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Yankton Homecoming Royalty Candidates are Eager to Enjoy Celebratory Week



BY
MEGAN FORD

It's that time of year again, the 2012 homecoming royalty candidates have been chosen. Six boys and six girls will be placed on a ballot for the student body to vote for the Pioneer Prince and Princess.

Pioneer Princess candidates include: Frae Binder, Maria Binder, Kelsey Fitzgerald, Mikala Hora, Sarah Santos, and Amber Tacke. Pioneer Prince candidates include: Dustin Dvorak, John Fanta, James Hisek, Michael Rucker, Kellen Soulek, and Jase Likness.

"During the week of homecoming, I look forward to watching the guys play football and cheering them on," starting volleyball standout Mikala Hora said. "It's nice to be screaming in the crowd for once." Hora excels both on and off the court. She participates in volleyball, basketball, track, National Honor Society and student council.

"Besides Homecoming being a chill week in school, the best part is the gong show," said varsity football linebacker and running back, James Hisek. "Not only does Hisek shine on the football field, but also on the wrestling mat. Hisek is also a member of National Honor Society."

Sarah Santos takes part in numerous activities including: tennis, marching band, jazz band, concert band, acapella choir, one-act plays, and musicals. "During homecoming festivities, I enjoy watching the whole school come together and have a good time," said Santos.

Record holding YHS quarterback, Michael Rucker, plays football, basketball, and track at Yankton. He takes part in Y-Club and National Honor Society. "I like how everyone has so much fun and so much school spirit," said Rucker. "It's exciting to see the crowd so pumped up."

"Without school spirit and fun activities, homecoming wouldn't be what it is today," said starting varsity volleyball setter, Maria Binder. Maria is also a member of National Honor Society and Gift Givers.

"I love the school spirit that everyone shows, and ending the homecoming week off right with the football game," said John Fanta. "Go bucks!" Fanta participates in cross country and tennis and is also a part of National Honor Society and student council.

Frae Binder is the president of Pioneer Club, an affiliate of National Honor Society, a varsity boys' basketball cheerleader, and is a member of the YHS dance



PHOTO BY GARRETT CARDA

The 2012 homecoming royalty court is pictured from left to right: Kelsey Fitzgerald, Mikala Hora, Amber Tacke, Maria Binder, Sarah Santos, Frae Binder, Dustin Dvorak, Jase Likness, Michael Rucker, John Fanta, Kellen Soulek, and James Hisek. Crowning of the Pioneer Prince and Princess will take place at Thursday evening's coronation ceremony beginning at 7 p.m. and followed by the ceremonial burning of the Y.

team. "I love the sense of unity the entire school feels on homecoming day, where everyone joins together in all around excitement," said Binder.

"I like the gong show and of course, the football game," said varsity football lineman, Kellen Soulek. "Every year, the end of the football season becomes even tougher and even more emotional to leave behind, because I have built a bond with my teammates. It's tough to know that this my last season of being a Buck football player," said Soulek. During the winter, Soulek also plays basketball for YHS.

"I enjoy observing all the funky clothes people dress up in throughout homecoming week," said volleyball middle hitter, Kelsey Fitzgerald. Other than volleyball, Kelsey takes part in basketball, track, Y-Club, Pioneer Club, and National Honor Society.

Dusty Dvorak is in Pioneer Club, cross country, the one act play, the spring musical, and FCA. "I like to go

all out on the dress up days and show off my excessive school spirit," said Dusty.

"I like homecoming, because I have a lot of fun and I love my teachers," said Amber Tacke. Tacke is involved in chorus at the high school and enjoys playing Wii in her free time.

"My favorite thing about homecoming is the gong show, the parade, the football game, dancing at the homecoming dance after a homecoming win, and giving my pops a big ole bear hug when I get home from the dance," said Jase Likness. Jase participates in football, one-act play, spring musical, and National Honor Society.

The Pioneer Prince and Princess are chosen Thursday night before homecoming during 7 p.m coronation. Following coronation, students get the chance to take part in the burning of the "Y."

Y's Words on Hurricane Isaac



BY
ASHLEY EILERS

The National Weather Service started tracking a tropical storm on August 27, 2012, which started on the coast of Africa two weeks earlier. It continued traveling and headed straight for the Gulf of Mexico.

I'm sure you are wondering how a hurricane all the way down in the Gulf will affect us when we live in South Dakota. Hurricane Isaac is doing its damage where most of the United States oil rigs are located. Due to the seriousness of the storm, all of the workers had to evacuate their oil rigs which stopped production. With production at a standstill, we will have a shortage of petroleum.

