

Happy Holidays

It's just two more weeks until the holiday break. The break runs from Saturday, December 21 through Sunday, January 5. We all come back January 6.

Blue Ink

Art News Sports Articles

Blue Dragons Math XC

Science Students Golf

History Basketball

Choir English

Baseball Volleyball

Marching Band Football

Soccer

America/Croatia Christmas staples

Two separate countries are more similar than you think

by Oliviyah Thornton & Nika Sapunar
staff writers

It's that time of year again when people are decorating the Christmas trees, building snowmen, baking cookies, decorating their houses with many lights and starting to wrap presents. Everyone has a different traditions they do each year to celebrate Christmas but one thing we can all agree on is many celebrate Christmas on December 25. America is so cultural that many would speculate that everyone has the varying traditions but there are common themes throughout the United States. The Midwest celebrates a lot of what other states or areas do as well. Croatia has mostly the same traditions as most of Europe, but it still has some different and special things on its own too.

AMERICA by: Oliviyah Thornton
Food

The food is one of the best parts about Christmas because you are able to pig out without being judged by others. A traditional Christmas dinner usually has turkey with stuffing, if people chose to have stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, and gravy. Other things like vegetables such as parsnips, carrots, and turnips are added to the meal as well. Other meats besides Turkey people have roast beef, poultry, or ham.

After eating probably way more than you should, you have to make room for some tasty desserts. The desserts served at Christmas usually consist of pumpkin or apple pie, fruitcake, Christmas pudding, and even sugar cookies. Christmas is full of tasty desserts and almost every house you can smell baking treats.

Decorating

Whether celebrating Christmas for religious beliefs or just the love of the season, everyone enjoys or partakes in decorating for the upcoming holiday. People decorate the outside of their houses with lights and sometimes even set up a statue of Santa Claus, snowmen, and reindeer.

Decorations aren't only put outside for display but another joy of Christmas is decorating the inside with a giant Christmas trees, lights, mini Santas, reindeer, stockings, and much more.

In many Christian homes, they will set up a nativity scene and will add baby Jesus on Christmas Eve.

Fun fact the traditional colors of Christmas are red and green. Red symbolizes the blood that Jesus shed at his Crucifixion and green represents the Christian belief in eternal life through Jesus and the continuance of life through the winter.

CROATIA by: Nika Sapunar
Food

Traditional Christmas lunch/dinner features lamb or turkey with sarma, salad, roast beef, freshly baked bread and desserts like fritule, strudel, walnut and poppy-seed cakes.

But on Christmas Eve, since it is fasting day, Croatians eat a small meal in the evening: Bakalar. Bakalar is dried cooled fish from Dalmatia served with salad or cabbage, served all over the country.



Gugelhupf is another traditional Croatian food served at special occasions including the holidays. Nika Sapunar, Croatian foreign exchange student, included the recipe in Blue Ink issue 7.13.

Decorating

People in Croatia mostly live in apartments so they decorated their balcony by putting lights or statues of Santa climbing the ladder, but the ones who live in the houses decorate outside of their house with lights, statues of Santa Claus, snowmen and even some of them make their own Nativity of Jesus.

Some people stick with tradition and decorate the tree on December 24, but most Croatians decorate the tree on the day they buy them.

Croatians usually put nursery and psenicu (wheat seeds in the bowl of grass) under the tree. And on the tree they put lights and some people put angels or some other cool decorations like candy balls or red/green normal ornament bulbs.

Many countries have differences and similarities and Croatia and America are no exception. Comparing the food and decorating in the reading, there are similarities between the two. Next week's issue this article will go more in depth with the customs of the countries.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: The largest snowflake on record was 15 inches wide. It occurred in Montana in 1887.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Pack extra socks in your car safety kit (or glove compartment) just in case you have to get out and scoop snow. That way you will have a dry pair for when you are done.

CROATIAN WORD OF THE WEEK: Hot Chocolate = Topla cokolada (Tow-pla Chock-oh-Lada)

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Where did Frosty keep his money?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: Can you solve this rebus puzzle?



Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, December 7**
 - Wrestling @ Flandreau Tourney (10:00)
 - JHGBB v. Canton (4:00)
- Monday, December 9**
 - JH/JV Wrestling @ Flandreau Tourney (4:30)
- Wednesday, December 11**
 - Early Dismissal @ 1:30
- Thursday, December 12**
 - Wrestling Quad v. Sioux Valley, Parker, MVP (5:00)
 - JHBBB @ Tri-Valley (4:00)
- Friday, December 13**
 - GBB @ Tri-Valley (4:00/6:00)
 - BBB @ Tri-Valley (5:15/8:00)

Worth Mentioning

COUNTDOWN TO BREAK: 14 Days Winter break starts December 21

THANK YOU to the Garretson Blue Dragon community. One month ago, we honored Tina Sandbulte's memory by donating money to CMN and in turn being able to wear hats and pajamas. We raised \$1,834. Norinda donated that money yesterday during a triple match. So your benevolence resulted in over \$5,500 for the Children's Miracle Network.

Santa's magic lights up Garretson

by Kylie Uhl
senior writer

It's time to show off our Christmas spirit again and Garretson is doing just that with their second year of the parade of lights.

For the parade, the line up starts on 5th street, goes south on main and ends at the legion. With this being the second year the parade of lights, they are going to be having longer list of participants, almost tripled the list of last year.

Any business, neighborhood, or even class can participate in the pa-

rade. In order to be in the parade, one can register their Christmas themed float, tractor, or vehicle. "I think it would be kind of nice to see the classes do it," said coordinator John Brinkman referring to the holiday parade, making it a similar experience to homecoming.

Banker John Brinkman, got inspiration from the community saying they wanted to mimic Sioux Falls' parade of lights in downtown Sioux Falls. One feature Sioux Falls has during their parade is the hot air balloon burner; while in Garretson Mike Stoterau brings his welding skills and

lets sparks fly on his float.

Along with the parade this year the community is also allowed to decorate campsite spots at Split Rock Park. Any business or person can rent a spot to decorate, and make a Christmas display. After the parade people of the community are invited to drive through or walk around and look at the eye catching displays.

The hometown Christmas offers many other family filled fun activities through that day. See the list on page two for the hometown Christmas schedule.

JOKE: In a snowbank

BRAINTEASER: Broken promise

GBB Preview *Lady Blue Dragons bring back core of last year's team*



by Hayden Olofson
staff writer

Even though it's thirty degrees outside, the girls are breaking a sweat in the gym, doing drills, scrimmages, and hustling the ball up and own the court. The Garretson girls basketball team started practice this week with two seniors taking the place of one senior last year.

Head coach Matt Schrank said, "Kylie Greenhoff graduated and we lost some role players that are not returning to the team this year. So there will be a lot of opportunities for others to step up." Such as seniors Aftyn Heitkamp and Rachel Kindt filling the shoes of Greenhoff.

Last season the Lady Blue Dragons went 13-8 overall, 4-3 in the BEC, taking the consolation championship in the BEC tournament.

Schrank, in his second year as girls' head coach, along with assis-

tant coach Bev Howe set some goals. They are hoping to win their conference as well as the conference tournament, a SoDak16 berth is high up on the list, and of course the ultimate goal is a trip out to Rapid City.

While the goals are lofty, they have the components to make it happen. Last season Lizzie Olson was a 1st team Big East All-Conference selection while Lauren Heesch and Jaelyn Benson were honorable mentions. All three players are returning this season.

The girls basketball team at this point are looking for leaders to shine on the court. That opportunity is out there for everyone. This season Coach Schrank hopes to be a little more balanced in scoring as well.

The ladies have a competitive schedule with both conference and non-conference games. Coach

Schrank believes that all teams are beatable but emphasized a few in conference, "McCook Central/Montrose, Flاندreau, and Beresford will be the teams to beat." He also said, "We are going to have a balanced attack on offense, and we will be able to throw a lot of different defenses at teams. Our deep bench and versatility will give teams a tough time".

This girls basketball team could be a very exciting team to watch this year. There are a lot of girls that are vying for varsity playing time. There will be a constant competition throughout the year. The community was able to preview that last night during an intersquad scrimmage. The Lady Blue Dragons tip off their season a week from today at Tri-Valley as part of a boys-girls double header.

Get to know your journalists

Christmas Edition

NOEL JOHNSON

by Kylie Uhl



Q: Being born the day after Christmas, was your name inspired by your birthdate?

A: Yes actually it was, it means the joy from the birth of Christ and I guess my parents thought I was joyful or something. Plus grandmas picked it out.

Q: What's your favorite Christmas song and why?

