

"Un-Masking" the Fine Arts During a Pandemic

BY MRS. MCKEITHAN AND MR. BAUCK
COLLECTED BY SAVANNAH SHRAKE

Right: Students in the brass and wind section utilize "playable" masks and bell covers to decrease the spread of particles that emit from their instruments.

Left: Members of the symphonic band trumpet section try out new masks that safely allow them to play.



Everyone can agree that COVID-19 has affected the entire school, both students and staff. No one has been as blindsided, however, than the Fine Arts Department. A virus that spreads through respiratory droplets can be especially dangerous for those that spend their days singing and breathing through instruments. As a result, T.F. Riggs' band and choir classes have undergone major changes. The following statements are from Band Director Mrs. Mckeithan and Choir Director Mr. Bauck:

Mrs. Mckeithan:

To protect the students, I started creating personal protective equipment (PPE). In early summer, I created a mask, based on one created by Mr. Myers at the middle school, that students could wear while playing their instrument. We stocked up on nylons because an aerosol study found 80 denier nylon helped slow the spread of the particles that came out of the instruments. We also made some bell covers for brass instruments out of black 80% nylon fabric, including creating one that the Horn in F players could use (it required an opening because the horns must place their right hand in the opening of the instrument).

In June, we started discussion with the administration about moving rehearsal to the theater to allow more space to spread out. Since day one, my students have been socially distanced both while performing and while seated in the theater – I had marked off seats they couldn't sit in to ensure that. The band students also only use one area of the theater for sitting. We have over 50 of the playable masks for students to use during class, and as they leave they put them in a container so I can wash them each night. Brass instruments empty their spit onto puppy training pads as to not agitate the spit causing too many particles to escape into the air. Finally, every 30-minutes we take a break to allow the air to settle and a fresh air exchange to occur.

Marching band started in small groups of less than ten that were distanced and masked anytime we were indoors. We slowly worked up to the full group outdoors, distanced. Every 30-minutes we would take a break so the particles could settle/be blown away. Outdoors we cover instrument openings. I wrote our field drill ensuring at least six feet between students at all stops, sometimes seven feet (which is a standard four-step distance, so it worked out well!). Parade block is traditionally with everyone at the four-step distance, so we were good to go working on that. We keep marching band outdoors as much as possible. If the weather isn't good, we use either the gym or theater and are sure to space out.

Mr. Bauck:

For choir this year, we moved into the theater where we can properly social distance. I have students sitting in every third seat in a row, and they are seated in every other row. I have also impressed upon my students how important it is to wear a mask when we sing. The results of aerosol studies as relates to singing have been very clear. Singing without a mask shows high spread of aerosol particles, whereas singing with a mask greatly reduces that spread. It is challenging to hold choir in the midst of Covid-19, but in the end, it will make the students into better independent singers.

Why the Eight-Period Schedule Makes Sense

BY DRAIX WYATT

These days, things change rapidly. There is no doubt that everyone's life has changed, at least in some way. One change that has come about is the new school schedule. As everyone is likely aware by now, the school day now has eight periods rather than seven. While not everyone appreciates this disruption to normal, (though there has been quite a lot of that lately) this change was necessary.

With the ever increasing number of incoming freshmen, something was going to need changing eventually, as the amount of time and seating for lunch would need to be expanded to fit the increasing demand of students on the lunch system.

The new schedule has largely resolved these problems. With the eight-period system, four lunches over two-periods rather than three lunches over one slightly longer period has greatly helped reduce the additional strain on the lunch system. There are now fewer students per lunch period, which helps expedite the lunch line. This speaks for itself, as fewer people per lunch equals a shorter line. This system has also done wonders for social distancing. The table capacity has been reduced from eight to four. This would have been nearly impossible in the earlier system due to the higher number of people per lunch period.

