

WOKSAPE

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Yankton High School Prepares for Homecoming Activities



BY **TORY GROSS**

It's just another week of school, but what makes this one so different?

Why are students actually excited to come back to school?

The answer is because this week is homecoming.

The students look forward to this event from the first day of school. The tradition, activities, and the high spirit throughout the school make for one eventful week.

A huge part of homecoming week is the dress up days assigned by the pioneer club.

This years dress up days include the following: Monday-dress up as your favorite Disney characters. Tuesday is pirate day; Wednesday is glamo day when students come dressed up in their glitter and camo. Thursday is class color (each class has its own color), and finally Friday is spirit day when students come in their school colors.

The school's creativity will definitely show through in the costumes that they wear.

Another tradition to homecoming is the selection of royalty and coronation. The senior class votes for five girls and guys, and from those votes the candidates are selected.

This year is different with a tie so there are five girls and six boys. This year the royalty includes for the princesses: Chloe Cornemann, Lindsey Lien, Maddie Mines, Jenna Grossenburg, and Vanessa Rockne.

The prince candidates consist of: Terry Huber, Matt Gubbels, Dillon Beckmann, Connor Fitzsimmons, Jordan Hauger, and Kipp Kinsley.

From this selection, all the students of YHS will vote for the King and Queen.



PHOTO BY MOLLY HENRICKSON

Yankton High School homecoming royalty candidates are as follows (left to right order): Jordan Hauger, Maddie Mines, Dillon Beckmann, Jenna Grossenburg, Kipp Kinsley, Vanessa Rockne, Terry Huber, Chloe Cornemann, Matthew Gubbels, Lindsey Lien, and Connor Fitzsimmons.

On Thursday night, Coronation is held. A PowerPoint is shown on a background of each candidate, and then the winners are announced.

All of the homecoming royalty and student body proceed to the back of the school for the burning of the Y.

This event has been tradition for many years. The royalty and student body dance around it to help heighten their excitement for the most important day of the week, which is Friday.

To start off the event-filled day is what most students would consider their favorite part—the gong show.

Throughout the previous week, students have been rehearsing and improving some kind of routine that they will be performing in the gong show, in front of the whole student body.

Performances have varied in the past from singing to dancing to playing an instrument to any kind of skit that one could think of. Mr. Goeden hosts while Mr. Kallis, Mr. Pesika, Mr. Powell, judge the first, second, and third place performances.

Not all performances are necessarily talented but they are always fun to watch.

Then, following the gong show, the students proceed to their homerooms to work on their floats for the parade.

Each homeroom has their float, and is competing for first place in the float contest.

This year, however, there is a change. The senior class decided to only build one float and work on it as a class.

At around 2:30 p.m. the parade lines up and the students, along with their floats, are off.

When the parade has ended students go home to prepare for the climax of homecoming, the football game.

This year the Bucks will face the Brookings Bobcats as they look to continue their undefeated record.

Following the football game is the YHS homecoming dance.

The commons will be decorated and the school has hired a DJ for the night. It will begin at 9:30P.M. and end at 12:30A.M.

So plan on dressing in your most creative costumes, decide on who you think should be our King and Queen, start working on your gong show routine, and get ready for the most outrageous week of your life.

Preparation for homecoming festivities will be the easy part, the hard part will be coming back to school on Monday!

River City Cheer Squad Takes Cheerleading to New Levels



BY **MARIA BINDER**

Confidence, teamwork, and accountability are the primary goals of the all star cheer program coached by Justin Olson. River City Cheer is a new all star cheer organization that works on improving cheer skills and other higher-level training.

Head coach, Justin Olson, has had plenty of coaching experience to make this program successful. He is certified in tumbling and stunting and was a tumbling coach for the Dakota Spirit in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for seven years.

Olson is also a football coach for the Yankton Bucks, "It's hard to balance kids, football, and cheer but I have two amazing assistant coaches" said Olson.

Former Gazelle cheerleaders Brittney Lac-Croix, and Haylie Braaten, studying at South Dakota State University, are assistant coaches. They assist with choreographing routines for the all star cheer competitions.

