that up to this point, we have spent the majority

of our young lives sitting

in a classroom, all in preparation to face the real world. We are arriving to the point where, if you so choose, you can drop out of school. Nationally, 8.1% of high school students drop out each year. Anything from life events, boredom, and constant failure can drive a student to walk out those front doors forever. The benefits

of sticking through to graduation, however, continually outweigh any cons, now and especially in the future.

In the state that has the lowest salaries for teachers, it can be easy to forget how valuable these people are. To say that teaching is one of the most influential occupations is an understatement. The rest of your life is, in ways, shaped by the work of teachers. The purpose of their careers is to help each student learn, tailored to their individual skillsets. Any compassionate, patient person who is able to return to high school in hopes to improve our lives deserves our appreciation.

It is also essential to note that we live in a country that offers sim-

ple access to a great public education. In other parts of the world, kids are not given an equal opportunity to succeed in life. Few people are able to afford or are allowed to receive the entire extent of an education, and even then, the quality of resources available can be limited. No matter how many grievances you may have, you have to admit that we are lucky to live in America.

Even though the district does not observe American Education Week, we can still embrace its concepts and apply them to our everyday lives. In this season dedicated to thankfulness, let's make sure to take the time to thank the people who grant us our public education system.

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Thank you to all that made this issue possible!

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Wade Kippley

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What's hot and what's not this month

...to Thanksgiving  
...to Mr. Mick and the Veterans Day Assembly  
...to hunting in general  
...to hanging with da fam  
...to blanket scarves  
...to winter sports starting  
...to all-you-can-eat dinners  
...to fuzzy socks  
...to pretty sunsets  
...to hot chocolate every day  
...to feeding the geese at Capitol lake  
...to Garrett Jorgensen's free-style skills  
...to automatic car starters  
...to volleyball girls making it to state (LG Whoop Whoop)  
...to riding boots

...to not having snow days  
...to meth labs  
...to our school parking lot  
...to seeing crazy family members  
...to the fire at the Capitol Inn  
...to printers being stupid  
...to grades dropping as fast as the weather  
...to all the Haterz  
...to the flu  
...to "no shave" November  
...to messy/smelly locker rooms  
...to the side door always being locked  
...to the days getting shorter  
...to senior reasearch papers

## NOVEMBER TRIVIA

Which president proclaimed that Thanksgiving would take place on November 23, not November 30, as a way to spur economic growth and extend the Christmas shopping season?

Hint: This took place in 1939.

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 November winner will be drawn at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, December 3.



## Swift Welcomes Change in 1989

It seems like everything around us is constantly changing, especially in this season of transition into chillier temperatures and increasing amounts of snow. Some of us change little things in our lives, like our hair color, or as simple as the type of toothpaste we use. Others are too afraid of change to even admit that it is happening. One young woman that isn't afraid

Miranda Rockwood

### REFLECTIONS

of change, but instead seems to embrace every bit of it, is none other than Miss Taylor Swift. Her new album, *1989*, is the perfect anthem for anything that has to do with making mistakes, changing, "shaking it off," and facing new challenges with an open mind and spirit.

On the inside page of most albums, there are artist notes that thank the fans for their unconditional support, and all the other things they think need to be said. In Swift's groundbreaking piece, she writes in her notes to her fans, "These songs were once about my life. They are now about yours."

I think that in this particular album,

Swift focuses on explaining the different parts of the album, how she has changed throughout each song, and how she has finally come alive musically and in general.

I think that this album couldn't have come out at a better time, not just for me, but for everyone who has listened to it. As Swift expertly

sings in her song, "Welcome to New York," "It's a new soundtrack; I could dance to this beat forevermore."

I think that everyone could use some change at some point in their life, whether it be something small, or something momentous. We cannot live our lives without moving forward and reinventing yourself when the time arises. I also believe that Swift gave us a great example of that change and its benefits. The sounds on this album are unlike anything Swift has released, but it has helped her shine in a brand new light. Take note, this is all coming from the girl that said she would never like Taylor Swift...

