



Mystery Teacher:

By Dominic Herrera

This teacher drives a black car, and she has 2 children, and 4 brothers that all went to St. Agnes. She is 37 years old. Her favorite color is green. Her favorite restaurant is Crave. Her favorite food is Hawaiian pizza. This is her 9th year teaching St. Agnes. Her favorite holidays are Christmas and Halloween. Her favorite season is summer. Her favorite animal is a koala. Her favorite activities are camping and boating. Her favorite sport is volleyball. Her favorite football team is the Bears. Her favorite movie is "Love Actually." Her favorite show is "This is Us."

Have you guessed who she is?

Please turn in your guess to your teacher by Tues, Dec. 18th!



Agnes Action

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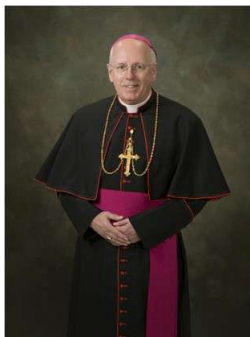
California Fires

By Caleb Chasing Hawk



Many cities in California have gone through three dangerous fires. The Woolsey, the Mountain Fire, and the Camp Fire. The winds made things worse.

Another thing that was bad was that the fires spread quickly. Thousands of homes were destroyed, around 50 people died, and currently there are 4,000 people left homeless due to the fires. Even some celebrities homes were destroyed. Millions of people had to leave their homes. Two of the fires are mostly contained, and the Camp fire is fully contained. We can hope the damage caused by the fire is fixed soon.



Bishop Swain Retiring

By Isaac Mayrose

After twelve years of being bishop, Bishop Paul Swain is now retiring. The reason he is retiring is because of his age. You can only be a bishop until you are 75. He recently turned 75 on Sept. 12th, 2018. He was the 8th bishop of the diocese of Sioux Falls. After he retires, he will probably go traveling, live closer to his family, or move back to Wisconsin. We don't know who will take his place. That is decided by the Pope. We aren't sure when the new bishop will be ordained. You have to be a priest before you become a bishop, so you have to be at least 26 years old to become a bishop. Bishop Swain has already officially retired; however, until the new bishop is ordained, Bishop Swain will still be in the bishop position. We know the new bishop will be ordained in 2019!

Hurricane Michael

By Caleb Chasing Hawk



Hurricane Michael is a powerful storm that hit on Oct. 10th, early morning. It hit Florida, Georgia, and other states off the east coast. It had winds up to 155 miles per hour which made it a category 4 hurricane. It was a fast moving storm which was good so it couldn't stay to do too much damage, but it still did a **LOT** of damage. Thousands of houses were destroyed, which is bad considering the *hundreds* of people that stayed. Around 40 people died. Hurricane Michael is the most powerful hurricane to hit in the last 50 years. A problem Hurricane Michael caused was looters. Looters were stealing from destroyed houses. It might take years for things to go back to normal, but we can pray for the victims of Hurricane Michael.





Meet Tawny Mohr

By Sydney Johnson

Have you met the new preschool teacher? Her name is Tawny Mohr. She grew up in Butte, NE. She wanted to become a teacher around her senior year of high school. She went to West Boyd in Spencer, NE. She is 24 years old. She wanted to make school more fun for kids, so she became a teacher. This is her first year with a teaching job. Last year she worked as a teacher's aide. She wanted to become a preschool teacher because she likes doing crafts, she likes teaching students, and likes seeing their faces when they do something good. Her favorite color is purple, her favorite food is pizza, she has three siblings: one older brother and two younger sisters. She is getting married on July 6, 2019. She still plans on being a teacher when she gets married and teaching at St. Agnes. They plan on living in Elk Point.

Meet The New Principal

By Kyla Mockler

You already know we have a new principal, Mrs. Amy Pohlson. She is married to Scott Pohlson and has one daughter named Olivia who is 6 years old, two sons Will who is 4 years old, and Henry who is 3 years old. They also have a dog named Wrigley. She went to college at Iowa State University. She had experience in education before becoming a principal. She taught preschool

through 2nd grade. She has lived in Vermillion for 5 years. She grew up in Johnston, Iowa. She was interested in being a principal because she loves to work with students, teachers, and parents. She loves being a principal because it is a new adventure every day. Sydney Johnson, a 5th grader said, "She is a good principal." Lydia



Anderson, another 5th grader said, "She is great!" I asked Mrs. Herbster and she said, "Mrs. Pohlson is doing a great job for our school! We are blessed to have her working here!"