In addition to a more efficient lunch process and socially distanced cafeteria, the homeroom period now has a designated time to allow for miscellaneous activities that otherwise took away from other class time. The school year is still young, but the homeroom period thus far has been utilized significantly, filled quite nicely with a variety of activities ranging from a Gov to Gov Get-to-Know-the-Faculty Jeopardy Game to a wellness podcast, and to a variety of informational videos.

Even when or if these activities slow down, the extra time for homework or reading is a good use of an extra half period. In conclusion, yes, change is challenging, so get used to it. We're in a pandemic. Just be glad this change has positive implications and doesn't involve doing anything crazy.

The Great Mask Debate

BY NATIA MCHEDLIDZE

At the time that this article is being written, zero active student cases, zero active staff cases, 38 recovered students, and three recovered staff members have been recorded at T.F. Riggs, and one of the hottest topics is the discussion around masks.

According to our school district, students are "strongly encouraged" to wear masks. In addition to this, social distancing is also expected. When employees of the South Dakota Department of Health were asked a few questions about how schools should mitigate the spread of COVID-19, they declined to comment and instead responded with a direction to read the information on the SD DOH website, as well as the current CDC guidelines.

The CDC recommendations state that masks are crucial to preventing the spread of COVID. Masks stop respiratory droplets from spreading through the air. The CDC also states that masks are recommended during times when students are not capable of maintaining the six-foot distance. The CDC also mentions that masks can sometimes inhibit the well-being of an individual (if they have other health issues such as asthma and/or other breathing conditions), and in this case, wearing a mask is up to the student.

Although CDC guidelines recommend masks, some students and parents dislike the idea of wearing masks. Some argue that masks can actually have adverse effects on your immune system. Others simply prefer not to wear masks because they believe that it may be difficult to breathe with them on. Several students report feeling claustrophobic or confined in their masks.

Whatever the reason, there are many supporters and opponents of wearing masks. Several mask studies and guidelines have been published by the CDC, but this does not mean that everyone will agree or comply with them.

At a special school board meeting on September 18, Mr. Mutchelknaus and several other board members discussed the mask-wearing at Riggs. Mr. Mutchelknaus stated "...I feel very strongly that we should be wearing masks at Riggs High School, whether we are [following a] hybrid [schedule], or otherwise." Several board members voiced their dismay at the small percentage of masks being worn despite the district's encouragement to wear one. Board member Joan Adams explained her concern. "Personally, I was very hopeful that our wording on masks that *students would be strongly encouraged to wear a mask* would result in more adoption, even higher than the 50%. I'm disappointed that... that hasn't worked."

On Sept. 25, Mr. Mutchelknaus released an email that stated that masks will be required in a select few areas and whenever social distancing cannot be avoided. These areas include social settings before school, hallways during passing periods, in line at lunch and after eating, in study groups or overflow areas, in classrooms when students are frequently moving about, and at all extracurricular activities as a spectator. Mr. Mutchelknaus also stated that "Wearing a mask will give us a better shot at staying in school and continuing the school year part-time in person and part-time virtually, versus going completely to a virtual delivery model." The main

Boys and Girls Club Opens in New Building

BY PAIGE POLLREISZ

The sound of laughter and basketballs have once again filled the halls and classrooms of the Boys and Girls Club (BGCCA), this time in a brand new facility! The building of the new facility started slightly over a year ago and was finished late this summer. The kids and staff alike are so excited to be back. The CEO of Capital Area Counseling Service, Amy Iversen-Pollreisz, said this about the new building, "It's a great atmosphere and offers so many more opportunities for our students to do fun activities."

The biggest change that came with the new building was new programming, which focuses on learning with fun activities. Kids get an opportunity to work on homework or do a different learning-based activity Monday through Thursday. The Boys and Girls Club has also introduced Pierre School District teachers to help with these activities throughout the day and provide a deeper learning connection for the kids.

If you are interested in applying at the boys and girls club pick up an application at the new building or from cacsnet.org.