A: The First Noel cause it's a whole song with my name which I feel like is uncommon.

Q: What is your favorite Christmas goodie?

A: My favorite Christmas goodie is the little snowman cookies or cheesecake bites.

Q: What's your favorite part about journalism?

A: I like writing and complaining about my article 'til 12 the night before.

Q: What's your favorite topic to write about?

A: I like writing about tragedies or accidents because they usually have a lot of information and are more interesting to write.

Home Town Christmas

On the Streets of Garretson

December 13th -15th, 2019

Friday, Dec. 13th

10:00am-5:00pm **The Treasure Chest** - 25% off Melissa & Doug toys and Master Piece puzzles... BOGO sale (buy one get 2nd 50% off) on socks, coloring books, Golden books and "I Can Read" books (excludes Melissa & Doug coloring books) Other sales throughout the store. Frozen Butter Braids and Kuchen available to purchase anytime in December (fundraiser for the BDA daycare building).

11:00am-6:00pm **Tucker's Walk Vineyard** -2 miles West on Hwy 11 at 48348 254th St. Wine tasting and appetizers available along with specialty wine drinks. Multi-colored popcorn on-the-cob and succulent plants also available.

1:00pm - 5:00pm **Humble Hill Winery** - 3/4 mile N on Hwy 11. Wine tasting, cheese sampling, additional special wine for the holidays including hot Cherry-Apple-Cinnamon Wine, Pineapple Wine and more.

5:00pm-10:00pm **Light the Park** - In the Splitrock Park

Saturday, Dec. 14th

7:00am-9:00pm **Garretson Food Center** - Register for one of five, \$25 GFC gift cards to be given away.

9:00am-11:00am **FREE CUSTOMER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST** at the American Legion - French Toast, Sausage and Beverage.

Noon **Retirement of tattered American Flags** - Ceremony and demonstration
We welcome you to bring your tattered flags so it can properly be retired. New American flags will also be available for sale: 2'x3' Nylon - \$11, 3'x5' Nylon - \$16 and 3'x5' Polyester and longest lasting - \$21. Call Bob Bennett to order one at 605-594-3930.

9:00am-Noon **Treatment for Toys at Palsades Chiropractic** - Stop in with a New Toy worth \$15 or more and get a FREE Treatment! Toys will be donated locally.

9:00am-Noon **Food Pantry Item for Free Craft ticket** - Drop off a Food Pantry item at **The Treasure Chest** and receive 1 FREE ticket per food item for Kids Crafts at the School Commons (max 5 Free tickets).

9:00am-3:00pm **Holiday Vendor Fair** at the Legion



9:00am-6:00pm BOGO sale (buy one get 2nd 50% off) on socks, coloring books, Golden books and "I Can Read" books (excludes Melissa & Doug coloring books) Other sales throughout December (fundraiser for the BDA daycare building).

10:00am-4:00pm **Garretson Museum** - FREE Popcorn & cider. \$5 off pottery. Guess number of pieces in jar. Drawing for the Bull Whip at 3:00 pm

10:30 am **"Shop Garretson First" drawings** at the Legion.

11:00am-11:30am **Story Time** at the School by Garrick Moritz.

11:00 am-2:00 pm **"O" So Good** - Serving pop-up soups, sandwiches and coffee

11:00am-3:00pm **Kids Christmas Crafts with Santa Claus present 'til 2:00 pm** Garretson School Commons (\$1 per craft). Kids, bring your letters for Santa Claus.

11:00am-6:00pm **Tucker's Walk Vineyard** -2 miles West on Hwy 11 at 48348 254th St. Wine tasting and appetizers available along with specialty wine drinks. Multi-colored popcorn on-the-cob and succulent plants also available.

Noon-5:00pm **Tour of Nativity Scenes** - Kris Rogen's home - 48194 252nd Street. Children are welcome. You are also welcome to drive out.

1:00pm-5:30pm **Humble Hill Winery** - 3/4 mile N. on Hwy 11. Wine tasting, cheese sampling, additional specialty wine for the holidays including hot Cherry-Apple-Cinnamon Wine, Pineapple Wine and more. Candy Cane Ornament Classes by Cords & Corks.