Meet Kris Larson

By Addison Larson

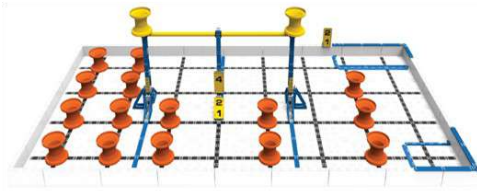
St. Agnes has a new Director of Faith Formation and her name is Kris Larson. She started her job on August 22, 2018. As the Director of Faith Formation she organizes Religious Ed, teaching RCIA, and a bunch of other things. In the future she would like to develop a grandparent program that involves our elderly and youth working together. She would like to get our 11th and 12th grade students involved in the youth group too, and she would like to have a parish mission. I asked Kris Larson how she does her job she said, "I pray about everything before I

start, to make sure it's the right thing to do. I don't want to do anything without praying first. Jesus will let me know if it's not right." Before working at St. Agnes, she worked at The USD Newman Center as the campus minister for 3 years. She was the Director of The DSU Newman Center in Madison, SD for 8 years and she has worked in Ministry for over 15 years. Kris Larson says, "The Lord is always showing me new ways to reach people. Being a servant to Jesus is very rewarding."



Robotics Update

By Caleb Reins



The elementary robotics team in Vermillion was very successful last year and two teams consisting of many St. Agnes students hopes they'll be successful again. You might be wondering what exactly the teams do. Each team has a VEX IQ kit with snap together pieces which they use to make a robot that can maneuver within a 4x8 course to score as many points as possible with programming, driving by yourself, and driving with a different team.

Last year the Vermillion Area Robotics Club team 1008B consisted of Dominic Herrera, Lydia Anderson, Caleb Reins, and Sydney Johnson, Caleb Mayrose, & Roz Olson. The course last year was called Ringmaster. The team had to pick up rings and put them on horizontal and vertical posts. Drivers also could push down two buttons on a bonus tray and it would release 20 rings. Last year 1008B won a total of eleven trophies some of which included: two Excellence, one Teamwork Champion, one STEM Award, & three Design Awards. The team traveled all around the U.S.A. from Nebraska to Louisville, Kentucky, where they competed in the World Robotics Competition.

This year the course is called Next Level. Teams have to stack hubs in two building zones. There are also two bonus hubs that are worth double points. There is also a bar to hang on for points. This year there are two clubs in Vermillion, ROV and VARA. Both clubs formed out of the old VARC organization. VARA stands for Vermillion Area Robotics Association and ROV stands for Robotics of Vermillion.

In ROV there are currently two teams, 57069W The Wolves (the elementary team) and 57069J The Jack In The Bots (the middle school team). On the Wolves team there is Isaac Mayrose, Dominic Herrera, Caleb Chasing Hawk, Caleb Reins, (all fifth graders at St. Agnes) and Alex Port (a fourth grader at Jolley). VARA's all girls team is called The Queen Bee's and includes Lydia Anderson, Sydney Johnson, Kyla Mockler, and Catie Naber. All teams have been successful so far won regional robotics competitions. They will be competing in December and through the spring and have a big tournament in Vermillion at the Coyote Sports Center in February. Watch for more details and come out to see the teams compete! Robotics is for anyone! If you'd like to learn more talk to any of the St. Agnes students on the teams.



The School's New Laptops

By Jacob Fischer

The school's new laptops are very good for students at St. Agnes. They are used for IXL, research projects, typing projects, taking Accelerated Reading (AR) Tests, and other things. The school got the laptops because they outweigh the old desktops in convenience.

There are a total of forty-three laptops. They can be moved around, they are faster, and overall better. The laptops are DELL Latitude 3180's. Everyone at St. Agnes School really likes these laptops!

McVicker Plaza

By Lydia Anderson

Did you know that VCDC and Charlie's have moved to a new building? VCDC wanted to have a greater presence in the community. They wanted to help encourage more entrepreneurial activity and they wanted to partner with Charlie's USD retail store. The building was designed by Vermillion Chamber President, Nate Welch. Koch-Hazard, the architect, then created the final blueprints for the remodel. After looking at multiple spaces, 2 East-Main Street became available and had the right space for all the functions they wanted it to serve. It also is one of the oldest brick structures in Vermillion and it has a mural on it's West wall. The plans and designs for a new site began in March of 2016. The renovation of the building began in October of 2017 and was completed in October of 2018. The construction was overseen by Puetz Corporation. McVicker Plaza as it is now called was named after the original owner and the name was decided by open voting of the community. The building houses Charlie's, a visitor center, a collaborative work space, the offices of VCDC, multiple meeting rooms, and storage rooms.



Homecoming Queens

By Thea Jennewein

Rachel Brady



Rachel Brady and Hailey Freidel were both crowned Homecoming Queens in 2018 and they both went to St. Agnes for elementary school. Rachel was crowned queen at the Vermillion High School and Hailey was crowned queen at USD this fall.

