



Lester, Campbell Reign During Homecoming

Homecoming festivities truly kicked off with Coronation, where Robbie Lester and Hannah Campbell, were crowned as the 2019 Homecoming King and Queen. Crew Rainey and Allison Mollman were named Freshman King and Queen at the start of the ceremony.

Mrs. Mary Schumacher and Mr. Mark Jacobs introduced the parents of the freshman and senior royal courts as well as the candidates.

Members of the senior royal court included Hannah Campbell, Daniel Egemo, Rebecca Groeger, Kady Hopkins, Joey Ingham, Max Johnson, Robbie Lester, Kiale Rose, Jordy Stulken and Isabel Ward. The Pages were Avilyn Neill and Noah Morovits.

The freshman royal court included Tilli Katon, Allison Mollman, Crew Rainey, Ryan Rantapaa, Gayle Thompson and Ethan VanTassel.

Junior Class President Madison Rystrom created a presentation showing photos of the senior royal court from early childhood until the present. Rystrom and Junior Class Secretary Madeline Rogers also presented the freshman king and queen with their royal sashes and crowned the senior king and queen.

Queen Campbell conducted the traditional blessing of the football and it was passed to the podium where the captains of the Digger Football team spoke about the upcoming game and encouraged the audience to attend.



Superintendent Leikvold Undertakes Interim Principal Duties



Dr. Dan Leikvold

By Daniel Egemo

Dr. Dan Leikvold started his year as the new principal of LDHS with fifteen years of school administra-

tive experience under his belt.

As soon as Mr. Tony Biesiot announced his resignation near the end of the 2018-2019 school year, the search for a new Principal began.

Leikvold spoke of the process, "We got started finding a new principal in the middle of June. We went through that process, interviewing people, and we offered the job to a candidate. After accepting the job, the candidate made a personal decision that he wasn't going to do it. At the Board Meeting in the middle of June, it was decided that I would be the

interim Principal."

"I was willing to do it, I enjoy it. It gives me a different perspective on students. It gives me the ability to be closer to the students wants." He spoke highly of his anticipation of the new role.

The news has been met with positive feedback from students and staff.

Ms. Shirlene Joseph thinks highly of the decision, "I am excited because I feel that the leadership is positive and strong. Leikvold is a seasoned administrator, if anyone can do it, he probably can."

Although, Leikvold becoming principal has not been met with only positive feedback as some students have expressed con-

cerns about the new administration.

Senior Kiale Rose commented on the phone policy being enforced, "When I work by myself, I like to listen to music, we are no longer allowed to do that. Even in our online classes or art, when there's silence, we still can't listen to music."

Leikvold will be serving as the Superintendent, Activities Director, and now Principal of LDHS in the 2019-2020 school year.

He expressed this positive outlook going forward, "I think we have a good school. There are good opportunities for kids at this school. We will continue to enhance the strengths, recommitting the focus on learning and hard work."

Jacobs Hired As Dean Of Students



By Zoe Bourgo

As the 2019-2020 school year begins, LDHS has a new member of the administration. Mr. Mark Jacobs has assumed the position of Dean of Students.

Jacobs is not new to the school district, he previously taught at the Lead-Deadwood Elementary School as an elementary teacher. His wife is also a teacher and works at the elementary.

Football happens to be one of Jacobs favorite hobbies. His favorite professional football team is the Oakland Raiders and he plans to see the team when they play in Minnesota. He has been the defensive coordinator for the Digger football team for six years and says that if the position is available for him, he plans to continue coaching. Jacobs graduated from Black Hills State University.

Jacobs has been working on his administrative degree for a year and a half and will graduate in spring from the University of South Dakota. He ap-

plied to become the Dean of Students because he was mentored and encouraged into trying out for the position by Mr. Kosters, who is the principal at the elementary.

Jacobs expressed his thoughts on the school year so far, "It's been fun to learn from a new group of teachers and a different age group of students. I'm most excited about getting to know the students and staff better, and to see the progress made throughout the year."