Gov to Gov Members Make Gift Bags For those in Need of Cheer

BY MADISON MURPHY

The Gov to Gov Program at T.F. Riggs High School has been making quarantine gift bags to give to people who are stuck at home or who could benefit from some positive energy during this time.

The program received hundreds of dollars in donations from people all over Pierre which has allowed for over 300 treat bags to be assembled! "I've been delivering them to some of my students that I know are quarantined," says Gov to Gov leader Mrs. Johnson. "They will be available for students to pick up and share Thursday and Friday in the lobby for students to share with their friends."

The gift bags have candy, snacks, games, trinkets, and handwritten positive messages inside. "If you know of a student, neighbor, friend who may be feeling down or anxious about all that is happening and would like to share a gift bag with them, please stop in my office and grab what you need," says Mrs. Johnson.

Gov to Gov students are handing out some of the gift bags, but they will also be in the lobby Thursday and Friday for students to "take one - share one." There are plenty of gift bags to go around and the Gov to Gov Program will continue making the gift bags until donations stop.

T.F Riggs Adopts New Hybrid Schedule

BY NEVAEH STARR

Amid a huge spike of COVID-19 cases, the Pierre School Board has elected to adopt a new schedule for high school students in hopes of containing the outbreak through increased social distancing practices.

This new hybrid schedule has students with last names A-K learning on-campus on green days-Tuesdays and Thursdays- and those with last names L-Z on white days- Wednesdays and Fridays. Mondays are virtual days that allow for students to come into the high school and complete any missing tests or quizzes they have. Teachers also use Mondays to meet with their students over Zoom or Google Meet to go over lesson plans and prepare them for the week.

On days when they are not at the school, students learn online from the comfort of their homes. Teachers upload lectures and homework assignments to websites like Google classroom for their students to easily access and complete. Although they are not attending classes at the school, students are expected to be participating. "Virtual learning days are not off-days," stresses vice-principal Rob Coverdale. "Students will be required to be engaged each virtual learning day and often will be expected to join their class through Zoom or Google during their scheduled class period. In many cases teachers will be taking attendance for students and, if the expectation is that a student joins their class virtually, could be counted as absent."

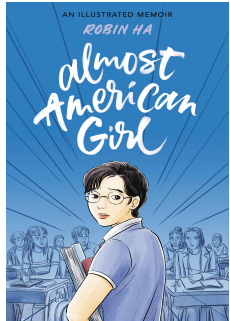
Some classes, regardless of whether it is a green or white day, require students to be on campus every day. These classrooms are either large enough to accommodate student size or have a small number of students taking the course, allowing for students to be 6 feet apart at all times.

With less students in the school at one time, the administration hopes to decrease the amount of students quarantined for close-contact and to provide a safe learning environment for both staff and students. "We are living in unprecedented times and will get through this best by working together and continuing to be vigilant about taking the necessary steps to avoid personal exposure in and out of the school setting," says Superintendent Dr. Kelly Glodt.

Graphic Memoirs too Good to Pass Up

BY PAM KRINGEL, Librarian

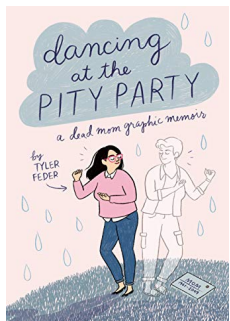
Do you like to read stories told in comic book format? Do you like to learn about real people? Then be sure to check out these riveting graphic memoirs! If you need help finding a copy of one of these titles, be sure to pop into the T.F. Riggs High School Library and visit with me Mrs. Kringel. The library is open Monday through Friday from 7:15-3:15 or email me at pam.kringel@k12.sd.us.



Almost American Girl: an illustrated memoir

By Robin Ha

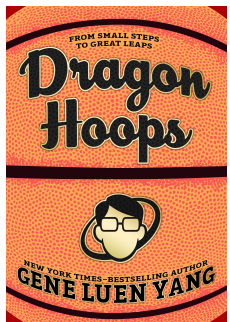
The author recounts how she and her mother moved from South Korea to the United States. It is a powerful and moving teen graphic novel memoir about immigration, belonging, and how the arts can save a life.



