

# Tiger Tales 2023 Newsletter



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Hello Alumni and Friends of White River High School,

It is a great day to be a Tiger! As I pen this letter, our boys' basketball team is making their appearance at the State B basketball tournament in Aberdeen, South Dakota. The Tigers have qualified for state in the past, but this time is different. It is historic! No South Dakota high school team in B division has ever qualified for State for 18 years consecutively. Over the years, this amounts to 18 different teams, 18 different sets of parents, 18 different cheer teams, but the same coach - Coach Eldon Marshall. This year the Tigers placed 4th. Follow us on Facebook to see more Tiger sports and many other school related happenings by searching "WRHS Alumni Assoc." In addition, I hope you are finding the WRHS app for your phone useful. It is a very handy resource.

This is the 75 day of 2023. There are 291 days left in the year, but for our seniors only 33 days remain of their high school career. The Assoc. will welcome the graduating class to their new status as alumni, and their memories will be recorded in another yearbook added to the annals of WRHS. On the other side of the coin, I am contemplating with sadness the number of alumni we have lost this past year. Please let the Assoc. know if someone in your family who graduated from White River High School has passed away in the last year. We want to include their name in a future Memorial Roll Call.

It was an honor to dedicate a section of this newsletter to the alumni who are presently serving in the military, and to the five that have given their life for this country. Their names are listed elsewhere in this newsletter—It is important that we remember their names and their sacrifice. If you are a veteran, you have the opportunity to have your name and rank engraved on a brick placed in the Mellette County Veterans Memorial. For more info. Email wrhstigersalumni@gmail.com.

It would be remiss of me not to recognize those teachers who we know are retiring at the end of the current school year. Their years of dedication to the school and their students have not gone unnoticed. We wish them a long, healthy, and enjoyable retirement. **Tracy Tucker** has served the district for 40 years. **Frankie Holt,** class of 1976, began her teaching career in Todd County but has taught 17 years in White River for a total of 34 years.

**Corey Sayler** has been employed for the past 26 years as a middle school teacher, and **Katie Didier Sayler**, class of 1998, has taught in the elementary for the past three years. They will be moving from White River making their new home in Lennox, SD, and looking for teaching positions in the surrounding area. We wish them good luck in their new positions and thank them

for their service to the White River School.

If there is a teacher from WRHS that made a difference in your life, we would like to hear from you. It would be our pleasure to print your story and recognize this special teacher in a future edition of Tiger Tales.

It will be fun to see the returning graduates from the class of 1973. Their 50-year recognition will be at the WRHS graduation ceremony on May 13, 2023. I look forward to welcoming them and hearing their stories. Special thanks to Kristan Krogman for contributing the Tiger Sports review story. Thanks Kris!

It is nearly spring and for students, teachers, and parents, the race to the end of the school year has begun. Before we know it, we will wonder what happened to summer vacation and the latest buzz will be excitement for the beginning of another school year, and so the cycle continues. Go Tigers!

With my best wishes

Katie Jensen, President WRHS Alumni Association



P.S. It has been brought to the attention of our school that several errors were committed at the State B basketball tournament by the official scorekeepers from the SDSAA. I have included a quote from our Superintendent Louie Krogman with regards to this mater. "School news: There was a huge mistake made at the State B Tournament involving a "phantom point" awarded to the Aberdeen Christian team on Saturday. The scorekeepers awarded them a point that was not earned. No doubt, this changed the outcome of the game that was lost by the Tigers in overtime.

## **Alumni Corner**

The Alumni Corner is space reserved for any former student of WRHS to submit memories from their high school days. This year's Tiger Tales will feature yours truly - **Katie Jensen** class of 1963. With aid from my scrapbook/diary, I hope to recall some special memories with emphasis on our sneak trip.

The 1962 movie State Fair had recently been released staring Pat Boone, Bobby Darin, and Ann-Margret with great music by Rogers and Hammerstein. The movie was about a family driving through the Texas State Fair and the young folks finding romance and adventure while attending the fair.

