

Wyatt Hunter

Student Council Updates

Student council is planning a talent show for Dec. 9. There will be four categories: music, dance, comedy, and special talent. Each 1st place winner will get a \$100 prize, and each of those four winners will also have a chance to win an additional \$50 dollars for best in show.

The Affectionate Push for Pestilence

Madison Clifford
Illustrated by Kanas Clifford

The first reported case of the Corona virus was in Wuhan China, on Dec. 31, 2019. It did not take long for the disease to spread and reach the states.

Within a few months, America was put under heavy restrictions in order to control and minimize the spread of the virus. Restrictions included wearing a mask, physical distance, and avoiding close and or intimate contact with those not in your immediate household.

While it might seem a thing of the past, COVID is still alive and well in many communities. The persistent push to “get back to normal” remains unattainable due to the continued disregard of these precautions with affectionate actions such as kissing.

We are one week into being fully in person for school. Be mindful and do not be the reason we go back to virtual!



Drawing by Kansas Clifford

OPEN CAMPUS PROS AND CONS

More trust is given to students	Pros	Increased food options
	More freedom	
Traffic Safety Concerns	Cons	Not sufficient time for eating
	Unhealthy eating based on options around Orono	

Enola Running Hawk

Open Campus vs. Closed Campus

Nov. 7 - For most of its history Little Wound School has been a closed campus. Superintendent Charles Cuny says “Traditionally the school is a closed campus for the safety and accountability of the students.”

Little Wound has a policy that says “The Board shall make every effort to prevent accidents by taking all reasonable precautions protecting the safety of those present on school property. The Board shall comply with all Civil Defense Regulations.”

Students at Little Wound at times like to go off campus to enjoy some food at the local Mexican restaurant called “The Burrito Stand.” Staff also enjoy going to the local food joints Kyle has. Students have felt like the school should be an open campus for the students.

Within the year that COVID has been around, it's less of an option to have an open campus because of the risk of exposure to COVID. At the beginning of the school year, the tribe had motions passed that had to do with the COVID vaccine. They agreed that at least the majority of the students should be vaccinated.

Schools try to advocate the vaccine for students 12 and older because this vaccine reduces the risk of being hospitalized for COVID-19. With this year still grappling with this virus, there are students and staff who feel a closed campus is well needed especially considering this year's downfalls; majority of it due to COVID-19. For the liability and safety of students, a closed campus is the foremost option right now, distinctly this year with COVID.

If students want to see change, they need to advocate for themselves. Mr. Cuny states that it is a policy decision. The Student Council will have to be utilized in order to make a recommendation to Principal Sharei Ricketts for the policy to be reviewed and then taken to the School Board.

However, Mr. Cuny expresses concern over the liability issue and safety of students if campus were to be opened.

Contact your Student Council President, Mr. Wyatt Hunter if you would like to advocate for the policy to be reviewed!

By Heather Hinkle

A Celebration of Life

Nov. 7 - Trevin Mato Qi Vasquez was born Sept. 4, 2002. Trevin passed away on Oct. 30 in Rapid City. Trevin was 19 years old and lived in Allen.

Trevin was known for his standout talent in all sports. James Pratt, Middle School Teacher and Football Coach, reflects on the impact Trevin had on the school and community:

“Every now and then, someone comes along that is a generational talent, he was more than that. He is a top 3 talent to ever put on a Mustang jersey,” Pratt says. “Everyone knows what he did on the field. Everytime he touched the ball, he was a threat to score from anywhere on the field. What not too many know is the X factor he brought.”

When Trevin was a freshman at LWHS, the football team was playing against Pine Ridge. During the JV game, Trevin was leading the team making everyone come together and wanting to “bring respect back into Little Wound,” Pratt continues.

He was a natural leader from the start. His teammates and friends all looked up to him. Trevin even pushed the coaches to be better,

demanding for them to get him where needed to be in sports and academics.