Dancing at the Pity Party: a dead mom graphic memoir

By Tyler Feder

Tyler Feder shares her story of her mother's first oncology appointment to facing reality as a motherless daughter in this frank and refreshingly funny graphic memoir.



Dragon Hoops

By Gene Luen Yang

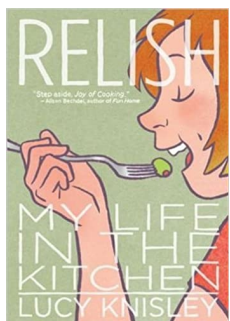
Engaging, entertaining and full of insight about race and ethnicity, "Dragon Hoops" follows the real-life Bishop O'Dowd Dragons, an Oakland high school basketball team, in its quest to win the California state championship.



March

By John Lewis

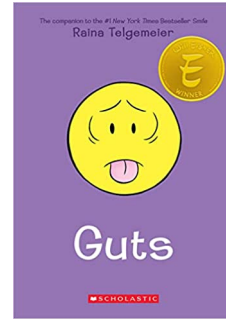
Presents in graphic novel format events from the life of Georgia congressman John Lewis, focusing on his youth in rural Alabama, his meeting with Martin Luther King Jr., and the birth of the Nashville Student Movement.



Relish: My Life in the Kitchen

By Lucy Knisley

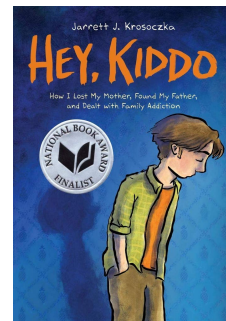
Lucy Knisley is the daughter of a chef and a gourmet. In her thoughtful and down-to-earth memoir, she casts a light on the role of food in all of our lives.



Guts

By Raina Telgemeier

In graphic novel form, Raina Telgemeier relates her struggles with stress and anxiety as a child.



Hey, Kiddo

By Jarrett J. Krosoczka

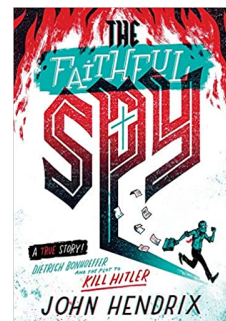
In graphic novel format, author and illustrator Jarrett J. Krosoczka discusses growing up in a family grappling with the drug addiction of his mother.



They Called Us Enemy

By George Takei

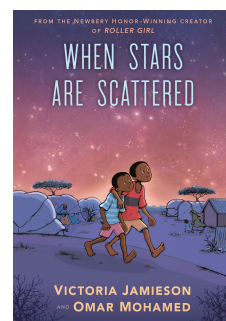
Actor, author, and activist George Takei recounts his childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps for Japanese Americans during World War II and the impact the experience had on his later life.



The Faithful Spy: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the plot to kill Hitler

By John Hendrix

John Hendrix uses text and illustrations to tell the true story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor who spoke out against the Nazi regime.



When Stars Are Scattered

By Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed

Omar and his brother Hassan live in a refugee camp. When there's an opportunity for Omar to get an education, he must decide between going to school everyday or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp.

An Introduction to T.F Riggs' Clubs

BY CLUB ADVISORS

COLLECTED BY NEVAEH STARR

Student Council

Advisors: Ms. Olson and Ms. Blanchette

Student Council is a group of students elected by their peers to address issues of concern and organize student events and activities. Due to COVID, we were unable to have the Fall 2020 elections. We will either have elections after homecoming or at the beginning of 2nd semester.

Knitting Club

Advisor: Ms. Rezac

We meet once a week to knit and crochet together. You do not have to know how to knit or crochet, we will teach you! We also have yarn, knitting needles, and crochet hooks that you can borrow. Our meeting day and time is still TBD this year. Keep an eye out on the announcements for future meetings! All are welcome!