At WRHS, it was accepted for the senior class to take a sneak trip toward the end of their senior year. Inspired by the movie State Fair, our class approached the senior sponsor to take our sneak trip during the fall of our senior year to attend the South Dakota State Fair in Huron on Sept 6th and 7th, 1962. It was approved and plans were made. To my knowledge, we are the only class to have skipped out in the fall. I might make mention here that Barry Jensen and I were dating in high school and this sneak trip felt like a two-day date.

Chaperones who made the trip with us were Mr. Christensen-Superintendent, Annette Christensen-business teacher and senior advisor, Mrs. Helen Shouldis-parent, and Mrs. Hiatt-parent. No school buses in those days so the trip was made by car. Barry actually drove his parent's car, and Larry Harrison drove his car. Unheard of today that students would drive their own cars on a school trip! Miss Marilyn Sager, 4th grade teacher at WR Elementary, had made sleeping arrangements in private homes, reserved tickets for the Friday night stock car races, and for a new event at the fair - the Wild Animal show on Saturday afternoon which featured SD dignitaries racing ostriches, riding elephants and camels.

We left after classes on Friday and arrived at Huron where we drove straight to the fairgrounds. For many of my classmates, including myself, going to Huron was something new and exciting let alone taking in the fair. Compared to the small carnivals that came to WR on occasion, the Art B. Thomas show on the midway of Huron, SD, was over the top exciting. From my diary "Upon arriving at the fairgrounds, we stared in amazement at the gigantic midway, the huge stadium, all the lights of the carnival, the smell of food around every corner, the hustle bustle, the thrills of laughter, the noise of the rides and everywhere we looked we saw fun."

That first evening we experienced the stock car races, enjoyed a few more rides on the midway until midnight, and then we were delivered to the various homes for overnight. Sandy McKee, Marilyn Samuelson, Tami Johnson and Mrs. Gin Shouldis were together for the evening. Dee Langass, Mary Zimmeman, Sharon Astleford, Irene Brown, Judy Keever, Mrs. Hiatt and myself were together in a second home. The boys in the class went on with Mr. and Mrs. Christensen to another location. There were 22 students in my graduating class. I am at a loss to remember if all 22 made this trip. I do know the school gave us each \$5.

Saturday morning the class gathered for breakfast at the Plains restaurant. From my diary "We had breakfast together in this big monstrous dining room all to ourselves". I was obviously very impressed. The remainder of Saturday morning was spent back at the fairgrounds taking in the 4H exhibits, cattle and horse barns, farm exhibits, home and garden displays, art and sewing projects. There was something for everyone.

It was at the Saturday afternoon animal show that our senior class received special recognition. The announcer introduced us as the senior class from White River High School taking in the State Fair on their sneak trip. He asked us to stand. It was pretty cool.

We departed Huron and went home via Fort Pierre. The WR Tigers were playing football vs Stanley County that evening in Ft. Pierre. We attended the game as a class. Nine players and three cheerleaders were among the seniors.

The hometown newspaper covered the game, and the caption was "Fort Pierre Looses to White River in Close Game". White River upended favored Fort Pierre Friday night in a real tight battle 21 – 20.

Following the exciting game, it was one more stop at a Pizza joint in Pierre before the ride home. From my diary "It was a pretty quiet trip home as we were exhausted after the two full days and late nights." No doubt our chaperones were glad to see the lights of WR and to know that soon we would all be back home safe and sound.

Looking back, I feel fairly confident that the trip and activities went as planned. I do not recall if anyone got into trouble, but no doubt we all acted up. Being a kid at the time, I have only fond memories and I believe that my own experience at the SD state fair should have been a sequel to the movie.

Being a member and singing with the Telstars was a wonderful memory of high school days. We wore matching outfits and were invited to perform at many events during the year. Quartet members were Betty Stromer '64, Karen Hiatt '66, Darlene Langass '63 and myself. Mrs. Hiatt was our accompanist. Also, my senior year I was secretary for the Principal. I don't know how that worked out being a full-time student myself, but I prepared a lot of math assignments and paper work daily. There were no organized sports for girls so after school was spent on other activities.

A couple other great memories were our junior class play "Pig Tails". Play director was the Principal, Laura Kirsch. Sharon Astleford Bryan had the lead, and Tami Johnson Brown played the part of a black lady. Remember - this was the sixties. The auditorium and stage were located in what is now the school cafeteria.