Jacobs wants the senior class to "Always look forward and learn from your past experiences."

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By Taya Bureson

Missing living in the Black Hills, Ms. Shaley Lensegrav left Bison, SD and took the ninth and eleven grade English position.

She has been teaching for two years officially and was a substitute teacher here for a semester.

She attended Black

Lensegrav Returns To LDHS To Teach English

Hills State University and has a Bachelors Degree in English, speech, and theater. She decided to go to school to teach English because “It’s a skill that everyone needs to know and is used everywhere.”

Lensegrav explains her strengths as a teacher, “I don’t stay in the textbook and I try make assignments that are relevant in my students’ lives.” She says her biggest weakness as a teacher is staying organized.

Lensegrav handles

the classroom management by knowing that the students she teaches are young adults and she will treat them like that if they respect her and treat her like they should.

Her favorite thing about teaching is getting to know her students’ personalities. “Because everyone is so different,” she said. Having class discussions, usually with novels, is her favorite way to teach. This gets everyone to participate and talk as a group.

Lensegrav feels one of the biggest challenges that today’s students face are their ‘Attention spans.’ When she interacts with parents, she likes to see them at sporting events and parent teacher conferences. She doesn’t like to come up to a parent and tell them any bad things about their kids she always tries to stay positive and tell them good things that they are doing in class.

On her very first day teaching (at Bison) she was super nervous

that her lesson plan was going to take super long because the classes are only 55 minutes. Lensegrav went through the lesson fast and once she was done looked at the clock and she had 30 minutes left. She felt like that was one of the funniest and worst things that she had done in class.

She would like to let the student body know that she is “Excited for this semester and for what the rest of the year brings her and her students.”



By Kiayah Clark

Mrs. Amy Williams is the new math teacher taking over the position previously held by Mrs. Emma Thomas.

Before moving here, Williams lived in Lusk, WY. In Lusk, Williams

Williams Hopes To Inspire Math Students

owns a hotel called the “Town House” and she also owns cattle.

Her job history has always involved some form of teaching, Williams taught an online math class from 2012 to 2013 and taught kindergarten to third grade at a country school for two years.

Before coming to LDHS, Williams was a lunch lady at the elementary school in Deadwood.

When speaking of her aspirations to become a teacher, Williams said the reason she wanted to become a teacher was “To inspire students to make a future for themselves, and to show them that learning can be fun.”

Williams enjoyed the transition from young students to older ones because she gets more of a chance to motivate and inspire students closer to their

graduation so it sticks with them.

Math was her favorite subject in school, but she didn’t think about going into a career in math until college. One of Williams’s college professors expressed to her that she was talented in math which inspired Williams.

Her favorite thing about teaching is when students succeed and show what and how they have learned.

Williams hopes that in the future, her students will be able to say that she was one of their favorite teachers.

She has a hands-on teaching style, she likes to let students work in groups to develop social skills which will be needed in their futures.

She hopes for the students to understand and know how to work out the answers without her having to read through everything.



By Colie Corkins

Mrs. Kristina Bonefield has joined the staff taking the position Kris Bower left last May.

Bonefield Helps Students Achieve Their Goals

Bonefield is from Belle Fourche, SD and was, a former Special Education Teacher at Sturgis High School.

Bonefield’s goal this year is for everyone to pass their classes and to be successful.

In her spare time, she enjoys hanging out

with her grandchildren and cooking.

Although social science is Bonefield’s favorite subject to teach, she has now taken over the online learning center. She enjoys teaching online classes because she can help her students whenever they need her.

Bonefield joined LDHS not only looking for a new adventure, but also to meet new students and to help them achieve their goals and dreams.

She is looking forward to helping her students meet their educational goals and to help

them work towards graduation. She loves working with students and forming connections.

She has yet to find anything frustrating about teaching. She believes the biggest challenge students face is social media and the constant use of technology.