Yearbook

Advisors: Ms. Blanchette and Ms. Goodman

Being a part of the Gumbo Yearbook Staff gives students an opportunity to take an active role in creating the yearbook. Through design, journalistic writing, photography, and editing, students archive the year for their peers.

Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

Advisors: Ms. Jordan

Family, Career, Community Leaders of America is a student-led Career and Technical Organization that focuses on careers and leadership surrounding family and the community.

FCCLA Members have the opportunity to travel the country by attending national and statewide conferences. Areas of competition range from Culinary Arts, Sports Nutrition, Public Speaking, Fashion Design, Journalism, Child Development, Chapter involvements, Personal Finance, and so much more! Membership qualifications are a membership fee and past or current enrollment in any of the Middle School or High School FACS classes. Interested students stayed tuned for details in the upcoming weeks at Riggs! For more information visit <https://fcclainc.org>

Future Farmers of America (FFA)

Advisor: Mr. Jakobson

FFA is an excellent extracurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. The youth organization changes lives and prepares members for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. FFA develops members' potential and helps them discover their talent through hands-on experiences, which give them the tools to achieve real-world success. Members will participate in Fruit Sales, Leadership Development Events, Career Development Events, and other activities throughout FFA.

Art Club

Advisors: Ms. Staskewich and Ms. Kokesh

Our goal this year will be to get members' hands on some materials and techniques they may not have access to or the ability to do in a class while here at Riggs. They'll build a portfolio or a set of projects that they can display at our end of the year art show! (Participation in the art show is optional but encouraged)

Oral Interpretation

Advisors: Ms. Lampe and Ms. Aspelin

Oral Interp is acting in its most basic form, meaning there is only the presenter and no props or costumes. There are several different categories members can choose from to perform: Humor, Serious, Story Telling, Non-Original Oratory, Duet, Reader's Theater, and Poetry. To join, please talk to coaches Ms. Lampe and Ms. Aspelin!

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)

Advisors: Ms. Ulmen and Ms. Rezac

FBLA is an organization that involves students in grades 9-12 nationwide. FBLA provides students opportunities for leadership development and achievement through challenging competitions both as an individual and as part of a team. It also provides scholarships, prizes, awards, certification, and community service experience. Through these opportunities, students strengthen their communication skills, gain leadership skills, and become exposed to diverse people with different ideas from around the world as they travel to conferences across South Dakota and the United States.

T.F. Riggs Fall Sports to Continue Despite COVID-19

BY ISAAC POLAK

“It’s not any one sport or one group of people [who caused the spike],” said Athletic Director Brian Moser, when talking to the Argus Leader about the alarming rise in cases. “It’s just one of those things that came out of nowhere.”

In the past two weeks, T.F. Riggs High School has increased its active cases of the COVID-19 virus to eleven infected as of Monday, September 21. This outbreak has caused the canceling of many sports events, including the football game previously scheduled for September 17. Homecoming has also been postponed due to the surge. Despite this, the plan is to continue fall sports.

According to the South Dakota High School Activities Association, students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to stay out for 10 days after their symptoms started. Anyone in close contact defined as within six-feet for 15 continuous minutes or longer must be quarantined for 14-days from the date that they were exposed. Unfortunately, this can lead to a significant number of athletes that are unable to continue playing. In some cases, this requires younger players to step in and fill positions. In other cases, sporting events have to be cancelled or rescheduled for a later date. Sports that have been affected include soccer, volleyball, and football. These teams are hoping to finish their season strong despite any setbacks caused by COVID-19.

Governors Cross Country Team Makes Leaps and Bounds

BY NEVAEH STARR

COVID-19 has been a daunting challenge, especially for athletes who breathe heavily through workouts and practice closely with their teammates.