## Jone-Bear's Take on Group Project Drama

Dear Jone-Bear,  
Since I didn't get very good grades the first quarter, I need to work really hard this quarter so I don't have to go to summer school. The main reason for my bad grades is that I had to complete a lot of my homework with a partner, and my partner is one of my best friends. I don't feel comfortable being with anyone else in the class, and I don't want to work alone, but my friend usually wants to talk instead of finishing the project. I don't want to hurt her feelings by not wanting to partner up with her, but she just won't get anything done! What should I do?

Sincerely, Conflicted friend  
Dear Conflicted Friend,

I know plenty of people face this problem on a regular basis. The simple answer to your problem would be to not have a partner, but, as you said before, you don't want to work alone. The not-as-simple answer would be to try a different partner. If you tell your friend in a nice way that you can't work with them because your grade is falling, they should be understanding because they are your friend, and their grade is probably falling, too.

I know it can be scary to work with someone you have never dealt with before, but it is an important skill you will

need if you ever work, which I would certainly hope you would. Unfortunately, that means that you will have to branch out and work with someone else. You never know, you might find your new best friend, or whatever else you are looking for. How do you know unless you try?

Joni Willoughby  
ADVICE

If none of that works, however, you could possibly try working on your assignments on your own outside of class. I don't know which of you plans on keeping the project and instructions, but maybe you should keep it, and then try to work on it without your part-

ner. Just because it is a group project doesn't mean that you can't do your share; unfortunately for you, your share might be the whole project thanks to your partner's lack of work ethic, and I apologize for that. Group projects can truly be a pain. Never be afraid to talk to your teacher about it, too. They could offer you some helpful advice for this type of situation.

Thanks for the good question! If any of you have more questions, feel free to email me, or drop them off in Mr. Kippley's room in Room 318. I won't use your real name or judge you, I promise. Tune in next month for more advice from the Jone-Bear!

## Tips for No-Shave November

Ahh, good ol' November. The time of year when, while walking through the hallway between periods, you notice almost every boy is proudly displaying some sort of facial hair; whether it's a full grown beard, or just a little scruff, they are always trying. Honestly, what is the teenage male infatuation with facial hair? We have yet to fully comprehend that.

Personally, we have noticed that by attempting to grow some form of facial hair, boys think it makes them appear manlier.

Unfortunately, guys, you still look like little boys. Our advice is simple: don't grow facial hair unless you can grow facial hair. By that, we mean unless you can grow thick, filled-out facial hair worth showing off to the world, you shouldn't try. Just

Macy and Maddie  
PERSPECTIVES

accept the fact that it's just not for you, and that's okay. You'll look better with a clean shave than with random sparse patches all over your face. If you do plan on

letting the facial hair flow, make sure to keep it clean. Treat it as you would the hair on your head. Shampoo it, condition it, and even comb it if it's long enough. Believe us when we say that well-groomed facial hair is good facial hair. Trying to get a

true insight to a guy's mind, we asked Max (Bubba) Reinke, 11, some questions. We asked why teenage guys are obsessed with facial hair. "The ladies love it.

What girl doesn't like a nice beard?" Reinke said.

We asked what he thought about guys growing little moustaches.

"Only men should grow facial hair. If you can't grow more than a goatee, you should just shave it all," Reinke said.

We can't say we disagree with him on either of those answers. So, boys, keep our tips in mind this November as the cold sets in, and you wish you had a nice ball of fur on your face to keep you warm. Remember, no facial hair is better than bad facial hair. Hairy Holidays!