3:00 pm **Garretson Museum** - drawing for the Bull Whip

2:00 pm-4:00pm **Fire Truck Rides & Toddler Train Rides** (weather permitting)

5:00pm-10:00pm **Light the Park** - Splitrock Park with **Santa** present 6:00-7:30 pm with treats

5:30pm **Christmas Parade of Lights** beginning at City Hall. Call Anna 594-6721 or John 594-3423 with questions and/or to register. Light up your horse, dog, tractor, truck/car, make a float, etc.

6:00pm - 8:00pm **"O" So Good** - Live Jazz music with Peter K

8:00pm-midnight **The Gulch** - Undercover Band performing

Sunday, Dec. 15th

Noon-5:00pm **Tucker's Walk Vineyard** - 2 miles West on Hwy 11 at 48348 254th St. Wine tasting and appetizers available along with specialty wine drinks. Multi-colored popcorn on-the-cob and succulent plants also available.

Noon-5:00pm **Humble Hill Winery** - 3/4 mile N. on Hwy 11. Wine tasting, cheese sampling, additional specialty wines for the holidays including hot Cherry-Apple-Cinnamon Wine, Pineapple Wine and more. Candy Cane Ornament Classes by Cords & Corks.

12:30 pm - 4:00 **The Treasure Chest** - Some Holiday sales on Friday and Saturday

Christmas Word Search

C	D	E	C	E	M	B	E	R	U	S	T	O	R	V
G	H	D	W	A	R	E	C	R	A	O	S	R	I	P
I	A	R	R	E	I	N	D	E	E	R	A	B	E	R
N	S	L	E	I	G	H	E	J	A	N	S	R	C	E
G	N	G	A	S	E	O	G	I	S	A	N	T	A	S
E	O	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	M	O	J	N	E
R	R	I	H	L	V	C	N	G	D	E	R	O	D	N
B	T	C	A	O	I	D	G	L	D	N	T	L	Y	T
R	H	A	M	E	L	G	E	E	A	T	H	G	C	S
E	L	V	E	S	G	L	H	D	E	S	P	H	A	L
A	I	C	R	D	A	S	Y	T	Y	C	O	T	N	E
D	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	X	L	S	E	E
A	R	A	Y	B	R	E	A	S	A	N	E	R	A	F
C	A	R	O	L	S	W	R	W	I	N	T	E	R	S
S	T	G	I	N	G	L	L	Y	O	R	N	A	S	T

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|
| CANDY CANE | HOLLY | SANTA |
| CAROLS | LIGHTS | SLEIGH |
| CHRISTMAS | MERRY | STOCKING |
| DECEMBER | NORTH POLE | TREE |
| ELVES | ORNAMENTS | WINTER |
| GINGERBREAD | PRESENTS | WREATH |
| JINGLE | REINDEER | |



2019-2020 basketball preview

by **Parker Schlenker**
staff writer

With high hopes for the 2019-2020 season, the boys Blue Dragons basketball team's expected outcome is unpredictable with such a young squad: new coaches, upcoming high schoolers, and new seniors.

While the coaches are not new to the program, they are filling in different roles. New head coach Tad Heitkamp has tons of experience coaching with 18 years under his belt. Four years of junior high, 13 years of assistant coaching, and this will be his 18th year but first as head coach. And new assistant coach Cory Buchholz will be going on his sixth year of coaching basketball, all previous years were served as a volunteer to the high school boys basketball program.

Along with coaches in new roles,

players find themselves there too. The Blue Dragons have only one returning starter, Sophomore Dylan Kindt. Others have experience on the varsity court but will see a shift in their roles and playing time this year.

With undecided captains both coaches stated that for the time being the four seniors: Cole Skadsen, Hayden Olofson, Trey Buckneberg, and Lucas Fitzgerald, will be the captains until further notice.

With the four seniors bringing leadership to the team Coach Buchholz and Coach Heitkamp both see the team coming together as one complete unit and can't say just one or two players are bringing leadership to the team. "We as a team, are great at picking each other up and making sure that, from seniors down to freshman, everybody knows that they belong and we are

here for each other," Buchholz stated and Heitkamp agreed.

Again both coaches believe that the goal for the team is to learn to become one and just become a better team through working on communication and overall teamwork but also believe that if they achieve the goal they have set they should have no problem having a winning record this year with a team with as much skill as this one.

Coaches Heitkamp and Buchholz pegged teams to beat this year in the BEC as Sioux Valley and Baltic because both teams have good upcoming players with experience playing varsity basketball.

The boys were able to showcase skills in a scrimmage last night and have their first contest next Friday at Tri-Valley. The sky's the limit this young Blue Dragon team.