My class of 1963 was very close- knit. Eight of my classmates had been together for all twelve grades: Marn Bartlett, Loren Hiatt, Barry Jensen, Glenn Harris, Marilyn Samuelson, Wayne Bryan, Sharon Astleford and myself. Since high school days, we have gathered for reunions at 10 yrs., 25yrs., 30 yrs. and were recognized as 50-year graduates at high school graduation in 2013. We had 11 classmates that attended the 50th - which has been a record for returning grads.

Barry and I married in college and finished our degrees at Kansas State University. We both taught classes at WRHS. He in science and I taught social studies and Spanish. I moved into the librarian position in 2000. Barry has been running the Jensen Ranch since he left the classroom. I retired in 2008 and stay involved with the school as Alumni Assoc. president.

What memories - Go, Tigers!

Katie Jensen

## **New Superintendant**

In the last edition of Tiger Tales, we were excited to introduce alumni Louie Krogman '08 as the new middle school principal. No sooner than the newsletter went to print, we were surprised and very pleased to learn that Louie would move to the position of superintendent for the school year 2022-23. How awesome for our school to have one of our own filling this important position. Having attended all twelve grades at White River school, Louie has a strong bond and family history with our school. We can feel confident that the school will continue moving forward under his leadership and watchful eye.



Alumni president Katie Jensen welcomes Louie Krogman as Superintendent

# \$1.5 Million Gift to WR School District

How does this happen? Who can give away that kind of moolah? Hey now, is this some kind of prank?

These are some of the questions Superintendent Louie Krogman was scratching his head about when he read the mysterious email that showed up in his computer inbox this past Sept. Against his better judgement, he replied and received the best news that he still finds almost unbelievable. The information was legitimate, and the donation was real. On Oct. 14, 2022, the WR School District received via wire transfer, with no strings attached, a \$1.5 million donation from a Seattle-based philanthropic agency.

After the news broke, I stopped by Superintendent Krogman's office to inquire about this great news, and he confessed that he still feels as though he is dreaming. At the same time, he is very thankful that White River School was selected, and he is looking forward to using the money effectively for the betterment of WR School and the students. I had some further questions and Mr. Krogman agreed to an interview. His responses are as follows:

**Katie -** Do you have any insight into how WR School was selected?

**Louie** - I am not exactly positive, but I do feel comfortable saying it did not involve a blindfold, map, and dart. I think our rural location, student diversity, and district vision statements all played a crucial role.

**Katie** - What kind of research did you do prior to accepting the large monetary gift?

**Louie -** I contacted our technology director, Dale Bernthal to confirm this was an actual human being sending the email. He did agree it was suspicious, but everything "checked out." Once I verified that the email message was not spam, I did what everybody does nowadays and asked Google. The information on MacKenzie Scott was public knowledge, but I was still skeptical. I took a shot and called the cell number; the gal answered and immediately knew about our district. The rest is history...

**Katie -** Was any kind of time frame mentioned?

**Louie** - There was no time frame on our end to spend the money or decide on how to use it. They did confirm the money would be wired "within a few weeks" if we chose to accept it, which we happily did. Then a few weeks later after light correspondence back and forth, it arrived!

**Katie** - Will this donation effect the county tax payer with any relief?

**Louie** - Great question, unfortunately with our district being very property tax poor, the donation will not do much to lower the property tax levy. I can assure taxpayers that our levy is much lower than neighboring districts. For instance, the WRSD capital outlay levy is at \$1.508 per thousand. This is lower than the following capital outlay levies of several surrounding districts; Jones Co. (\$1.655), Todd County (\$2.695), Colome (\$2.132), Kadoka (\$1.655), Winner (\$1.792), and Lyman (\$1.994). This donation will speed up the district's ability to make improvements and provide a quality education for our families.

**Katie** - Has any of the money been earmarked or spent yet? What are some of the approved plans to use the money?

**Louie** - The MacKenzie Scott donation has not been earmarked or spent, yet. It is sitting on a CD and growing a little bit at a time while we work to figure out the best way to utilize it. The district is currently exploring building additions and has hired CO-OP Architecture to complete a thorough master-planning process to give us the best idea of what will work with our geographical setup.