# Big Band Dance Swings up Fun for all Ages

By Kailee Schultz and Emily Kist

On Saturday, the Big Band Dance took place in Riggs main gym. At the Big Band Dance, the high school's Jazz Band and a few other bands from the community, such as the acclaimed Over Forte, played around 30 different swing songs, inviting the public to come and listen, as well as dance to the music. "Swing music is always the best and most fun music to learn, because it just makes you feel like dancing!" Jazz Band member Josie Slaathaug, 9, said. Formal dress attire was encouraged, but not required, for all attendees. All the band students sold tickets two

weeks prior to the dance, costing \$5 each. The money earned from the ticket sales will go into the individual student's account for their future trip to Chicago with the Symphonic Band. Most of the songs the Jazz Band performed had tough rhythms, and they put in a lot of time and effort into preparing for last Saturday's event. "We have been practicing since the beginning of the year," band director Mackenzie McKeithan said. She also stated that the Jazz Band will be putting in extra hours in order to prepare for the next dance, which is on April 25. Along with the Jazz Band's preparations, Student Senate provided swing dance lessons a couple weeks

before the event for anyone who desired to learn. The dance is a great alternative to school dances like prom or King of Hearts. Along with a relaxing atmosphere, attendees were provided free popcorn and Coke products. The Big Band Dance has occurred for the past 15 years, and will hopefully occur for many more to come. A dance contest also occurs during the night, and eight teams competed to four different selections. Seniors Ethan Leif and Emily Plumage won the contest. Mariah Kessler and her little brother Will received second place, while juniors Demeri Hanson and Ryan Sheldon finished with the bronze.



Courtesy Photo  
Members of the Riggs Jazz Band pose before their performance at the Big Band Dance.



Courtesy Photo  
Art teacher Mr. Darby found his inspiration for creating the Nerdvana club from a Big Bang Theory episode.

# Oral Interp Heads to State

By Austin Lentsch

"The judge loved the intro, but didn't totally understand my interpretation of the monologue during that part. She thinks that I could change this character a bit and maybe give this other one a mannerism or two...but she still gave me a twenty-three, and first in her room!" Did you catch all of that? This is what the average conversation during an Oral Interpretation competition may sound like. So you may be wondering: what exactly is Oral Interp? Some define it as "competitive acting." They enjoy the face off against other "terpers." Others call it "acting in its purest form." They enjoy the experience of performing with no props but the script in hand. Regardless of who you ask, every single person in Interp will confirm

that it as an experience you will never forget. Everyone in Interp joins for different reasons. They range from hopes of proving and improving speaking skills, to veteran terpers forcing you to join. Through Oral Interp, however, each participant gains knowledge and skills that they themselves may be surprised by. These skills include gaining greater confidence before crowds, learning more effective communication skills, expressing thoughts and ideas, developing a work ethic, and connecting with talented people from across the state. No matter what amount of experience, time, or talent at your disposal, Oral Interp is an important thing to consider for the creation and expansion of your future skill set. In Oral Interp, pieces can fall under several categories. The solo categories are Serious, Hu-

morous, Poetry, Oratory, and Storytelling. Larger groups have the options of Duet (two people) and Reader's Theatre (three to six people). Something learned very quickly by each member in terp, is the importance of choosing a good piece. Each piece is cut to fit inside time limits, and given an Introduction to introduce the piece and the moral of the story. As this year's season ends, one piece from each category has been chosen to represent Pierre at the State Competition being held in Huron this December. T.F. Riggs's representatives are: Kristjan Nixon (11) in Serious, Austin Lentsch (11) in Humorous, Sarah Kanz (11) in Poetry, Hannah Booth (10) in Oratory, Kristjan Nixon (11) in Storytelling, Joni Willoughby (12) and Austin Lentsch (11) in Duet, and Annie Woodmansey (12), Grant Erwin (12),

Louis Melhaff (12), Joni Willoughby (12), Austin Lentsch (11), and Judah McKinley (9) in Reader's Theatre. This year's Reader's Theatre is working toward bringing home the third straight Superior Award with their piece Arabian Nights. Participants have been working very hard throughout the entire season, traveling to different schools each Friday and Saturday for a solid month. They have also practiced several days after school every week, perfecting their pieces for the judges. Make sure you wish these people the best of luck. Huron will host the best terpers on Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6. Thanks to Ms. Boone for all her hard work and making all the success possible!