South Dakota's deadliest plane crash

by **Noel Johnson**
staff writer

This past Saturday a plane leaving Brule County took a flight toward the worst. Making it not more than a mile from Chamberlain Municipal before crashing into a near by corn field killing 9, leaving 3 injured.

Twelve people, ages ranging from 7-81 from the Hansen, Dennert, and Naylor family, were on board heading back to Idaho Falls from their annual hunting trip in Chamberlain. So far only 2 men had been identified as Kirk and Jim Hansen who had been the founders of a wellness program called Kyani.

After a scheduled take off headed toward Idaho Falls around 12:26 p.m., the pilot had not activated his flight plan, causing the FAA to issue a missing plane. Then shortly after the plane had went down. The large amount of snow and freezing rain that South Dakota received put Chamberlain under a winter weather advisory before the plane had even departed. These conditions may have caused issues if the air craft wasn't heated in a hanger correctly ice may had frozen over the wings that would corrupt problems.

Along with other issues the Pilatus PC-12 is a small aircraft that isn't know for being very reliable in the past has showed tremendous improvement and capability. The single engine plane's seating capacity is nine while 12 people were on board. Other theories as to the cause of the crash have been introduced as well like the engine may have had ice frozen inside causing it to fail. The accident is still being investigated.

Overall this accident is marked as South Dakota's deadliest plane crash since 1968, a little over 5 decades ago. A family hunting trip and Thanksgiving weekend was ended with a horrific event and devastating news to many Idaho Falls relatives and community members.

Two football legends dead

Two of the greatest to step on a football field pass on in the same week

by **Preston Bohl**
staff writer

This past week, the football community lost two greats. The winningest coach in America, John McKissick, and Auburn legend Pat Sullivan.

John McKissick

The nation's winningest football coach died at 93. John McKissick passed on Thursday, November 28 of natural causes in hospice care.

His 621 wins at Summerville High in South Carolina made him the nation's winningest football coach at any level. McKissick was the head coach at Summerville from 1952 to 2014 before retiring in 2015. In 63

seasons, he won 37 regional championships, along with five undefeated seasons and only two losing seasons.

McKissick finished with 10 South Carolina State Championships and an unbelievable overall record of 621-155-13. His last state championship came in 1998.

Also, he became the first ever football coach to win 500 football games in 2003, and reached a remarkable 600 wins in 2012. He had never missed a game for 62 years until 2013, making him the longest serving high school football coach of all time.

Pat Sullivan

Auburn legend Pat Sullivan passed away at age 69 after an extended battle with cancer on Sunday, December 1. He was diagnosed with cancer in 2003 and fought a long and hard battle as a result of his treatment.

Sullivan played for the Tigers from 1968-71. He won the beloved Heisman trophy his senior year after throwing for 2,262 yards and 21 touchdowns. The former Auburn quarterback was the first ever alum-

ni to win the Heisman trophy for his school.

Sullivan polished his collegiate career with 6,534 yards passing and 54 touchdowns, along with 18 rushing touchdowns. He also was named to the All-America team and won the Walter Camp Award which is given to the nation's best college football player.

After college, he declared for the NFL draft, and was drafted by the Falcons. He played there for four years, and with the Redskins for a year. After playing, he coached quarterbacks at Auburn, and was head coach at TCU and Samford.

Both of these men will be greatly missed and their legacy will carry on forever.



John McKissick spent 63 years at the head coach at Summerville High School in South Carolina. Picture from USA Today <https://usatodayhss.com/2015/legendary-summerville-coach-john-mckissick-reflects-on-long-career>



Pat Sullivan earned the Heisman Trophy in 1971. Sullivan continued his football career as a coach at TCU and Samford. Picture from Fox News <https://www.foxnews.com/sports/heisman-winner-former-coach-pat-sullivan-dies-at-69>

Christmas cards for comfort

by **Noel Johnson**
staff writer

Small acts make a big difference

This year marks the 9th annual Christmas card dispersion to the senior citizens and less fortunate put on by Mr. Hughes.