With coronavirus cases spiking and sports events shutting down all over the country, teams like the Pierre Governors cross country team hope to continue what they love doing, running.

“At this time, we have a few athletes that are not running due to close contact concerns. We have emphasized the importance of still practicing and competing to the best of their ability and trying to treat this situation the best they can,” says assistant Coach Greg Starr.

Though this season has been unpredictable, the athletes have persevered and continue to give it their all.



Jessica Lutmer competes in the August 28th Pierre Invite.

Runners have been attending practice on a consistent basis and working extremely hard in workouts. The coaches are also seeing their commitment first-hand by having almost full attendance for their Saturday morning runs. This hard work and dedication has paid off.

“The boys’ and girls’ teams have been competitive in the last couple of meets,” Coach Starr says. “We have two extremely young teams and this season will offer invaluable running experience for most of them.”

Dedication is not the only thing the athletes need this season. “We want our teams to stay healthy and injury-free. If we can make it to the end of the season with everyone intact, we should be able to compete at the state level.”

Be on the lookout for the following cross country meets: ESD Meet October 10, Huron 5 Star October 15, and State XC Meet October 24.

Lady Governors Tennis off to a Strong Start

BY KARA WEISS

The Lady Govs Tennis team has had a great season so far. Their first dual against Harrisburg was a loss, 0-9. However, they had some very close matches, including flight 3 doubles team Caitlin Ott and Jocelyn Corrales losing by only 8-10. They then went on to play the AA 2019 state winning team, Sioux Falls Lincoln later that afternoon and lost 0-9 in the dual. The next day they played Sioux Falls Washington and Sioux Falls Roosevelt. Both duals were won 7-2, with the 2 losses being close matches in both locations. All the girls played very well and were happy to have a couple wins under their belt.

The next weekend, they went to Rapid City to compete in 3 duals and a singles and doubles tournament. They lost 1-8 to both Brandon Valley and Rapid City Stevens on Thursday. The B.V. win was taken by flight 3 doubles team Caitlin Ott and Jocelyn Corrales, and the Stevens win was taken by flight 4 singles Jocelyn Corrales. The next day the girls played a close dual to Rapid City Christian. They lost 4-5, but wins were taken by flight 3 singles Marlee Shorter, flight 4 singles Jocelyn Corrales, flight 6 singles Gracie Zeeb, and flight 3 doubles Jocelyn Corrales and Caitlin Ott. In the doubles tournament on Friday, flight 1 doubles Kara Weiss and Sydney Tedrow took 5th place, flight 2 Carissa Ott and Marlee Shorter took 6th place, flight 3 Jocelyn Corrales and Caitlin Ott took 3rd, and flight 4 Gracie Zeeb and Kourtney Walti took 4th.

In the singles tournament on Saturday, all the girls played very well and had a lot of very close matches including some tiebreakers played by Kara Weiss against Mitchell, Kourtney Walti against Saint Thomas More, and Jocelyn Corrales against RC Stevens. Flight 1 Kara Weiss took 6th place, flight 2 Sydney Tedrow took 5th place, flight 3 Marlee Shorter took 3rd place, flight 4 Jocelyn Corrales took 5th place, flight 5 Kourtney Walti took 4th place, and flight 6 Gracie Zeeb took 3rd place.

Overall, the team placed 5th with a total of 75.5 points. Coaches Jessica Carr and Sara Kjetland are both very proud of all the girls and how they have played so far this season. The team came out of the gate facing tough competition and have done very well under the pressure of the matches. The Lady Govs tennis team is looking forward to a fun and exciting rest of the season.

"Big Green Machine" Finally Halted

BY OLIVIA SWENSON

The Governors had a great season opener with a 37-0 victory over the Sturgis Scoopers. The Govs recorded their second win against West Central, winning 24-14. Regardless of restricted seating, Hollister field was packed to the brim, full of proud fans who cheered on the 3 time State Champions. Off to a slow start in Yankton, the top two teams in 11AA football were tied 29-29 at halftime. The Governors' impressive 18 game winning streak came to an end after a scoreless half, resulting in a 29-52 defeat against the Yankton Bucks.