**Katie -** What kind of notoriety or attention has this drawn to the school?

**Louie** - As superintendent, I have fielded interviews from all over the United States. The public nature of the donation has led to a few inquisitions from local news reporters. The highest profile of the inquisitions was the radio interview I completed which was aired on NPR.

Thanks to Superintendent Krogman for taking the time to answer a few questions. After all a \$1.5 million donation is a pot of gold. A once in a lifetime opportunity to brag.

## **WRHS Sports Review**

(Spring 2022 to the present) Sporting activities are in full swing at White River High School. Fall and winter activities have wrapped up while spring golf and track and field are just getting started.

In golf, the girls qualified as a team for the State Meet, while the boys had two individual qualifiers in TJ Beardt and Ramsey Tucker. The girls were the Conference champions, and the boys were Runners-up. All-Conference golfers last spring were Kelsey Morrison'21, Karlie Cameron'21, Riley Lunderman, and Steven Becker.

August 2022 cross country, football, and volleyball kicked off the athletics for this school term. Long time coaches Corey Sayler and Carol Rogers led Tiger cross country. Limited numbers saw just a handful of high school boys competing with a couple of middle school runners rounding out the varsity team. There were no high school girls running this year. Sophomore Mackenzie Wike and seventh grader Elijah Haukaas qualified for the State Cross Country Meet.

Head football coach Spencer Blom'11 and assistant coaches Nicodemus Waln'13 and Logan Tucker'12 also worked with limited numbers but made the most of their season. They finished the year with a record of 2-6 with wins over Bennett County and New Underwood. Gavin Folkers and Ryatt Wooden Knife were named to the All-Conference Team. Kendrell Cuevas was Honorable Mention.

The volleyball team had first coaches year Elise Brooks and Morgan Taft'17 at the helm. Their team finished with a record of 13-12 and took second place at the Lakota Nation Invitational. Tana Bear Heels was named to the All-Tourney team at LNI and was a member of the WGP 3rd Team All-Conference.

LOUIE KROGMAN NICHOLAS SAYLER 2007-08 NICHOLAS SAYLER 2019-20 2022-23 assistant Justice Morrison'17. They won the Jones County Tournament for the sixth straight year. The season ended with

assistant Justice Morrison'17. They won the Jones County Tournament for the sixth straight year. The season ended with another trip to Aberdeen for the State B Tournament, extending their record streak to eighteen straight trips to the Tournament. The boys placed fourth at State after a thrilling overtime 3rd/4th place game. Senior Joe Sayler, one of the top players in the state, and junior Nicolas Marshall were both named to the All-

Tournament team. Sayler was MVP of the Western Great Plains Conference and was a 1st Team AII-Conference honoree along with Nic Marshall. TJ Beardt was a 3rd Team All-Conference selection.

Sayler received a prestigious honor at the State Tournament. He was named winner of the Spirit of Su award, given in

memory of SuAnne Big Crow. One senior winner is selected at each State Basketball Tournament for excellence both on and off the court. Sayler is the third Tiger to win the award, joining Louie Krogman (2008) and Nick Sayler (2020).

New school records set by the Tiger boys this year included 13 three-pointers in one game by Sayler, 16 assists in a game by Marshall, and 3 charges taken by Gavin Folkers ties the school record in that category.

It's been a great year of athletics for the WRHS Tigers with what looks like only more good things on the horizon.

Go Tigers! Article by Kristan Krogman, Class of 1996



Golf and track & field are just starting now this spring, but looking back at last year's season shows some great accomplishments. Six athletes qualified for the State Track Meet. Maleena Brave and Joe Sayler were both top ten finishers in the high jump.

Basketball season kicked off in December and just concluded in early March. The boys placed 2nd at the Lakota Nation Invitational while the girls were 4th. The Lady Tigers finished 10-12 on the season with sophomore Maleena Brave a 2nd Team All-Conference selection. Seniors Lilly Krogman and Kamaria Krogman were named to the 3rd Team. Coaches this year were first year head coach Logan Tucker'12 and long-time assistant Troy Krogman'95

The Tiger boys continued their winning ways with another successful season under head coach Eldon Marshall and

## **Veterans Day Program**

**Patriotism Reigns Strong at White River School** 

Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2022, was a regular day of school for all students that attended White River School. A Veterans Day Program was scheduled (for midafternoon Friday), but winter weather was threatening. The students were dismissed early, and the program was put on hold. Rather than cancel due to tight academic scheduling, a later date was found and the honoring program was presented.