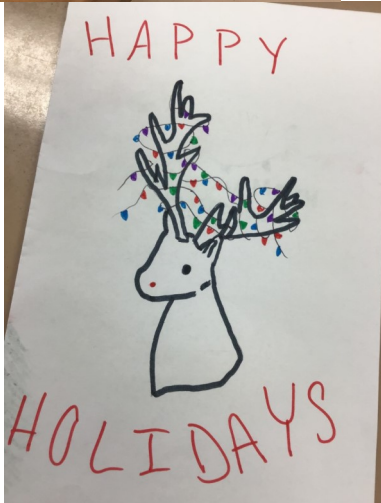
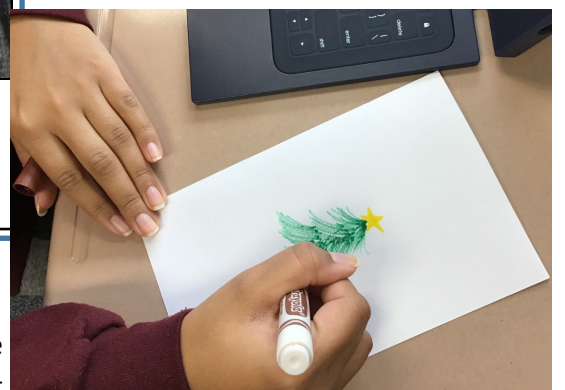
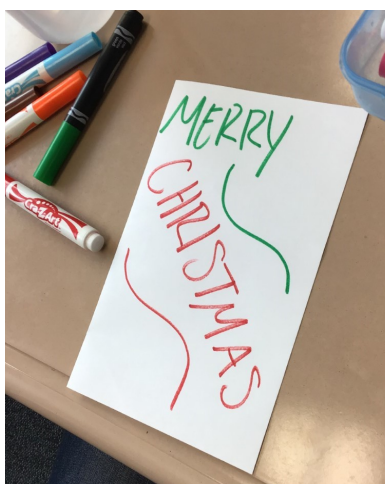
Every year since 2010, Mr. Hughes asks students to make personalized cards that are brought to senior citizen facilities and shelters around the Sioux Falls metro area. Cards are made to bring joy into someone's life during the holidays, and because something so little can mean so much.

"I started doing this primarily for senior citizens because they are part of our population that gets overlooked, and so many of them spend holidays alone without the love and attention from their family members," said Hughes.

Receiving something simple like a card can change a whole perspective and mood about the holiday season and that is why Hughes and students from the school do this annually. Along with changing perspective and mood about the season, it also changes the way the importance of it is viewed.

"Those who might be alone through the season might not feel alone if they know someone cares, and I think it's important to build and connect those bridges between the youth. It also lets children know it's very important to make those small gestures," said Mr. Hughes.

Giving just a little 5 minute written card can brighten someone's holiday. All cards must be turned in Friday, December 20th, plus there is help wanted to hand them out



Tesla cybertruck takes internet by storm

by **Mason Hofer**
senior writer

Tesla, a company owned by Elon Musk, the CEO of SpaceX, has taken the world by storm in the last decade. Tesla introduced the world's first self-driving car, and all of its cars

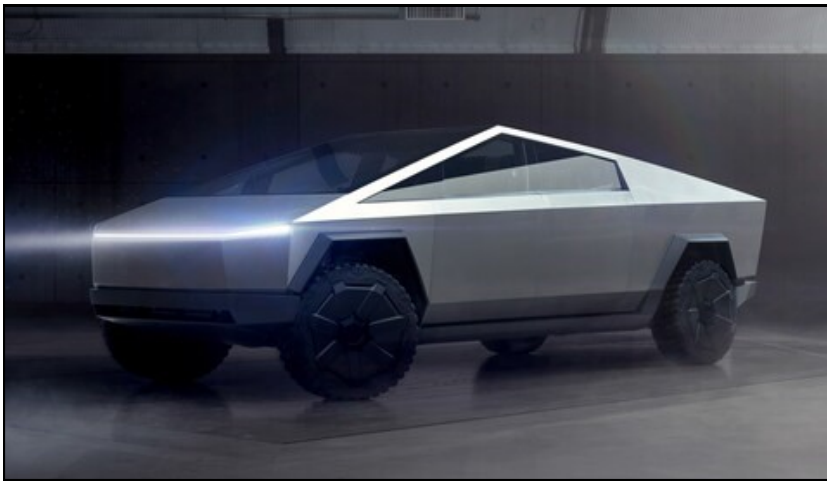


Photo from MotorTrend <https://www.motortrend.com/news/tesla-cybertruck-electric-pickup-functionality-problems/>

are electric: This makes the vehicles very light and allows them to reach incredible speeds.