By Caitlin Reimers

Every other Tuesday, the Nerdvana club assembles and creates a place for kids to come together. It gives anyone who attends a chance to play games and become comfortable with their peers in a safe, welcoming environment. Art teacher Mr. Darby first started Nerdvana last year. He apparently got his inspiration from the TV show The Big Bang Theory when Leonard had made 'Nerdvana' with all the comic book statues in his house and all his friends. "The club is really

successful, and I am very proud of it. There are quite a few people who always come by and then we end up kicking everybody out when we leave. Basically, they get there early and they stay there late," Darby said. He said that there is an average of about 18 people that attend each meeting. Nerdvana consists of non-electronic strategy games, role plays, and board games, which some students believe have helped the sharpness of their brain. "I guess the best way to think about it that electronic games are almost isolating,

rarely interacting with anyone without a screen between the players. Board games encourage face-to-face communication, and problem solving skills," Brice Mertz, a freshman who is a frequent Nerdvana attendee said. "And honestly, who doesn't like to play a good board game?" Throughout its lifespan at Riggs, Nerdvana continues to be a hit with most students that attend. "A lot of students, especially freshmen, seem to be more open toward me and toward other kids. When they first came to my class,

they were really quiet and just kept to themselves. As the club has progressed, I've seen them invite more people and become more social. It's really cool to see the kids come out of their shells and let their personalities shine," Darby said. Many of the students say that the club is a great way to get to know lower and upper classmates while playing the games. Freshmen Carson McCaskell, also a frequent Nerdvana goer agrees. "When you meet these people in the club and then you see them in the hallway at school, you don't feel

like you're just a small freshman anymore. You feel like you're part of the school now, no longer an outsider, and it feels great," McCaskell said. Mr. Darby and anyone who is involved with Nerdvana highly encourages anyone who is curious about the club, wants to meet new people, and wants to play fun games to come to the club and check it out. All students are welcome! Meetings are held every other Tuesday night in the junior-senior lounge.

# DEATH BY TURKEY

By Shelby Guthrie and Raegan Winder

Thanksgiving is a special holiday. It consists of everything from gathering with our families and friends to giving thanks for one another and all that we have. It is also a holiday that focuses on eating until you're stuffed, and maybe catching a football game and parade or two. One thing that probably doesn't come to mind,

however, is the numerous deaths that happen on Thanksgiving. Yes, quite a morbid topic, but it is one that should nevertheless be addressed. A few major reasons that causes people to die on Thanksgiving are under cooked and spoiled meats. There are more than 500 deaths due to undercooked and contami-

nated turkey each year on this day. Some of this spoiled meat, according to PETA, is caused by the United States of America not having contaminated animal products recalls, and even if they do have recalls, a lot of the products don't get returned in a timely manner. Moving on to the next cause of deaths and injuries: deep fat frying your turkey. Accord-

ing to the National Fire Protection Association, there are five deaths caused by deep fat fryers each year, 60 injuries, 900 homes burned down, and a whopping 15 million dollars of damages in homes. Thanksgiving is the most common time for at home cooking fires to occur for obvious reasons, but if you plan on frying up a turkey to golden, crispy perfection, please be smart.

Before we let you go, it is important to remember that while Thanksgiving is a fun holiday, it can also be dangerous. Always fully cook your turkey and don't use a deep fat fryer unless you know how to use it. With those thoughts in mind, have a Happy Thanksgiving and don't forget the stuffing!



## Quick questions: girls' basketball



**Sydney Palmer,**  
**Senior, Varsity player**

**What are you most excited for this season?**

**Palmer:** I am excited for the chance to go to state again and to be a part of the team.

**What do you think will be the biggest challenge for the Lady Govs this year?**

**Palmer:** I think having a new coach may raise some challenges. It'll be change from what we have been used to, plus it'll also be a different atmosphere than past years.