Even though the Governors suffered a tough loss, quarterback Lincoln Keinholz completed 17 of 39 passes for 250 yards. Maguire Raske recorded 97 yards on 21 carries and 2 touchdowns. After catching a 79-yard touchdown pass, Zach Letellier had a school-record 222 receiving yards on 6 catches. The Governor's next bout will be against the top-rated Tea Area Titans on September 19.



Pierre Governors football players intently watch the first game of the season from the sidelines.

Sibling Rivalry

Isaak (11) and Jazzlyn (9) Rombough

Q: Who's the favorite in the family?

I: Definitely, Jazzlyn.

J: I'm the favorite, of course.

Q: How would you describe your sibling?

I: She's creative, persevering, and smart.

J: He's smart, kind of nerdy, and very antisocial.

Q: What do you like the most about your sibling?

I: She's very strong and not one to give up.

J: Sometimes he can be helpful. He also makes bomb cookies.

Q: What do you hate the most?

I: Jazzlyn can easily be annoying.

J: I hate that lately he's ALWAYS playing video games.

Q: What's the dumbest thing your sibling has ever done?

I: During a tantrum, she threw a yogurt at the ground and got it all over the walls and ceiling.

J: This summer he had to go to the E.R and get stitches after he accidentally stabbed himself with an arrow.

September is Suicide Awareness and Prevention Month

BY PAIGE POLLREISZ

The month of September signifies suicide awareness month. To many people, suicide is a scary word and is, therefore, rarely talked about. The fact of the matter is that talking about suicide does not cause it. It has been proven that openly talking about suicide helps prevent it. It is important that everyone can recognize suicidal tendencies and warning signs, and also know how to reach out to that person. Many people do not know how to reach out to strangers because they don't want to offend that person or have an awkward conversation; however, just one smile, one conversation, or one question can change even a stranger's mind about suicide. So as this month nears its end, reach out to friends, family members, and strangers.

If you or someone you know is suffering from suicidal thoughts or actions call the national crisis hotline at 1-800-273-TALK or go to bethelisd.com to learn more about suicide prevention and how you can make a difference.

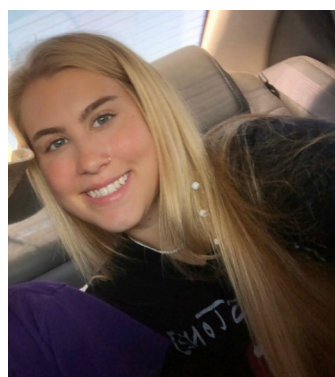
Bachelorette of the Month

How would you describe yourself in one word?

Dope

What do you look for in a significant other?

Loves dogs, can make me laugh, and looks good in a cowboy hat



Jenna Deal, 12

If you could travel somewhere, where would you go?

Yellowstone, Montana

What's your pet peeve?

When people lie

How would you describe your perfect date?

Driving around jamming to Juice Wrld

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Finishing school at USD

If you could describe yourself with a song, what song would it be and why?

"Cowboy take me away" by The Chicks

What movie could you watch over and over again?

"8 Seconds"

Bachelor of the Month

How would you describe yourself in one word?

Charming

What do you look for in a significant other?

Those eyes



Regan Bollweg, 12

If you could travel somewhere, where would you go?

Wherever the nearest Chick-fil-A is

What's your pet peeve?

When people stop in front of me

What's your favorite pickup line?

"Here I am, what are your other two wishes?"

How would you describe your perfect date?

When I get to meet their mother

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Probably making bank and living in the Governor's Mansion

If you could describe yourself with a song, what song would it be and why?

"Hideaway" by Daya because I want to know where the good girls go to hideaway

What movie could you watch over and over again?

"16 Candles"