Drama Begins Play Rehearsal

By Daniel Egemo

The Theater Department kicks off the 2019-20 season on Oct. 18-19 with "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time." The show tells the story of 15-year-old Christopher when he discovers his neighbors' dead dog, Wellington. Under suspicion, Christopher is determined to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington.

The story will challenge Director Eli Corbett, who returns for his third year as the director. The show will present emotions of happiness, sadness, and everything in between. Corbett said, "My favorite part thus far of being a director has been getting to see so many students grow, both as people and as performers. It's been such a pleasure to see the progress so many of them have made over these three years." He continued saying, "Something I'd love to improve on is getting more butts in those seats for our performances. This group has always deserved to perform in front of large audiences."

In January, Region One Act play competitions will be held. Corbett spoke of his enthusiasm for this competition, "I'm most excited for another opportunity to get our group to the state level when competition ramps up in January. It's time to end the drought of LDHS not going to State."

Director Eli Corbett goes into the season with a large amount of optimism regarding individuals' performances and the talent that the productions will hold. He looks to have a successful start to the season with "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time" and he hopes to follow that success up with a region win at the One Act competition.



Emma Hess and others practice lines during play rehearsal.

Senior Boys/Girls State Attendees Thank American Legion

By Daniel Egemo



Four seniors from of the Class of 2020 attend a meeting at the local American Legion to thank them for their sponsorship and support which allowed them to attend the South Dakota Boys and Girls State at the end of their junior year. Pictured is Mr. Tom Carr, Daniel Egemo, Pratt Williams, Emma Hess, Robbie Lester, Mrs. Shelly Dragoo and Mr. Oz Enderby.

Four members of the Class of 2020, Pratt Williams, Robbie Lester, Daniel Egemo, and Emma Hess attended Boys and Girls State respectively at the end of their junior year. They took time to thank members of the Post 31 American Legion for sending them to Boys and Girls State at their meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 18. Boys State took place in Aberdeen, South Dakota at the Northern State University campus from May 27-31. Girls State took place in Vermillion, South Dakota at the University of South Dakota campus from May 27 to June 1. The two events are both week long events that teach students across South Dakota the importance of being a good citizen and participating in government.

The four seniors took time to reflect on their experience and say thank you to the local American Legion members who ensured that the students could attend Boys and Girls State. Robbie Lester spoke about his experience saying, "I had a lot of fun. It wasn't what I expected. I was hesitant at first but I got there and it was a lot of fun." He encourages members of the Class of 2021 to attend at the end of this year, "Go. Even if you don't know what you're doing, just go. I really enjoyed it. You'll miss out if you don't go."

Members of the American Legion speak at the school later in this year to talk with students about attending.

To members of the Legion, Lester says, "Thank you. I really appreciate it. I hope the Post can continue to help young adults learn about government and what it means to be a good citizen."



The 2019 Homecoming Royal Court Back Row L-R: Max Johnson, Rebecca Groeger, Jordy Stulken, Isabel Ward, Daniel Egemo, Kady Hopkins, Joey Ingham, and Kiale Rose. Front Row L-R: Queen Hannah Campbell, Page Aivlyn Neill, Page Noah Morovits, and King Robbie Lester.



Members of the 2019 Freshman Homecoming Royal Court. Back Row L-R: Tilli Katon, Ethan VanTassel, Ryan Rantapaa and Gayle Thompson. Front Row L-R: Freshman Queen Allison Mollman and Freshman King Rainey.





Students Participate in Homecoming Dress-up Days

By Lilianna Reynolds

Day one of Homecoming Week began with crazy day. On Monday much of the student body was wearing many wacky things. Miss-matched socks and clothing were popular items. Some did something wacky with their hair like half up and half down.

Tuesday was dynamic duo day. Winnie the Pooh and Piglet, Anna and Elsa, Thing One and Thing Two were popular. A group of students did orange is the new black. The new students dressed in orange and the students from previous years wore black.