To honor our Veterans and educate our youth, all levels of the student body were involved. Our school administration is to be commended for finding the time to allow our students to express their patriotism. Reverence, education, and entertainment were all present in a very meaningful event dedicated to those American soldiers who served and those protecting our country today. Kudos to our (three) principals Ms. Strain, Mr. Monnens, and Miss Hermsen for their leadership, and the staff and students for their involvement and respect.

Active service members continued

**Private 2nd Class Austin Schwartz** - United States Army, class of 2016

**Staff Sargent Casey Rounsley** - United States Air Force, class of 2016

Sargent Isaiah Knife - United States Army, class of 2016

Sgt. E-5 Joshua Becker - United States Army, class of 2003

The following is research presented by high school students: Native Americans have served in the U.S. military in every major conflict for more than 200 years.

Native Code Talkers used their indigenous language to transmit sensitive information during World War II.

American Indian women supported US war efforts as nurses before they had voting rights as American citizens.



This display case is in the foyer of old main on the White River School campus.

The display case was donated to the WRHS Alumni Assoc. and gifted to the school in memory of John Wacek, class of 1969.

Elementary students provided an entertaining musical selection complete with actions. Middle School students took part in a choreographed flag routine to the music of God Bless the USA; also, 8th graders honored WRHS alumni who sacrificed their life for our country. High School students paid tribute to WRHS Alumni who are actively serving, and in addition, they expounded on the tradition of service and sacrifice from the Native American community. Local Veterans from American Legion Post #95, parents and community members were in attendance. Patriotism and pride were evident in the 2022 Veteran's Program at White River Public School!

WRHS Alumni who are active service members: Pvt. Andrew Hoffman - United States Army, class of 2022

**Airman 1st Class Tanner Young** - United States Air Force, class of 2020

**Staff Sargent Alvin Bettelyoun** - United States Air Force, class of 2017

"All Gave Some; Some Gave All"

**2nd Lt. Theodore Otto Hanson** - US Army, '35. Killed in action at the Invasion of Normandy 1944

**2nd Lt. Anna M. Dolezal** - US Army, '39. Died in 1945 US Army nurse caring for the wounded.

**PFC Marvin L. DeMarsche** - US Marine Corps, '39. Killed in action in the Pacific Theater 1944. Awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

**1st Class Herbert J. Stoddard** - US Navy, '40. Died in the line of duty as ship radio operator 1944.

PFC Francis Emery Chamberlain - US Army, '47. Died as result of enemy attack in North Korea 1952. Awarded the Purple Heart, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the National Defense Medal, and the Korean War Service Medal

# Alumni Tailgate in New Location

Next fall come support the alumni tailgate fundraiser at a new location. Prior to the homecoming football game look for us at the Tiger Transportation Center, formerly the SCLS building, located in Sweet Spot America. Under the volunteer efforts of Ed Krogman '69 and Josh Krogman '97 and additional alumni , we will continue to serve up a great meal for a free-will donation. Thank you for supporting our fundraiser. Proceeds go to the alumni senior scholarship which is now at \$400. Following the tailgate, plan to attend the homecoming football game and check out the newly anticipated crows nest and concession stand. A nice upgrade to the football facilities.







Frankie Bechtold Holt class of 1976 Teacher of the Year 21-22







### Returning graduates from class of 1972

Left to right

**Back row:** Brad Astleford, Robert Becker, Mike Leibel, Steve Krogman

**Front row:** Kevin Green, Henry Bak, Kay Carr McKee, Bertha Fredricks Hullinger, Faye Ozanne Chambliss, Cleone Rada Rasmusson

## LIVE TICKET

The Alumni Assoc. is proud to announce that it will become a sponsor on Live Ticket TV for the 2023-24 school year. We feel that the technology to bring coverage of WR sports and extracurricular activities to our many alumni that live anywhere in the US is our mission, and thus provides another avenue for our alumni to stay connected to their alma mater. This service is free to all viewers that have internet service, and White River school also gets a kick-back from the alumni sponsorship. (On You Tube search for White River Tiger TV) Enjoy! Go Tigers!