Rachel is 17 and a senior in high school. She does track, volleyball, basketball, dance, and show choir. She is the president of Student Council and Student Against Destructive Decisions (SADD). She is also a member of National Honors Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and Random Acts of Kindness Enthusiasts. Her favorite part of being crowned was after she was crowned, everyone went to the gym to watch the boys play volleyball in girl shorts and tank tops.

Hailey is 21 and a senior at USD. She is involved in the cheerleading team, Pi Beta Phi, Dakotathon, and she is part of USD Student Ambassadors. Her favorite part of being crowned queen was being able to represent her university. Her favorite memory was when she found her mom and thanked her for everything she has done for her.

St. Agnes taught Rachel how to speak in front of her peers when she spoke in church. St. Agnes taught Hailey respect and responsibility at a young age. Hailey's favorite memory at St. Agnes was getting to read in the bathtub. Rachel was on Student Council, but there wasn't Student Council when Hailey was there. Rachel's favorite teacher was Mrs. Taylor and Hailey's was Mrs. Gregoire. Mrs. Gregoire's daughter, Tori, is her best friend and so Hailey says she might be a little biased.

When asked what advice these girls have for St. Agnes students, Rachel says to keep reading and working hard because some day it will pay off, and be nice to the people around you. Hailey says to get as involved as you can in middle school and high school because it's rewarding to support others.

Hailey Freidel



Election Results

By Isaac Mayrose

The 2018 elections were held on Nov. 6th. These are the election results for Clay County and South Dakota. Kristi Noem got 172,894 votes in South Dakota while Billie Sutton got 161,416 votes, so Noem beat Sutton by 11,478 votes. Ray Ring and Nancy Rasmussen beat John Gors and Gregory Baldwin for State Representative in Clay County. Rasmussen got 4,373 votes, Ring got 4,352, John Gors got 3,607, while Baldwin got a small 829 votes. For State House, Dusty Johnson got 202,673 votes in South Dakota, while Tim Bjorkman got 121,002 votes. This means Dusty Johnson beat Tim Bjorkman by 81,671 votes.



Kristi Noem



Billie Sutton

Take the Reins Book Review

By Lydia Anderson

Have you ever read the book, Take the Reins by Jessica Burkhart? This book has a reading level of 4.4 and is worth 7.0 Accelerated Reader Points. This book is about Sasha Silver, who rides horses. When she arrives at Elite Canterwood Crest with her horse, Charm, she finds she will have to practice harder than she ever has if she wants to make the Advanced Riding Team. In the meantime, her roommate, Paige Parker, is practicing to be the host of “Teen Cuisine” cooking show. I rate this book five stars out of five stars. Once you pick this book up, it’s hard to put down. This is book one of twenty four books in the Canterwood Crest Series.



Weather Predictions

By Lucas Green

We all have our minds on what kind of winter we are going to have. How cold will it get? How much snow will we have to shovel!? Accuweather says South Dakota will be mild until January and February and very chilly especially in the South. There will be flooding and storms in Florida, and the Midwest will have less snow. Texas and Arkansas could see snow and ice storms. The Old Farmers Almanac says that South Dakota will have above normal temperatures except in the southwest. Expect to possibly see snowier than normal levels of snowfall. South Dakota is right on the edge of normal to above normal predictions for snowfall.



Incredibles 2 Movie Review

By Catie Naber

The Incredibles 2 is a awesome movie! The movie is appropriate for kids because it’s not violent. It is rated PG and online it is rated four out of five stars. The Incredibles 2 is directed by Brad Bird. A short summary of the movie is that the Incredibles are back! But this time around, Helen (the mom) is wanted on a mission. Bob (the dad) has to stay home with the kids: Violet, Dash, and Jack Jack. But, that’s not all. Baby Jack Jack discovers he has super powers. While all this is happening, they try to live a normal life.



New USD President

By Catie Naber



Sheila Gestring is the new USD President as of June 22, 2018.

When she moved to Vermillion, she became the Chief Financial Officer for USD, and planned to do that job until she retired. But last year when she heard that President Abbott would be retiring, everything changed. She got interested in being President from all the people who reached out to her with a vision to move USD forward. She

says, "I want to make a difference for our state." She thought USD was the perfect place to do that. She has taken a few classes to be President. This last summer she took a week long seminar for new Presidents at Harvard University. She says it's like a dream come true. She says the schedule is pretty intense, but it is fun and energizing. Sheila Gestring's house was supposed to be finished by Dakota Days. The process got slowed down by a rainy summer and spring. She suspects it will be done by Christmas. At that time, her

family which includes her husband, Keith and her two sons Dylan (10th grade) and Wyatt (8th grade). Luckily for the kids in Vermillion, President Gestring kept the tradition of handing out full size candy bars this past Halloween with her husband, Keith at the USD President's house.