Class color day was Wednesday: seniors wore black, juniors wore blue, sophomores wore red, and freshman wore green.

Thursday, the theme was story book, students dressed as characters from movies and books. The staff dressed as "101 Dalmatians" with Ms. Shirlene Joseph as Cruella de Vil. A group of junior girls did The Seven Dwarfs.

At the end of the week, staff and students wore maroon and gold for spirit day. Many football players wore one of their jerseys. Most of the student body was wearing Digger merchandise.





Spirited Diggers March, Ride in Homecoming Parade

By Lilianna Reynolds

The marching band kicked off the parade while they marched in unison. After the band came the 2019 Homecoming King and Queen, Robbie Lester and Hannah Campbell, who were followed by the Royal Court. The Freshman King and Queen, Crew Rainey and Allison Mollman, followed the Royal Court. The middle school band marched in the parade under the guidance of Mr. Drago. The Cheer team made their presence felt as they had at the Pep Assembly and the Homecoming Game. The Lead-Deadwood sports programs were represented by the Volleyball, Cross County, and Football teams.



NHS Emphasizes Character/Service

By Kady Hopkins

The National Honor Society has kicked off the school year by planning activities for the next several months of the semester and even held their first meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 11. There are ten new members that have joined and went through an application process to have been accepted. Every member must sign a form agreeing to the guidelines of what NHS is built upon; scholarship, service, character and leadership. In NHS, standards are held high not only for academics, but also in the character you show to those around you. Failure to meet and keep these standards will typically cause consequences to arise.

The group is being led by advisor, Mrs. Betty Campbell, she has been the advisor for about four-five years and is planning to continue her position for as long as she can. She has worked at the high school for nine years and doesn't plan on leaving anytime soon. When asked what the best part of NHS is to her, the first thing that popped into her mind was "The character the students show and the service they give back to the community". She also mentioned that she enjoys working with the students and being involved in community service projects. Campbell is excited to get the new year started and headed in a great direction with the help of the officers and the members of this prestigious organization.

Owens Challenges Choir Members

By Madison Rystrom

Mrs. Kari Owens, who is starting her third year of directing the high school choir, shares her plans.

Some of her goals for the choir are to make the group more of a family, make all her students stronger singers, raise money for choir uniforms, and to go on a trip to Denver, CO.

Owens said that the primary focus of the choir, "Is to make the choral ensembles feel like family." Owens also stated, "If we want to perform evocative choral repertoire with challenging poetry and harmonies, we need to understand and relate to humans we are sharing musical space with. We sing and work harder if we feel we are valued as a significant team player."

Owens said the goals of the choir are to "Cultivate every singer's breath energy and unique vocal instrument, provide substantial rehearsal tracks so singers are able to practice concert literature at home, uphold the expectation of accountability to their part and

each other, and to perform quality, meaningful college-level repertoire in varieties of genres and styles.

My thirteen seniors are lighting the way with their reading skills and vocal strength," Owens said when asked about the leaders in the classroom. She also said, "The juniors and sophomores are solid support and will not let anyone unseat them. The freshmen are the biggest class who rise every rehearsal."

The choir would like to go on a trip to Denver, CO in March. "I'd like to give every high school choir member a chance to see a professional vocal ensemble on stage. I'm also working on college visits with directors of choral activities while we are in the Denver area," Owens said.

The pops concert last year kicked off the fundraising for the trip. The choir's first performance will be on Monday, Nov. 18 at 7 PM. The students in choir hope to see many students and community members attend the event.



Gandia Shares How School Here Differs From Spain

By Kiayah Clark

Carlota (Carly) Gandia is the new foreign exchange student attending LDHS.

Gandia is a sophomore from Valencia, Spain. This school is much different from her school in Spain. One example is in her old school, she went to class with people only in her grade and the students would stay in one class with the teachers moving classes.

Gandia likes how students switch classes because it gives her a chance to have a break and walk around. In her old school, she has one-hour classes, three breaks, and lunch.

