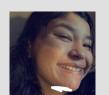
Thursday, Sep 1, 2022

# LWHS TIMES

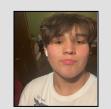
Once a Mustang, Always a Mustang!

Issue #1

## Meet Your 2022-2023 Journalism Editorial Staff



Editor-in-Chief
Edith Martinez



Assistant Editor, Sports Reporter Joey Gerken



News/Feature Reporter Danica Clifford



News/Feature Reporter, Cartoonist Haley Running Shield



Sports Reporter Taiyah Pourier



Photographer,
Opinion
Columnist
Darcy Plenty Bull



Opinion Columnist Lamya Blue Bird



Distribution & Sales,
Entertainment
Reporter
Angelina Swallow



Photographer, Opinion Columnist Kadence Weston



Distribution & Sales
Sheenah White



Entertainment Reporter Teton Janis



Social Media Manager, Design Editor Briley Ferguson



Social Media Manager, Design Editor Bree O'Rourke



Advisor Alejandro Cruz

## Advisor's Welcome

Dear reader,

As we enter this new 2022-2023 academic school year, we hope that the year brings our school and community much growth and healing, especially coming off two years of the Coronavirus-19 Pandemic. As many of you in the Little Wound School community know, I have been a high school English and speech teacher, mostly with freshmen, for the past three years. This is my first year teaching juniors as well as Journalism and Yearbook. I'm excited to work with my editorial staff because they all have talents that, when put together into a larger project, will create a lot of good for the community. My biggest priority as advisor for the Little Wound High School Times will be to make sure our students gain journalistic experience while holding myself, themselves, and each other to a high standard, while having fun along the way! We will not shy away from reporting on the nitty-gritty issues that our communities on the reservation face on the daily. Our promise to you as a reader is that our reporting will contain a high level of integrity, honesty, and rectitude. We are thankful for your readership!

Sincerely, Alejandro Cruz, M.Ed. *Little Wound High School Times* Advisor

## Editor-in-Chief's Welcome

Dear students and faculty,

My name is Edith Martinez, and I am currently a junior at Little Wound High School. I enjoy different types of inand after-school activities. My favorite in-school activities are math, reading, and science. My favorite after-school activities are volleyball, basketball, and track. Another thing about me is that when it comes to my academics I can be a very competitive student. As the new Editor-in-Chief for the *LWHS Times*, I hope to accomplish entertaining and informing each and every-one of you. I am very excited to work with the other journalism editorial staff. As a journalism team, we will try to diversify new ideas for this 2022-2023 academic school year in our newspaper.

Sincerely,
Edith Martinez
Little Wound High School Times Editor-in-Chief

#### Health & Wellness

Is COVID-19 in the rear-view mirror?

#### **Haley Running Shield**

As schools across America and the world return back to action, one question lingers: Are we ready to let down our guards? Page 4

#### What's New in School

Are 4-day school weeks the solution to burnout?

#### **Kadence Weston**

In an effort to combat a rise in teacher/staff shortages in school, many districts are turning to a radical new idea: 4-day school weeks. **Page 5** 

### Sports Central

Mustangs hopeful after first losses of the season

#### Joey Gerken, Taiyah Pourier

After back-to-back losses for JV and Varsity Volleyball and Varsity Football games at home and at Kadoka, coaches and players stay hopeful for the upcoming season. Page 6



# New LWHS Teacher Spotlight!

Alejandro Cruz



This school year, the extraordinary happened: we were graced with six new teaching staff members at LWHS! "In my 10 years of working, this is the highest number of teaching staff we have hired," says high school principal Sharei Ricketts. From solo-traveling the Philippines, being a self-published author on Amazon, to tutoring kids in West Philly, we're pretty certain that you'll LOVE our new staff, and you can take that to the bank!





Nick, and ľm ľm from Minneapolis, Minnesota. I taught summer school in Minneapolis throughout college. Loved it. So I signed up for TFA (Teach for America) upon graduating, and was placed at Little Wound. I've been at the middle school for the past 4 years. I decided to move up to high school to be more hands on with the football program.

I teach Freshman English and Speech. I love teaching it because we all use it, all day, all the time. I never have to answer the question "When will I use this in real life?" One thing I want as an educator is to see all my students happy and successful in whatever path they choose in life. One thing students should know is that this year my fiancé began working at LW as a 4th grade teacher. She's really cool.

NICK SHTZIVETZ MATZINA MOON



Greetings Mustangs! My name is Marina Moon, I am from Long Beach, Ca and have lived in Wanblee, SD since 2016. I teach Graphic Design, Keyboarding and Digital Animation here at Little Wound High School in room 223. I have always wanted to teach the arts and was so excited to begin teaching after graduating from Oglala Lakota College.