Starting all star cheer was not easy by any means. "We did a few fundraisers to help pay for brand new uniforms, warm-ups, and shoes," said Cyndal Sathe.

Sathe is a junior at Yankton High School and has been a member of the all star cheer team since the beginning. She loves cheer because it is high energy, she gets to meet new

people, and it makes her smile! Sathe said, "The coaches are wonderful. They are very understanding, helpful, and patient."

"We currently have forty girls in the all star cheer program. They are divided into three different teams. The youth level consists of grades 3rd-6th. The junior level includes grades 7th-9th. Grades 9-12 make up the senior level," said Olson.

"Practice is held in the gymnastics room at the Summit Activity Center every Sunday and Monday," said Olson.

Sathe said, "An average practice starts with stretching to

help prevent injury. Strengthening and conditioning is also an important part of our workout. The stunts we do in our routines require us to be physically fit. Then the coaches work with us to choreograph our dance routine, cheer moves, and tumbling stunts. To end practice we

always say a prayer,"

Training for All star Cheer is year-round. Their first competition will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on November 20th. To follow there will be six more competitions held locally. The season will wrap up in February when the all star team travels to Minnesota for their final competition of the season. As members of the all star cheer team, regulations prohibit cheer members from competing during the Yankton school cheer season if also on the high school cheer team.



YHS Students Provide Assistance to Flood Victims



BY **KATE SCHAA**

When flooding arose in the Yankton area in May of 2011, many Yankton families filled sandbags and tried protecting their homes from the rising river waters; now, a few months later, it's time to remove them.

The Gavin's Point Dam released up to 160,000 CFS at a time, an absolutely incredible site to see, but also caused major flooding down river.

The flood destroyed parts of interstates, main highways, and back roads. The flood destroyed all kinds of family homes and other property.

On Saturday, September 17th from 9 a.m. to noon the Yankton High School student council will help out a fellow teacher, Mrs. Larsen, remove the sandbags from around her home in Sister's Grove.

Mrs. Larsen, the Yankton High physical education teacher said, "We couldn't have built the sandbag walls in the first place without all the help of the students at YHS and volunteers from the community. I cannot put into words, my gratitude for all the assistance students are willing to give. Students and staff at Yankton High School are awesome and I will be forever grateful."

Along with removing sandbags, there is an obvious risk for students. They need to have their tetanus shots up to date and will be under the supervision of one parent for every ten kids. Yankton student council adviser, Miss Becky Tasa states, "The students will be removing sandbags that were mostly covered in plastic. The danger of removing the ones that were underwater is much too dangerous."

Molly Henrickson, the Yankton High School student council secretary, mentions she doesn't want the student body to think the student council just does bake sales, she wants them to know they help with a lot more. The high school kids do care; sometimes they just don't know how to show it.

They would also like to point out this project is open to anyone, not just the student council. The student councils in South Dakota are assigned with a fall project every year, and this year they were mainly focusing on



PHOTO COURTESY OF MS. GINGER LARSEN

YHS students assisted in sandbagging effort.

the Pierre and Dakota Dunes areas. But the Yankton High School student council students decided they wanted to keep it local, as Yankton had flooding of its own.

The Red Cross put the removal in order, according to Tasa, with the dates of removal slated from August 29th to September 29th.

Henrickson adds that she is excited for the student body to be able to work with the student council. It is very important that the student body and student council have a relationship, so the students know they can always come to the student council. I

In conclusion, if you're not busy on Saturday, September 17th from 9-12, come help a Yankton High School teacher. Removal will be in Sister's Grove.

Contact Miss Tasa or any of the student council officers to figure out how you can help remove sandbags. Also, make sure your tetanus shots are up to date and ask your parents to come help with this project—one parent is needed for every ten students!

2011 Homecoming Festivities Guide

Friday, September 23, 2011



Gong Show 10:15 a.m.



Parade 2:30 p.m.



Football Game 7:30 p.m.



Dance 9:30 p.m.

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