A unique experience for Gandia this year was Homecoming. In Spain, they don't have anything like Homecoming. Some other differences she noticed as she

moved was that there is more fast food than there is in her hometown. Gandia also noticed that we get to start driving at an earlier age.

America is different and Gandia likes it a lot; the people are very nice. She said adapting to the time difference was the easiest and learning the language was the most difficult but she intends on improving her English while she is here.

Gandia plays volleyball and has made many friends who are also on the team. Her favorite subject in school is biology with Mr. Tom Tieszen.

Gandia enjoys taking walks through the town and seeing all the different views. She thinks she is very lucky to be able to go to this school, meet new people, and have new experiences.

Coach Hansen Shares Aspirations For Volleyball Team

By McKinly Kyte

Improving in the offseason was a huge breakthrough with volleyball team. The team attended two offseason camps which enriched the team and their skills. The team had a great showing in both Mitchell and Sioux Falls. Coach Hansen believes in order to be a top team in the region the team will need to play at a consistent level of competition. Going against a difficult region this year, the Diggers manage to beat their rival team the Belle Fourche Broncs. Hansen said, "to beat the favored team in the region, we will have to play them well." She hopes that with encouragement and the motto "never give up" will drive the team to push hard.

"Having the leaders be an experienced senior class helps the team a lot, they have dedicated their time to being better. Seeing them play together for the last time and succeed is a part I live for as a coach," Said Coach Hansen.

Hansen wants to see the team make it to the SoDak 16, which is her goal for this season. Playing hard and practicing hard with goals is a huge part of making the season successful. With practicing hard Hansen hopes to win big games and score some good points.

Wanting to lead a team is what brought Coach Hansen to the sport. Along with being a leader Hansen's father was a coach and inspired her to bring the same love and affection to her athletes that he did. Her favorite part is making relationships with the girls that come out for the sport. Hansen thanks her husband and her kids for being supportive during the season to her and the team. Along with being supportive Hansen hopes the student body enjoys the ride, good or bad, and can enjoy the moments of each game. Because high school goes by way too quick.



Diggers Work To Improve Record

By Brayden Hughes

Starting their season off with a win against Bennett County, the Diggers were ready for what was ahead. Their next game was against Sundance, who are ranked 2nd in their state class. It was a tough game, and they fought hard but they ultimately fell short to a score of 44-8 with Upton taking the win. The Diggers struggled to keep up with Mobridge-Pollock Sept. 7 ultimately ending in a defeat.

The Diggers lost 42-7 against the Mobridge Tigers, when asking the Diggers head coach Thomas Tieszen about the game his response was "I felt we could have played better, we also could have coached better; there's a couple times where coaching we put our guys in bad positions that didn't help out. But Mobridge is a really good team, and their undefeated right now so we kept fighting to the end and we still had a lot of positive things happen".

The Diggers have a rocky road ahead, they were to prepare for their Homecoming game Sept. 20th. The day came and they were ready, although they knew that the Pine Ridge Thorpes were an easy win, they could not underestimate them because teams improve every year.

The Diggers smacked the Thorpes in the first half with a score of 23 - 0, unfortunately the game was going to be delayed after 8:30 that night, but it was canceled and delayed until Sept. 23 due to a severe thunderstorm. When Monday came around the Diggers beat the Thorpes; continuing from halftime they ended the game with a score of 45 - 0.



Max Johnson breaks away from the Tigers.



Jordy Stulken fights to score the only touchdown of the Mobridge-Pollack game.



Walker Vande Velde lines up his putt, ending with a score of 65.

Young Team Begins Golf Journey

By Madison Rystrom

Coach Mr. Timothy Hansen is in his fourth year of coaching the boys golf team. The team consists of Ethan Keehn, Walker Vande Velde, Ethan Hess, Isaac Foster, and Christian Johnson.