My favorite thing about my subject content would be the cool projects we complete in class. From making posters, album cover designs, T-shirts and more, there's a lot of fun stuff to do! One of my goals as an educator is to encourage more students to participate in graphic arts and design and eventually establish an art club/cohort here at Little Wound School. Even if you are not in any of my classes, you are always welcome to come by if you are feeling creative. Glad to be a Mustang!

ISABEL TUNGOL



I am Maria Isabel Tungol, a cultural exchange teacher from the Philippines. Since I was a child, I always dreamed of becoming a teacher. I remember back then, my friends and I used to do "turu-turuan" and I played the role of a teacher. Until then, I realized that teaching is my calling. And, for almost 10 years now, I am enjoying teaching Mathematics and designing strategies that suit the needs of my students.

Aside from teaching, one thing that I love to do is to explore different places. Before pandemic, I used to travel to the best places in the Philippines by myself. Going to new places and learning from their culture help me appreciate things around me and value life more. And these two: teaching and traveling, are the main reasons why I am here in the US and teaching in Little Wound School.

As a new Mustang teacher, I would like to know more about the culture of the Tribe, learn more about their tradition participate in different celebrations. With that, I can become more efficient in teaching the students not just the content but the values too. Because, as a teacher, my goal is to develop Mustang students holistically. I will teach them the knowledge and strengthen good values that they need to become the hope of the future.

Cont. on page 3



Hello wonderful students! My name is Mr. Vasquez and I am coming to you from Mission, TX which is along the US-Mexico border. I have worked in a variety of roles in education and decided to become a teacher a few years after my college graduation, mostly due to the pandemic being a hindrance to me during the job hunt. I was brought to Little Wound through the program Teach for America and couldn't be happier to have been placed here.

I currently teach US and World History and the most interesting things about the subject are that while we believe that history is stagnant, history has the ability to change with new information that gets brought in and uncovered. My goals as your teacher are to help you as a student and as a learner to push your boundaries while helping you along the way. One final thing, something many may not know as of yet, is that I am a self-published author, having published 3 books via Amazon and I am in the process of writing more books. Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you ever see me, make sure to say hi!

# VALETZIE RICHATZDS



Salutations! My name is Val and I am a queer, non-binary Latinx person (name | they | she). My family is from Panama and lives in Virginia, but I have been here for the last 5 years in the Elementary School. During college, I was a mentor for an afterschool program in West Philly. I loved it so much I decided to become a teacher through Teach for America and chose South Dakota because I wanted to push myself out of my comfort zone.

I teach Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and Consumer Math. I love math because it is all around us and can help us understand the world. One of my goals for this year is to help students make connections between math and the world we live in (nature and society) as well as push our thinking in complex problem solving. One thing I want students to know about me is I am a proud nerd, love ramen, and deeply believe that they are capable of success.

Best, Valerie

# Fuor Keuerz

Hello Little Wound community; I'm very excited to be here! I was born in South Korea, adopted as an infant, and raised in Rapid CIty, SD. I have 3 other adopted siblings, and 2 sisters who are my parents' biological children. My youngest brother was adopted from the Rosebud reservation, and I have always been interested in his native culture.

Being a later in life, first-year teacher, I feel that I have a good appreciation for the benefits and opportunities that come with a strong foundation and emphasis lifelong learning continued education. I hope to instill my enthusiasm and conviction for the value education; and provide authentic, caring, and meaningful educational experience this year. Looking forward to a great school year!



# Prey (2022) puts Spotlight on Indigenous Stories

#### **Angelina Swallow**

Prey was thought provoking. I enjoyed the scenes where the heroine Naru (Comanche) wanted to get rid of the typical stereotype on what a woman's role should be. Her family and tribe doubt her strength and intelligence as a woman wanting to be a hunter/warrior. With all the doubt she deals with she continues to prove them wrong and goes out hunting. Throughout her hunting journey, it keeps you on the edge of your seat. Overall, this is the most empowering, electrifying sci-fi movie that involves Native American culture. The actors and actresses did a wonderful job of making this movie really thrilling. Continued on Page 4

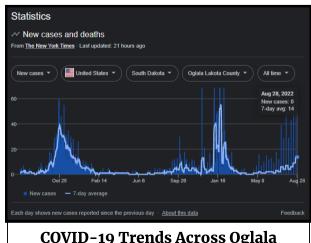
# COVID Still Threat to Public Health Haley Running Shield

In South Dakota, it has been recently reported that the Reservation is in the red zone; with the COVID-19 related cases that have been increasing in numbers, it is a wonder as to why these cases have been happening recently.