**Why did you choose to play collegiately at SDSU?**

**Palmer:** It has always felt like home to me. I have been to a lot of SDSU games throughout the years and have been to the campus many times from all the different camps held there. It just seems like the right fit.

The Lady Governors will see their first action Friday, December 12 when they take on the Mitchell Kernels at home. Tip-off time is 7 PM.

## Girls' Basketball

**First game:** December 12 against Mitchell

**Player comment: What is your favorite part of the basketball season?** "My favorite part of the basketball season would probably be the intensity during the game." Sophomore Payton Geppert

## Volleyball

**Record:** 7-18

**Last match:** Saturday against Harrisburg at the state tournament.

**Player comment:** How does it feel to be on the first team to go to the state tournament in 6 years? "It's great that we got the opportunity go and play the best teams in the state, and if we play as well as I know we can, we should do well." Senior Emily Wald

# Gymnasts aim high

By Micah Howard

After a seventh place finish at state last year, the Lady Governors gymnastics team is set to start its season and work towards a higher finish.

The team returns in full force after losing no seniors last year. Head coach Deb Snyder expects positive outcomes this season.

"We have our leadership coming back, we have some up and coming kids who are very talented, and we still have the strong core of kids that we had last year," Snyder said.

The athletes have put in much time and effort in the off-season, and Snyder expects that it will show.

"The kids have really worked and gone to camps and done some club programs throughout the offsea-

son. The core groups of kids have improved their skills significantly," Snyder said.

Snyder expects that the team, provided it puts in the necessary work, should easily make a reappearance at the state meet and come home with a higher finish. Before, inexperience worked against the team.

"Last year, we had a lot of young kids that had never competed at state before," Snyder said.

This year will likely bring to the state meet a stronger and more experienced Lady Govs team. The team's only senior, Melissa Bobby, will continue to lead the team, Snyder says.

"Melissa is very positive and a strong competitor. I can rely on her to lead inside and outside the competition," Snyder said.

Bobby, whose strongest events are the floor and bars, will aim to make the All-ESD conference team as well as earn a top five finish at state.

"I'm looking forward to competing with everybody, meeting new people at meets, and getting closer as a team," Bobby said.

Another potential leader for the Lady Govs is sophomore Dani Ullmann. After breaking both her ankles last season, Ullmann will make her return at the season-opening meet.

"Dani was having a lot of success when that happened. It was hard for the kids to see her go. I think that she'll be a leader. She's been through a lot and I think the kids do look up to her," Snyder said.

The Lady Govs will open their season December 4 in Pierre.

## Gymnastics

**First meet:** Pierre Triangular December 4

**Coach comment:** "Our goals, of course, are always to be strong competitors, to stay positive and to work as hard as we can to be the best we can. If each individual achieves to the the best of her ability, the team achieves to the best of its ability." Head coach Deb Snyder

## Girls' Swimming

**Last meet:** Saturday at Spearfish

**Next meet:** December 6 and 7 at Mitchell

**Athlete comment: What is one thing you enjoy about swimming as a sport?** "I like that it's an individual sport because you can't blame anyone else for your failure." Sophomore Kylie Light



## Girls' Hockey

**First match:** Saturday against Sioux Falls

**Player comment: Quote: How do you feel about not being able to check?**

"Sometimes girls just need to be able to hit someone and not be called for hit, and life should be more like hockey: you hit someone and you get put in a box for two minutes and then you can go back out and play." Sophomore Madie Brink

Compiled by Wyatt Rumrill

## Football

**Final Game:** November 7 at Brookings

**Player comment:** What was the most enjoyable part of this season? "Working hard and spending time with my teammates, and having fun on the road." Junior Danny Ellenbecker

## Boys' Hockey

**First match:** December 6 against Yankton

**Player comment:** How fun is checking people? "It's not fun if they're too small because then you feel like jerk, and if they're too big you'll get pasted against the boards." Senior Riley Bren