This goes back to the basic laws of supply and demand.

When the supply is low and the demand is the same or higher, the price goes up. In the South-east, people are going to notice a bigger increase than in the Midwest, and it is going to depend on how much damage the storm does to the oil refineries. As of September 6, 2012, Hurricane Isaac is predicted to stick around for a few more days which could lead to extended damage. After Hurricane Katrina did its damage in 2005, they have improved the infrastructure of the refineries. Time will tell whether or not those improvements will make a difference.

Even though we are thousands of miles away from Hurricane Isaac, we can expect to see a twenty to thirty cent increase per gallon at the pump.

YHS Librarian Earns Masters Degree



BY
MADISON DANGLER

Miss Becky Tasa has begun her eighth year as the librarian for Yankton High School. She began her career in 2005 with an undergraduate minor in library science. She is originally from Sisseton, SD.

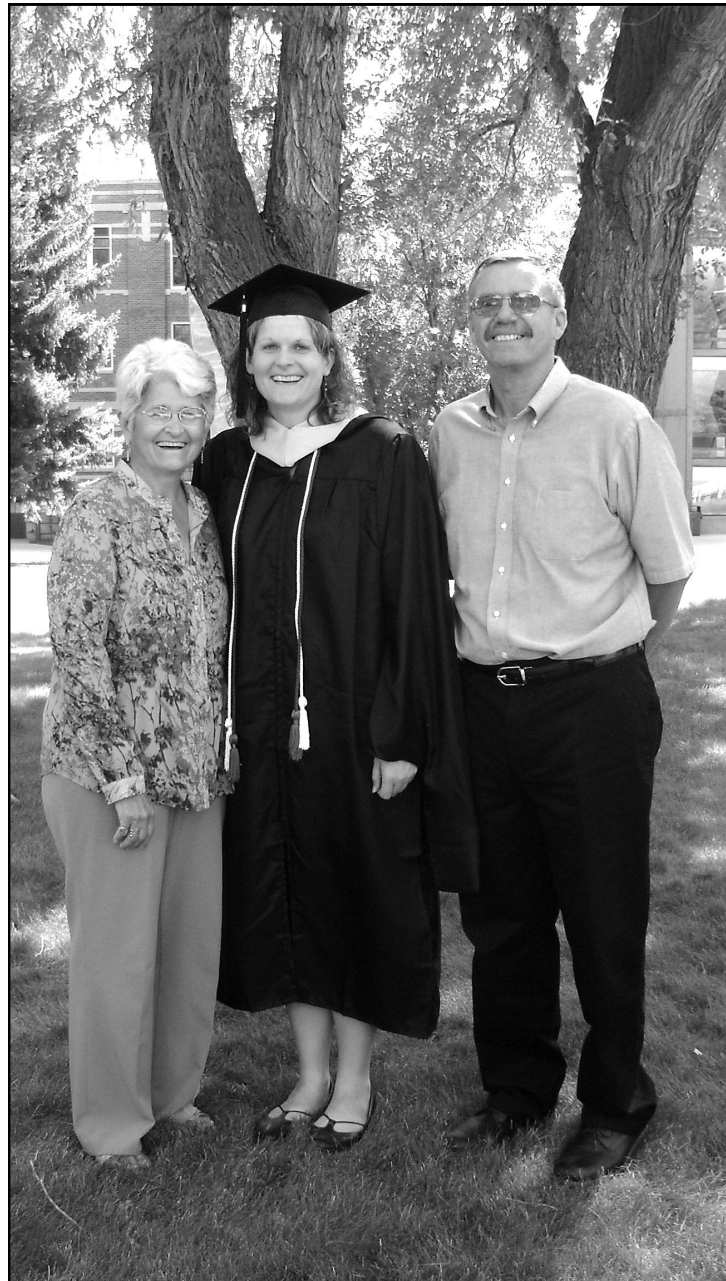
Miss Tasa decided to continue on with her education in 2010 by enrolling in a master's degree program in History/Social Sciences. She earned her master's degree by participating in a program coordinated through the state library. South Dakota partnered with several other states to offer this degree. This program was headed out of The University of North Texas, but the state of Montana hosted it, so the Midwestern participants did not have to travel far.