There were less cases in early summer of 2022, so why is it now that the number of COVID cases are rising?

It is speculated that due to the COVID-19 vaccine, many people believe that they are free to no longer wear masks or to follow precautionary measures as they once did in 2020. So as a result of this, they go place to place with no worry of getting infected with the virus. It is confirmed by the CDC; in the article "COVID-19 after Vaccination: Possible Breakthrough Infection", that you can be infected with the virus even if you're fully vaccinated; just because you won't be seriously ill, it doesn't mean that you should jeopardize someone else's health.

The increasing number of positive cases may also be the effects of businesses. These businesses that were operating during the pandemic required their staff and customers to wear a mask, and had a limited number of customers who could enter and buy supplies that they needed. Though because of the vaccine



COVID-19 Trends Across Oglala Lakota County, SD

being available as of now, certain shops don't bother if you wear a mask or choose not to, as it is solely your decision. For the restaurants that have opened back up, it has been reported that it's quite easy to catch COVID while indoors; if the person that has the virus is sitting near you and they're coughing, it would be easy for the virus to be transmitted to you, just like how it's easy to get sick with the flu if someone has it it too.

Public events that have a crowd of people attending; such as concerts, festivals, powwows, etc. These put the many who have attended at risk of getting the virus. If one or many have COVID unknowingly and they attend these events, they will put many at risk of getting the virus. This is also dangerous to a person who isn't able to receive a COVID vaccine, whether it be due to medical complications, allergies, etc. It can put the life of that particular person or others who share the problem at risk. It's also widely known that when summer comes around; Tourists start to come around. Due to the outbreak in 2020, many tourists couldn't travel around as they would put themselves and others around them at risk, and in 2021, tourists had to be cautious, as the virus had been on-going.

In 2022, it seemed as if things weren't a problem with many tourists coming around and visiting places in the South Dakota state; though it seems that many tourists were not wearing masks or taking precautionary measures as they did in 2020 and 2021. Which could be another reason as the numbers

increase. These tourists attend public events or places with a crowd, and they could be or put someone around them at risk if they end up catching the virus.

With the Reservation in the red zone due to the increase of COVID cases, It's tough to think about how this will affect the community once more. The Virus itself has taken away special moments in our lives; as well as taken away the lives of those that we hold

dear. It's the decision that you make; whether you choose to wear a mask, sanitize your hands, social distance, or get up to date with your vaccines; that choice is yours alone. Though it is a reminder that your choice can have an effect on you or those around you. ��

(Cont. from Page 3) The director Dan Trachtenberg and writer Patrick Aison did a prestigious job on this film. This movie was very empowering for us Native women who want to become warriors and leaders. I definitely recommend watching this movie if you haven't already. \* FUN FACT: Coco the Dog wasn't

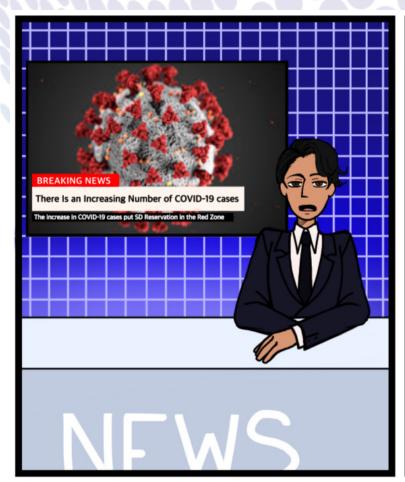
fully trained, but still did an excellent job on playing his role!



#### **Upcoming Events**

Friday, Sept. 2nd, 2022 Varsity Girls Volleyball vs. Edgemont - 4:30PM Friday, Sept. 2nd, 2022 Varsity Girls Volleyball vs. Edgemont - 4:30PM Tuesday, Sept. 6th, 2022 JV/V Girls Volleyball vs. Bennett County - 5:30PM HS Cross Country @ Jim Thorpe Cross Country Meet - 2PM Thursday, Sept. 8th, 2022
HS Cross Country @ Bennett County Invite
Saturday, Sept. 10th, 2022
JV/V Girls Volleyball vs. Crow Creek - 1:00PM
Friday, Sept. 16th, 2022
Registration Deadline for Oct. 20th ACT Exam

# 'Couldn't Happen to Me!' Haley Running Shield





## Mustang Student Council Ready for Action Danica Clifford

Student Council Elections took place Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2022. Subsequently, students from grades 9th through 12th who wanted to take part in student council had to make a speech along with representing it to the students of the high school about why they think the students should vote for them to be in student council. Later on Tuesday evening, results were posted on the school's student council Facebook announcing our class presidents Ca'Dyss Long Soldier (Freshman), Jaida Jacobs (Sophomore), Aiden Mendoza (Junior); our overall student council Tayvon Apple, DeShawniegh Iron Cloud, and Stormy Shot With Arrow; and for our senior and overall president we have Sienna Lebeaux. ❖