## CLASS OF 1973

#### 50 YEAR GRADUATES

Gloria Bechtold Sund
Martha Egleston Busby
Cheri Green Comp
Vicky Green Hovey
Betty Massingale Stevicks
Bill Massingale
Allen Nielsen
Warren Olson
Keith Petranek
Carol Portiner Powell
Dan Rasmussen
Doreen Williams
Sheri Winters Ferdinand

Deceased
Jim Delaney
Joe Krogman
Mary Provost
Ted Schmidt

Class of 1973 will be honored at graduation on Saturday, May 13, 2023 @ 3pm CST

## **COVID RELIEF**

American Rescue Plan - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund more commonly know as ESSER

WR School District continues to follow the approved, projected, and funded plans that have allowed the district to implement a significant number of improvements at Norris and White River School. These improvements are not limited to the physical buildings, but include providing the cleanest environment possible for staff and students, and to address the impact of lost instructional time due to Covid 19. The offering of extended learning through an afterschool program called Tiger Support to help students get caught up is but one example. The monies are directed to the social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs of the students.

If you would like to follow the progress of the districts' ESSER funds go to the White River School website at www.whiteriver. k12.sd.us and click the link WRSD ARP funds located at the bottom of the home page. ESSER funding available to White River School was \$3,619,006.00. Of this amount \$723,801 has been set aside for lost instructional time.

## Memorial Roll Call (names reported to us since last newsletter)



## Loving Memory

Bessie Legner Drozd - Class of 1942 William Raymond Chamberlain - Class of 1944 Thomas Navin - Class of 1947 Phyllis Iwan Word - Class of 1947 Edward Chamberlain - Class of 1951 Shirley Johnson Gunner - Class of 1954 Helen Mickel Burnette - Class of 1955 Larry Ingalls - Class of 1955 Marvin Chamberlain - Class of 1955 Ronald Krogman - Class of 1955 William (Bill) Didier - Class of 1956 Clifford (Tenny) Hight - Class of 1957 Alan Green - Class of 1958 Michael (Mick) Schmidt - Class of 1959 LaVonne Ham Valburg - Class of 1960 Jimmie "Jim" Sumners - Class of 1962 Victor Brown - Class of 1962 Donald O'Brien - Class of 1963 Richard Clary - Class of 1968 Karen Pierce - Class of 1969 Jim Delaney - Class of 1973 Doug LaHaye - Class of 1982 Shane Bear Heels - Class of 1986 April Stoddard - Class of 1988 Nicole Larvie - Class of 1998 Tim Assman - Class of 2003 James Plooster - Class of 2010 Kevin Lee - Class of 2004

> Olivia (Dolly) Fredrick - Cook Patrick Dowd - Teacher

## **Anniversary classes**

Here's a thoughtful reminder:

Start Planning now for your class get togethers this summer!

Frontier Days is July 8 & 9, 2023

10 year graduates - Class of 2013 25 year graduates - Class of 1998

40 year graduates - Class of 1983

50 year graduates - Class of 1973



White River High School
Alumni Association
PO Box 261
White River, SD 57579-0261



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## Postage is expensive

Starting with the 2024 issue of Tiger Tales we hope to send a majority of the newsletters via email. With the increasing cost of postage, it has become a hardship to send via the post office. Please send us your email address for future publications. Our email is <wrhstigersalumni@gmail. com>. Email editions will always be in color and conveniently available in your inbox. If you do not have email and want to stay on the mailing list, please verify and provide your correct mailing address. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

# 2022 Scholarship Winner



Dylan Lee Marshall is the son of Marc Strain Marshall class of 1995

Keep in touch with your alma mater through Facebook. Search WRHS Alumni Association or visit the school website at <www.whiteriver.k12.sd.us>.



**Donations to the alumni scholarship are always welcome!**Send to: Alumni Assoc. Treasurer PO Box 14 White River, SD 57579

#### Photos courtesy of

Blake Lehman, Carol Rogers, Katie Sayler, Cleone Rasmusson, Katie Jensen