Tasa attended two residency experiences in Montana during her degree program. The first was held in Missoula, the second in Billings. She explained, "We were there over a weekend. Seventy of us came from four states, and we'd start at 8 a.m., then go to 5 p.m. with classes and lectures."

Of the 70 Midwest participants enrolled in this program, 12 were from South Dakota, including Tasa. Some even carpooled to Montana when they had to make the two mandatory trips. The first trip was in the fall of 2010 and the second in the spring of 2011. Tasa decided to fly both times, because she had to be back to school on Monday, ready to work.

Upon completing the program, Tasa said it was closure to the program to be hooded at graduation. "If I hadn't done that, I wouldn't feel like I was quite done."

Tasa decided to further her education with her masters degree to fulfill a personal goal. She said the program helped her to learn what to look for in libraries and how to run the library smoother.



COURTESY PHOTO

Yankton High School librarian, Becky Tasa (center), is shown with her parents, Ann and Mark Tasa, after receiving her master's degree in History/Social Sciences from the University of North Texas. The residency portion of the program was headed through Texas, but hosted in Montana for Midwestern students.

One of Tasa's responsibilities at Yankton High School is teaching the freshmen public speaking students how to research information in the library. She's been applying skills she learned in her master's program to this duty. She said, "It's Boolean Logic—I use Google now to show them how to locate information. Google isn't foreign to them, but databases are."

She stated that technology and techniques are always changing, and it was nice to refresh her memory and learn some new things. Tasa is excited to start the school year with the new skills she has learned. She says she loves Yankton, loves the kids, and plans to continue her career as the librarian at Yankton High School.

Homecoming Week Traditions Allow Students and Community Members to Show School Spirit



BY
OLIVIA CHRISTOPHER

Homecoming week, also known as Pioneer Days, will be held September 10th through the 14th. Throughout the week students and the community prepare for coronation, the parade and other celebrations held on homecoming day, and last, the football game.

"Homecoming week is for all the students and community to come together and show their school colors and spirit. It is the week people make an effort to get back home and support the students at YHS," said varsity football coach Arlin Likness.

Pioneer Days is a long lasting tradition in Yankton. YHS and the community go through a lot of work to make this week special.

A huge aid to the preparations of homecoming is Yankton High School's Pioneer Club led by Mrs. Pietz, Mrs. Kortan and Mrs. Martindale. Frae Binder, senior, is the club's president followed by Katie Greenaway, senior, as vice president.

"Members of Pioneer Club raise the money needed to pay for homecoming through their t-shirt sales within the club," said Mrs. Pietz. "Members set up and

tear down coronation, help with the organization of the parade, create the royalty powerpoint for coronation, select dress up days, help with the gong show, and select MCs for coronation and the gong show."

Each day is a new look at YHS as a different dress up theme is assigned to each day. Each year brings new themes but the traditional red, white and black hold Friday's theme.

Coronation is held Thursday night beginning at 7 p.m. Coronation is a tradition that has been with Yankton for years. Not only is coronation for crowning the prince and princess, but to kick off fall sports. Each coach says a few words and the football team performs their traditional ritual.

Events for the night include pump cheer from the football cheerleaders, revealing of the Mystery Buck and Gazelle, presentation of royalty, and the revealing of the prince and princess. After crowning, is the burning of the Y on the southwest side of the building.

This year's royalty girls are: Frae Binder, Maria Binder, Kelsey Fitzgerald, Mikala Hora, Sarah Santos, and Amber Tacke. Boys are: Dustin Dvorak, John Fanta, James Hisek, Jase Likness, Michael Rucker, and Kellen Soulek.

The Gong Show, limited to the High School, is Friday morning and begins at 10:15 a.m. The Gong Show is a resemblance of a talent show, but a set of judges, and help from the crowd, control the acts. Cheering and roaring and the act will most likely go on while boos and negative feedback result in a gong from the judges that mean the act is over. In the end, the judges have the final say and select the top three placers.

The parade is held Friday afternoon and begins at 2:30 p.m. Homerooms from Yankton High School and a few other facilities build floats during Pioneer Days to be entered in the parade. The parade is open to the community and shows the pride and spirit for the big game.

The football game begins at 7p.m. on Friday night at Crane Youngworth Field This year's rival is the Aberdeen Central Eagles.

Homecoming is a big game for the players to show their pride and tradition to the community.

"The players know that players from the past wore these same jerseys and the effort and energy they put into the game. Everyone has to give their very best to live up to the tradition of homecoming," said Coach Likness.



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