# GO GOVS!

Compiled by Wyatt Rumrill

## Wrestling

**First tournament:** December 5 at Mitchell  
**Athlete comment:** What's the hardest part of wrestling?

"Surviving for six minutes on the mat." Senior Dawson Monfore

## Boys' Swimming

**First meet:** November 21 at Spearfish

**Next meet:** December 6 at Mitchell

**Athlete comment:** Why is swimming better than most other sports? "Swimming is the only sport I know of that utilizes every single muscle system in the body. This makes swimming one of the hardest sports to excel at, but for those who do excel, the reward is worth the pain." Sophomore Porter Jones

# Swimmers looking strong Quick questions:

## boys' basketball

By Wyatt Rumrill

November 8 marked the beginning of the swim season for the reigning state champion Pierre Swim Team.

A whopping 268 athletes from around the state competed at Pierre's first home meet, 139 of them on the Pierre team. Eighteen high school swimmers from Pierre competed at the meet for a combined 18 first-place finishes.

Ashley Theobald, Sarah Haberman, Evan Rumrill, Wyatt Rumrill, and Nick Mahowald all won races in their respective age-groups at this two-day competition.

In the 15-16 girls division, Theobald won the 100 and 200 breaststroke, 200 I.M., and the 200 freestyle. Sarah Haberman won the girls 17-19 100 breaststroke and 100 butterfly. Cassie Axtell, Anna Haberman, Renee Gallagher, Aspen Iverson, Kylie Light, and Ali Burke also competed on the girls' side.

On the boys' side, Evan Rumrill won three events

in the 13-14 age group. The 100 and 200 butterfly and the 500 freestyle rounded out his victories. Nick Mahowald helped the team out with wins in the 200 backstroke and 500 freestyle for the boys' 15-16 age group.

Lastly, Wyatt Rumrill won seven individual events in the 17-19 age division, touching first in the 200 I.M., 100 and 200 breaststroke, 100 and 200 freestyle, 100 backstroke, and the 50 free. Luke Schochenmaier, John Schueller, Trey Dravland, Jordan Lutmer, and Porter Jones also competed.

The Pierre mixed relay consisting of Ashely Theobald, Nick Mahowald, Wyatt Rumrill, and Porter Jones won the 200 free relay. Theobald, Wyatt Rumrill, Evan Rumrill, and John Schueller achieved victory in the 200 medley relay as well.

The Pierre Swim Team is looking strong heading into the 2014-2015 swim season. This meet was a good showing of the depth and strength

the team has developed, and that depth and strength will be an advantage going into the state meet.

The next meet on the swim team's schedule is Mitchell's invitational on December 6.

After a successful season last year, Sarah Haberman, 11, has faith that the team will again have a strong performance.

"Even though we lost some strong swimmers this year, we still have a lot of younger swimmers who can rack up a lot of points. Our first meet went really well, and if the whole team keeps working hard and staying focused we should have a comparable season to last year," Haberman said.

The team will have a chance to defend their state title in March when Pierre holds the state meet. Last year the team surged ahead on the final day of the competition to win the title and stop Sioux Falls' 20-year winning streak.

### Terry Becker, boys basketball head coach

**How has the team changed since last year?**

**Becker:** Five seniors graduated last year so we will have some new players step up into some bigger roles this year.

**What is special about this year's group of players?**

**Becker:** Balance. We have a lot of guys that can go out and contribute. All of our players have the ability to go out and be a star every game, but it can be a different star each night.

**What are some of the challenges of having a revised coaching staff this year?**

**Becker:** It's always tough losing a coach, especially one as talented and experienced in our system as Coach DeBoer, but we still have a stellar coaching staff.

**What are the goals and expectations of the team?**

**Becker:** Our goal is the same as every year. We want to get to the state tournament, and be able to get better each month so by tournament time we are playing the best possible basketball we can.

The Governor basketball squad will hit the court for the first time this year when they head to Mitchell on December 12.

The team's first home contest will take place on December 20 against the Brandon Valley Lynx.