Trevin’s heart and passion for the sports he played is something that cannot be taught. He strived to be better every day.

In his sophomore and senior season he rushed 1000 yards. Additionally, he won all-conference quarterback and league MVP for the All Nations Conference.

On and off the field, Trevin always had a smile on his face. He was that person that could make someone laugh even if they didn’t want to. During his short time here, he left his mark. He will live on with us through our memories and stories. The homecoming king and quarterback will not be forgotten.

Trevin is survived by his parents Dario Vasquez, Jr. and Harolyn Brown; his siblings Lamia (Tristan Fast Horse), LaTasha, Dario III, Donovan and Chloe Vasquez, Malia Brown Bear, Carl Janis, Jr., Juanita (Trey Stewart) Deaton, Darion Plenty Arrows, Miyah (Dustin Gourd) Means, Priscilla Means, Contessa Vasquez, and Reuben, Freedom, Dakota, Katch, Romero, Deire, and Danta Means.



By Heather Hinkle

Remembered In Love



Nov. 7 - Gracie Lynn Hawk was born on May 31, 2005. Gracie passed away on Oct. 10, 2021 in Rapid City.

Her Lakota name was Wambli Cangleska Winya which means Eagle Hoop Woman.

Gracie spent most of her school time with Ms. Glorianna Cordova-Under Baggage, Director of the Extension School. Ms. Under Baggage reflects on the impact that Gracie left on students and staff:

“She was a young lady that had a great capacity to care for others, and show them compassion. She recognized when others needed help... and stepped up without being asked,” she says. “She inspired others to do their best.”

Tammy Steele, Project AWARE Counselor, says, “Gracie was a caring person. She was raised by her grandma and carried a lot of her characteristics. She was always looking out for her little cousins. She had her moments and frustrations and was always reaching out for support when things got a little tough.”

Gracie is survived by her mother, Amanda Ghost and her father, Rocky (Carrie Adams) Thunder Hawk; her siblings, Rayona White Butterfly and RJ White Butterfly; her grandparents, Colleen Little Moon and Roger Thunder Hawk; her god-parents, Pastor Judy Miller, Charlotte Eagle Bull, and Georgia Afraid of Hawk.

Kylee Whirlwind Horse Halloween Festivities

There were 16 contestants total in the halloween costume contest. It was supposed to happen at 3:00 but they pushed it ahead 15 minutes to make final preparations.

There were some really good costumes, even the teachers joined in on the fun!

Mr. Alejandro Tellez-Cruz, Freshman English Teacher, was dressed as a teletubbie.

Ms. Heather Hinkle, Junior English Teacher, was dressed as Supergirl.

Ms. Nellie Two Elk, former Social Studies Teacher, was dressed as Sally from Nightmare Before Christmas.

Students were dressed in various costumes ranging from angels to clowns.

The winners of the costume contest have yet to be determined. We are patiently waiting for the results.

Christina Plenty Wounds, Tokala Janis, and Wyatt Hunter

Basketball Season Approaching



Miracle Brown Bull grabs the rim anticipating the return of basketball

Nov. 7 - Jay Jacobs, Sophomore and Senior Counselor, is the boys' basketball head coach for this upcoming 2021-2022 season. Assisting him will also be Eddie Jumping Eagle and Robert Shangreaux. His goal for this season is to get to the state championship. Jacobs says, "The state championship is always the goal. The regular season is like a roller coaster, you know, all the ups and downs. When it's close to play-off time, that's the real season."

Being a student athlete can be challenging, especially while trying to balance academics and the sport. However, Jacobs already has a plan in motion for this dilemma. He reminds his players to go to class everyday and promotes these small but impactful habits. With these adjustments, he hopes to prevent further procrastination.

Jacobs is a 1999 graduate from Little Wound High School. He also has been a coach for eight years. His love of basketball on the reservation has allowed him to flourish and receive positive feedback from D1 players. This inspires and excites him to push all his players to their full potential. Jacobs remarks, "It's exciting to see young student athletes to be able to have excitement in life."