## Little Wound Welcomes Shorter

## Weeks Kadence Weston

This year at Little Wound school there was an idea where we would have a 4-day school week. Since then every week we would go to school except Fridays, to me it's a great idea. Other than getting an extra weekend day (which isn't a bad thing), it has good benefits such as letting teachers have extra time to spend time on their work and to let it help us improve ours. To also share more reasons and questions, I interviewed Mr. Cuny to help answer and share the reasons they felt the need to have a 4-day



school week. They found that focusing on 4 days would be a little more consistent in that time frame and they wanted to build into the calendar every Friday to give teachers time to plan to work with each other and to start brainstorming ideas. And with the overall cost of fuel, electricity. They felt that cutting one day off of the bus routes would reduce some cost. The people who helped to recommend this decision were the K-12 staff who completed a survey, the administration team, the K-12 school improvement team and the school board made the ultimate decision from the recommendation. •

# House of the Dragon is as Good as Advertised

**Teton Janis** 

Editor's Note: This review contains minor spoilers

House of the Dragon is a prequel to Game of Thrones, meaning it takes place before the events that happen in G.O.T. House of the Dragon is a very exciting show and it keeps that gory film style we all know and love from G.O.T. The show also helps to show what happened in the past in new light and things make a lot more sense after watching. like how the crown's claims have gotten messed up. The show is really something special and it is totally worth a watch for strong stomachs. ❖



# Girls Volleyball Learns Lessons as Season Starts

Joey Gerken

On Thursday, Sept. 25th, our girls Varsity and Junior Varsity played their first games of the volleyball season. The ending score for the first set of Junior Varsity was 25-17 and 25-11 for the second set. For Varsity, the first set score was 25-10, the second set was 25-10, and the final set score was 25-13. Volleyball Coach Cammi Bear Killer admits that this game was a real eye-opener, stating that "We are taking it as a big learning experience for us coaches as a new, first year, coaching staff and for our players being their first game of the season." Coach Bear Killer then went on to say that, while she and the rest of the team had those first game jitters, they are remaining confident based on the amount of practice they've been putting into this season. She has a lot of confidence in our volleyball team this year and will work to instill a lot of that same confidence back onto them. \*



Senior Varsity Player Lalanni Janis Delivering a Serve

## Are Metal Detectors Helping?

**Darcy Plenty Bull** 

Hello, students of Little Wound, my name is Darcy. I will be one of the Opinionists. One of the things I want to talk about is the metal detectors. This section isn't meant for you to persuade you to like them or not; it's just meant to give you guys my opinion. Now that I've introduced myself and what this column is going to be about, let's get into the main topic of this issue: Metal detectors. According to Principal Ricketts, "I believe we should focus on safety as a priority in order to prevent gun violence on our reservation and to keep our students and staff community safe." The metal detectors



"I believe we should focus on safety as a priority in order to prevent gun violence on our reservation and to keep our students and staff community safe." —Principal Sharei Ricketts

also help with students not bringing their vapes and/or other substances into school property. Though, on the days where they thoroughly check our bags it makes those who come to school later than the rest late to class. In my opinion, yes, the metal detectors are good, yet they shouldn't be checking our bags everyday; instead, they should do it randomly throughout the week. Keeping the students on their toes about when the next time they (security) are going to do the morning metal detectors right as soon as you walk through the doors. That means students will most likely not get any ideas about any patterns or loopholes they might find. �

## Mustang Football 'Snaps' Back to a New Season

Last Thursday, Sept. 25th, our Mustang boys fought their first highschool football game of the season. The ending score was 6-26. Our boys unfortunately didn't get the

Coach Nick Shriver

outcome they wanted and took a loss against Todd County. According to the head coach Nick Shriver, he was "definitely excited and knew Todd County would be tough. The last time we beat them was in 2013, but we also felt confident going into the game and knew we could compete. We ultimately lost because of mental mistakes. Physically, we were as good, if not better than TC. We made some mistakes and they took advantage. Our players fought hard,

especially on defense." Coach Shriver believes they will have one of the better seasons in recent school history and expects that they will get better with each week and each game and hopes to make a run in the playoffs. •

#### Taiyah Pourier



"We ultimately lost because of mental mistakes. Physically, we were as good, if not better than TC. We made some mistakes and they took advantage." – Coach Shriver