# Bachelor of the Month



**Jace Jerome, 12**  
**Personality:**  
Confident and  
Outgoing  
**Pursue or be  
pursued?**  
Pursue.

**What’s your favor-  
ite pick up line?**  
You are the cut-  
est girl I have ever  
seen.  
**Looks or personal-  
ity in opposite sex?**  
Macahl Raske has  
both.  
**Where do you see  
yourself in five  
years?**  
Married to Macahl  
with five cute chil-  
dren.

**Describe your dream  
girl.**  
Macahl Raske  
**What is your pet  
peeve?**  
When Landon Badger  
hits on Macahl.  
**What is your ideal  
first date?**  
Anywhere with  
Macahl.  
**Celebrity crush?**  
Brad Pitt in the movie  
*Troy*.  
**Age Preference?**  
15.

# Bachelorette of the Month



**Mariah Kessler, 12**  
**Personality:**  
Classy and Sassy  
**Eye color:**  
Sad gray  
**Hair color:**  
Strawbaleyyeller

**Looks or personal-  
ity in opposite sex?**  
Yes!?  
**What is your ideal  
first date?**  
We would go cow  
tipping by the  
moonlight.  
**Favorite leisure  
activity:** Swing  
Dancing  
**Pursue or be pur-  
sued?**  
Yes?!

**What is your favorite  
pick up line?**  
Do you live in a corn  
field? Because I’m  
stalking you.  
**Who is your celebrity  
crush?**  
Ern.  
**What is your pet  
peeve?**  
Wanna-be’s.  
**Do you have an age  
preference?**  
No!?

# Band Goes to Augie Festival

By Amanda Pugh and Moina Syed

Each year, all the high schools throughout a five-state region are able to nominate 12 band students. These students are recommended by the school band directors, based on musical criteria. The students are then chosen by the Augustana Committee of Outstanding Musicians to participate in the Augustana Band Festival. This year’s annual festival was held November 14 and 15 on the campus of Augustana College in Sioux Falls.

This year, ten of the 12 students nominated by Riggs were chosen to participate in the prestigious Festival. These students include the following: Cade Bench-Bresher, Grant Erwin, Al-  
lie Knofczynski, Renae Kueter, Samantha Merrill, Dagne Ode, Wyatt Rumrill, Rebecca Urban, Annie Woodmansey, and Jesse Gates. They attended the event with Riggs band director, Ms. McKeithan.

This band festival is a great opportunity for band students to meet and play with others throughout the region and to work with distinguished directors. There are three bands: the Blue Band and the Gold Band, which had about 100 members each, and an Honor Band, which had about 75 highly ranked students. At the end of the two day festival, Augustana held the Grand Finale concert at the Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls.

“Personally, my favorite thing about the festival is giving our students the opportunity to expand their horizons; they do this through the other people present, the size of the band, and the caliber of the musical selection,” McKeithan said.

Overall participation in this festival is a great experience and an impressive accomplishment for band students. Bravo, Riggs musicians!

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

# November Sibling Rivalry

## Hallie and Hanna Dunn, 11

■ ■ ■ ■ ■

**Q: Who is the fa-  
vorite child?**  
A: “Let’s be real  
here, Hanna!” –  
Hallie.  
“Hallie’s a devil  
child.” - Hanna  
**Q: Does Hallie be-  
ing “a devil child”  
start the fights  
then?**  
A. Hanna: “Hallie  
starts them all;  
how couldn’t you

fight with her?” but  
Hallie says Hanna  
starts more fights.  
**Q: Who wins the  
fights?**  
A: “I do!” says Han-  
na with a guilty  
smile on her face,  
and Hallie agrees by  
saying, “Of course  
she does. She is the  
favorite.”

**Q: Have you two  
switched classes  
before?**  
A: “No, but our par-  
ents call us by the  
other’s name to  
make us mad.”  
**Q: How do people  
tell you apart?**  
A: Hallie and Hanna  
look at each other  
and simultaneous-  
ly respond, “YOU  
DON’T!”