Good luck on the season boys! If you're interested in joining the boys basketball team contact Jay Jacobs.

With the start of the Little Wound Girls Basketball season looming, you should know the coaching staff. Rich Big Boy will be the varsity coach, Heather Hinkle will be the junior varsity coach, and Shonna Hunter will be the freshmen coach. Practice starts Monday, Nov. 22.

This will be Rich Big Boy's first year as a head coach. Big Boy previously served as an assistant high school basketball coach for 3 years at Little Wound. He was also a middle school basketball coach for 3 years.

Big Boy's goals for the season are to improve both offense and defense, and build team chemistry. "When you add chemistry to a team, it adds points on the board," he says. To him, it is important to have a good team bond.

Good luck on the season Girls! If you are interested in joining, Hinkle encourages you to stay on top of your grades!

Wyatt Hunter

Mustang Volleyball beats Oelrichs, Loses in Regional Round

Oct. 29 - The Lady Mustangs beat Oelrichs 3 matches to 2 on the road with a great showing from the entire starting lineup. Tara Rouillard, Senior, and Tayiah Pourier, Junior, being singled out as some standouts by their peers. That was the last away game for the Lady Mustangs in the regular season now it's on to regionals for them

Nov. 2 - The Lady Mustangs went to regionals where they played one more game against Todd County. They lost 3 games to none writing an end to the Lady Mustangs season.

The Lady Mustangs went 5-23 through the season, never really getting on track to make any noise in the postseason. Even though the Lady Mustangs may have had a losing record, they showed tremendous heart throughout the season. They persevered despite the trials of the long season.

Tokala Janis

An Update on Oral Interp and their Coach of the Year

Oct. 29 - The Little Wound Mustangs Oral Interp Team competed in the Roosevelt Round-Up in Sioux Falls, SD.

The team placed second in readers' theatre, reading a story called "The Three Little Wolves & The Big Bad Pig." Members of this reading were Kimimila Pretty Bear (The Big-Bad Pig), Jada Jacobs & Charlee Apple (Little Wolves), and Darcy Plenty Bull & Kadence Weston (Narrators).

The Mustangs performed the same story at the Lewis and Clark Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 30, at Yankton, SD.

The Mustangs again placed second. Kimimila Pretty Bear shined at the two meets, impressing the team's coach, Dan Snethan.

"As for Forensics Honor Society points earned during the two meets, Kimila Pretty Bear scored an astounding 58 points for a total of 129 to move up into the 20th all time of 58 LWHS students who have ever been enrolled in the National Forensics League," Mr. Snethan says.

The two meets also marked a huge milestone for the team. Long time coach Dan Snethan received the Donas D. Roberts Coaching Excellence Award.

To receive this award, a coach must have a total of 10,000 merit points.

"I am pleased to have received the Donas D. Roberts Coaching Excellence Award. Partially



because I personally know Donas and because he is South Dakotan with a National Forensics League Award named after him. This is a huge milestone. To earn this award you must have 10,000 coaching points and you only get these based upon merit points earned by your

Forensics team. That means Little Wound Students have earned 10,000 merit points. That is what I am most proud of, not receiving the award...though that is a high honor, but rather I am most proud of the fact that Little Wound Students have earned 10,000 merit points. This high honor really doesn't really belong to me--it belongs to my students. They are the ones who have collectively earned it," Mr. Snethan says.

Congratulations Mr. Snethan!