New USD Soccer Coach

By Dominic Herrera

Michael Thomas is the new soccer coach for USD. He doesn't think it's easy to coach soccer, but he does think it is fun. He thinks the hardest part about coaching is keeping the players' individual goals aligned with the team goals. Before South Dakota, Michael Thomas coached in Colorado, California, Tennessee, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. He chose to coach USD because it was a team that he thought he could make better. His favorite part about coaching is seeing players and teams start working hard together and getting better over a period of time.

He has been coaching for 20 years. He started coaching in high school, but he started coaching college kids at the age of 22. Coaching was his dream, he learned how to coach by many different people. You have to be 22 years old to coach college kids because you have to be older

than the people you're coaching. He helped the Titans because he was an assistant coach there. The Titans are from Southern California. Jim Donovan and Damian Brown were Michael Thomas's bosses and they helped him get his soccer coaching job. His favorite professional soccer team is the DC United.

Overall this year, USD had 9 wins, 7 losses and 2 ties. He is very proud of the women on his team. His team made many improvements in the year, he really enjoyed coaching. He looks forward to is getting another group ready to represent Vermillion, South Dakota.



Have you wondered what gaming is? According to Braylin Selvig, a freshman student at USD who is a gaming enthusiast, “Gaming is simply playing videogames. You can play with friends or without.” Most people would consider gaming as a sport and there have been competitions. Usually if people have Wi-Fi they play games online, however if they’re playing offline, then they can play on split screen. There aren’t really any prizes, but there are virtual prizes like a Victory Royale or a win.



Gaming is also becoming a club sport in some high schools and colleges. South Dakota School of Mines has the largest eSport communities in the Midwest and has eSport as a varsity athletic sport. Derek Bierschbach, the founder of the first USD gaming club in 2018, recruited as many people as he could to give the club a strong start. There are currently 45 members. There will be lots of gaming competitions. Competitors game head on and sometimes play against other colleges. The requirements for gaming are a monitor, a console (Xbox or Playstation) a controller or a keyboard, mouse, and a passion to play videogames. That’s all you need! There are lots of games Such as League of Legends, Fortnite, PUBG, Minecraft, and Terraria.

Gaming can be harmful to someone if they are staring at a screen for 10 hours straight because it’s not good for your eyes. Just be sure to take a break every 30 minutes, and also don’t forget to ask for a parent’s permission. If you haven’t played videogames, you should try it!

Is Vaping Dangerous? By Emmett Knutson

Normal cigarettes aren’t very popular nowadays. Now it’s just vaping and e-cigarettes. According to medicalnewstoday.com, “An electronic cigarette is a battery operated device that people use to inhale vaporized nicotine, flavoring and other chemicals. Vaping is a slang term for using an electronic cigarette.”

Rueters Health tells us that 10.8 million Americans use e-cigarettes and over half are under 35 years old. Stastisticastats.com shows us that in 2018, 38% of high schoolers tried vaping once. That’s a lot of kids! Is it safe?

There are many brands and names for an e-cigarette, such as: Blue, Greensmoke E-vapor, and Om Vapors. But now there’s Juul, which is a very bad and unhealthy e-cigarette. It contains as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. Minors like it the most because it is easily concealed and looks like a USB drive. Juul also comes in flavors that appeal to teens like fruit and cream brule.

There are only a few benefits from vaping than a normal cigarette. The first one is you don’t smell like smoke and second, there is not second-hand smoke from vaping. The third benefit is it helps adults quit smoking normal cigarettes.

E-cigarettes may help some people quit smoking, but there are still some risks. Popcorn lung is one of those risks. It is when you inhale too much flavoring. Popcorn lung causes shortness of breath and coughing, but scientist don’t know if it’s fatal. It is possible vaping can cause lung cancer, but we don’t know.

I had an opportunity to talk with a local high school student, Kate Develder. When asked if she’s heard of vaping and her thoughts about it, she said, “Yes, but it’s not good for you.” I asked her if she sees kids vaping at school, and she replied, “I don’t see people vape, but boys in the bathroom do it.”

E-cigarettes were originally made to help adults quit smoking. After that, e-cigarette companies started marketing their product to teens. The health benefits are low, & the risks are high. Is it worth it? Probably not.



WORD FIND

By Lucas Green



reindeer	mistletoe	jingle
santa	evergreen	bells
present	northpole	ice
christmas	snow	jolly
elf	merry	snowman

Student Council 2018-2019



Principal Appreciation Day
Mrs. Pohlson was presented a gift
by Student Council Members



**TOP TEN
Accelerated
Readers
for 1st Quarter**

COMIC

BY ISACC MAYROSE



Agnes Action has been published by the 5th graders at St. Agnes School in Vermillion.

This Project Based Learning Assignment was directed by their writing teacher, Mrs. Herbster.

A special thank you to all those that took special time to be interviewed and/or be photographed.

Everyone in the 5th grade participated with specific jobs: editors, art/logo designers, managers, layout designers, coloring page, puzzle & photographer.