The goals for the team are to get experience and want to continue to play and grow the program. Hansen said, "We have a great, young team." He also said, "We are in the beginning of our golf journey, there's been a lot of playing golf on the course to practice." He hopes to build a strong core for the future of the program.

They have been to a few events this year a high light for the team would be at the Spearfish Country Club for the conference meet and there Ethan Keehn placed 6th.

Cross Country Athletes Strive To Improve Personal Records

By Taya Burleson

Mr. Will Malde, cross country coach, said his favorite thing about cross country was to see how close his team has become. "It's awesome to see and be a part of," he said. He also enjoys the races, and how fun they are to watch and coach them, "A lot can happen over 3.1 miles." The biggest goal for his team this season is "working towards getting each athlete to PR (Personal Record) multiple times during the season (hopefully at the end) and getting as many people qualified for state this season." Coach Malde's Goals he sets for himself is to learn something new each year. He tries to add something new to his practice routines or update his practices in some way every year and wants to help each runner get a new PR.

His runners would describe him as kind, caring, knowledgeable, and a fun coach. Coach Malde thinks the most rewarding part of being a coach is getting to see his athletes improve, getting to be a part of their success anytime they get a new PR, or place well in competitions, you get to share in that happiness and excitement. The relationships you build with everyone, our cross-country team is a pretty close group and it is fun to be a part of and coach. Making decisions for Coach Malde is based on watching the team's practices and races, as he tries to recognize things that would help improve their times and use that to guide the teams' future workouts and continues to adjust things for the team. Coach Malde says his team is stronger together. Every day that they can get the entire team together makes for better more competitive practices. The team really enjoys cheering one another on and being part of each other's successes.

So far no one has qualified for state, because unfortunately the team's qualification came down to placing in the top 20 at the Region meet. Right now, the team has several runners who are ranked in the top 20 but they still have about a month until they know for sure. The most difficult places to run according to the cross-country team is Hot Springs and Custer, both courses have a lot of hills. The leaders for the cross-country team are the seniors, Isabel Ward and Pratt Williams, and eighth Grader Sara Jones also does a great job leading by example and giving great efforts in every day in practice. The runners that have improved the most this season are Isabel Ward, Sara Jones, and Pratt Williams, but overall everyone, has shown good growth from last year. The top placers this season has been Sara Jones, Pratt Williams, and James Pierce. Sara has won two of the three meets they have raced this season. Pratt has been top finisher for boys' varsity races, and James has been top finisher in boy's JV so far finishing with a top five and a top 10 finish at two of our first three meets as well.



Pratt Williams works to improve his personal record.



Cheer team enjoys interacting with the crowd.

Cheer Team Sparks Enthusiasm

By Colie Corkins

The Cheer team has been working hard for the 2019 Homecoming activities. The team has been working on posters and a floor routine for the Pep Rally before the game on Friday. Before the Pep Rally on Friday, the team will head to the Elementary school to boost school spirit. Miranda Kearns, member of the Cheer team, says "My favorite part about this season has been getting to see the new cheerleaders make progress. I'm looking forward to the Homecoming parade this year and seeing all of the kids jumping around happily. Our Cheer season has not been out best but we just need to fix minor problems."

Basketball Cheer season will be next and the team is excited for it. Wendy Rogers, Cheer Coach, commented on the season and said "I have a new team this year! A lot of new strengths, but the thing that I am most proud of is our teamwork and the support system we have acquired this season." Rogers goal for the upcoming Basketball Cheer season is to expand them team's stunting as they have each year prior to this year.



Touch of Gold Dance Team Builds Program

By Isabel Ward

The Dance season has been heating up with new members joining the team. "The team has been doing really well," says Freshman Nevaeh Foster. She expressed how much she has enjoyed her team and her coaches and she is eager to see how the season will go. Reflecting on the team's previous performances, Foster stated, "The team feels as if we are dancing really well."

The team has many younger members, most of whom are currently in middle school. This will help to establish a base for the years to come for the team and provide a hopeful future for many competitions.