The History of Halloween

Wanakiwin Janis

Nov. 7 - The history of Halloween goes all the way back to a Pagan festival called Samhain. Hundreds of years ago people dressed up as saints and went door to door, which is the origin of halloween costumes and trick or treating. The Devil's Night is a name associated with Oct. 30 the night before halloween. One theory holds that many halloween traditions may have been influenced by ancient Celtic harvest festivals particularly the Gaelic Festival. With the Salem witch trials, Devil's Night began in spring of 1692 after a group of young girls in Salem Village Massachusetts claimed to be possessed by the devil and accused several local women of witchcraft. Salem's witch trials connect Halloween with tragic events that unfold during the Salem witch trials. Today members of Pagan and witch communities have a home in Salem, where Samhain is celebrated each October recognizing the end of the harvest season and coming of winter. The Salem witch trials were caused by jealousy, fear, and lying. People believed that the devil was real and that one of his tricks was to enter a normal person's body and turn that person into a witch. This caused many deaths and became a serious problem in 1692. More than two hundred people were accused. Thirty were found guilty. Nineteen of them were executed by hanging. The Salem witch trials and executions came about as the result of a combination of church politics and family feuds and hysterical children all which unfolded in a vacuum of political authority. Salem's witch trials connect Halloween with tragic events that unfold during the Salem witch trials. Today members of Pagan and witch communities have a home in Salem, where samhain is celebrated each October recognizing the end of the harvest season and coming of winter.

All information retrieved came from the Smithsonian and the History of Massachusetts official website.



Counselor's Corner: Suicide Awareness

Heather Hinkle

Nov. 8 - Too often there is a stigma around discussing suicide because it is a complicated and heavy topic. Sometimes people refuse to talk about it out of fear that even saying the word could trigger a person to act on suicidal thoughts, according to Dr. Melisa Marsh. Research suggests that this is not the case. In fact, talking about suicide does not implant the idea into people's minds according to a study done by Psychological Medicine. The study continued to point out that it is important to talk about it because "it may lead to improvements in mental health," Dr. Marsh says. "Suicide is one of the greatest tragedies facing our world today, and no individual or community is exempt from this epidemic of despair," Dr. Garry Barber states. It is the second leading cause of death for people between the ages of ten and 34. The hardest part of a suicide is the haunting question: "WHY?" The issues "involved in such a decision are far too complex to allow for complete answers (especially since the only one who could truly provide an answer has permanently silenced him/herself)," Dr. Barber says. "Suicide then, may be described as a catastrophic response to total despair." We have to accept that we will never know the true reason behind the decision. Once we acknowledge this, we can begin moving forward in the grieving process. When you begin to recognize that someone in your life is having suicidal thoughts, it is first and foremost important to listen. Dr. Garber says, "Listening to a person includes giving them the freedom to talk about their deep despair without judgement." Listening does not mean giving advice or responding with positive affirmations. When you listen to understand rather than to respond, the person will keep talking. "Keep em talking" is the best strategy for someone who is going through a difficult time according to Dr. Garber.

When responding to someone with suicidal thoughts, it is important to not overreact. This does NOT mean to not take it seriously. Let the person know you care by making them feel part of a community. "Suicide idealation is often the result of feeling cut off from community or support," Dr. Garber says. Having a sense of belonging would help alleviate the immediate crisis in most cases. It is also important to be direct in these situations. Dr. Garber has found that when someone who is having suicidal thoughts are directly confronted with the question of suicide and given the freedom to talk about it, some individuals may rethink the value of their life or even reconsider the life-ending decision. "The person considering suicide has reached a point at which the drive to live has been overwhelmed by the desire to be released from the pain of living. The overwhelming pains of life are made more manageable when a despairing person can sense the weight of their burdens are being shared by those who care," Dr Garber expresses. Studies have shown that the risk of suicide declines sharply when people call the national suicide hotline: 1-800-273-TALK. There is also a crisis text line. The lines are staffed by a mix of paid professionals and unpaid volunteers trained in crisis and suicide intervention. The confidential environment, the 24-hour accessibility, a caller's ability to hang up at any time and the person-centered care have helped its success, advocates say. Little Wound also offers Project AWARE services if you need to talk to someone. There are counselors in the building at all times. Talk about it, don't be afraid to open up to someone. We are here for you.

Source: Life is a Gift: Understanding and Preventing Suicide