Tesla's newest vehicle is the Tesla Cybertruck. This is Tesla's very first pickup. It has three different variants, the cheapest is \$39,900 then it is \$49,900 the most luxurious make is \$69,900. All three of the models have the ability to self drive, it will just cost an extra \$7,000. The most expensive variant has a 0-60 of 2.9 seconds, making it faster than most sports cars, and it can out pull a Ford F-250.

Tesla had a show at the SpaceX warehouse showing off the Cybertruck and their new ATV. At the show Elon Musk demonstrated the durability of the vehicle, after the body was hit multiple times with a baseball bat and showed no damage whatsoever. Musk stated that the body was bulletproof to a 9mm pistol.

They then demonstrated Tesla Armor Glass; they had a uncut piece of window glass, and dropped a metal ball on it from high up, the

glass remained unphased. Musk then decided to throw the metal ball at the windows on the truck, both windows broke. This then took the media by storm, there were all sorts of memes and articles poking fun at it. Some people believe Musk intentionally broke the windows because he knew this would happen. Tesla does not do any of its own advertising other than Musk's twitter page.

Are Teslas good for our area of the country? No, Teslas are completely electric, meaning everything

you do in the vehicle drains the battery, charge your phone, listening to the radio, and the killer for our area, air conditioning. In the Midwest, we are constantly using air conditioning to keep our vehicles the right temperature. Combine that with below freezing temperatures, and your trip could be cut very short by a dead battery.

For warm states, Teslas are amazing for, you will get the most out of your battery, and due to more population, there are more superchargers placed periodically.

The public was given the ability to pre order the Cybertruck with a small down payment of \$100. As of Nov 27, Elon Musk stated there had already been 250,000 pre-orders. The two more expensive models are expected to be delivered late 2021, and the cheapest will be delivered late 2022.



Photo from Gear Junkie <https://gearjunkie.com/tesla-cybertruck>

Advent calendars

by **Nobel Nothstine**
staff writer

In countries around the world, some people leave out cookies and milk, some light up the tree and give gifts, and some do advent calendars. The process is simple: count down the days in December leading up to Christmas Eve.

Advent calendars come in a variety of forms and styles, from calendars for wine-loving connoisseurs, to jewelry, make up, toys—and of course, the classic chocolate calendar. Traditional Advent calendars feature the manger scene, Saint Nick, or winter weather, while others range in theme, from sports to technology.

They come in a multitude of forms, from a simple paper calendar with flaps covering each of the days, to reusable tie fabric strips, to painted wooden boxes with cubby holes for small items. Many Advent calendars take the form of a large rectangular card with "windows", one for each day of December leading up to and including Christmas Eve (December 24) or Christmas Day (December 25).

Consecutive doors are opened every day leading up to Christmas, beginning on December 1. Often the doors are distributed across the calendar in no particular order. The calendar windows open to reveal an image, a poem, a portion of a story (such as the story of the Nativity) or a small gift, such as a toy or a chocolate item.

Often, each window has a Bible verse and prayer printed on it, which Christians incorporate as part of their daily advent devotions. Advent calendars may also have puzzles and games printed on their reverse side.

Though we're already a few days into December, you can still discover the excitement of having your family count down the days to Christmas!

I spy **Difficulty Level:**
SUPER EASY

Can you find the following items?

- Santa hat
- Snowman
- Angel

- Santa on a Reindeer
- Present
- Gingerbread Man

What else can you find?



Created by Oliviyah Thornton

Black Friday Recap

Busiest shopping day of the year did not disappoint

by **Grace Panning**
staff writer

This year's Black Friday is the most successful it's been in years. Many people participated in Black Friday by lining up around the block, or just taking any concrete space available, and waiting patiently in the freezing cold temps till the store doors open. Once the doors are opened wide people push or rush to find their first discounted item.

This week, Garretson's students answered some questions for what they found on Black Friday, and even if they didn't participate.

Q: What is something that you got on Black Friday that you are really excited about?

Sam Shellum (SS): I'm really excited about my new joggers I got

Jaelyn Benson (JB): I pretty much just got gifts for family and friends and so I'm really excited to give them those on Christmas

Q: What is something you wish you would've gotten?

SS: Some new Nike leggings.
JB: I wish I would've gotten more essentials that I needed at the time because all of the prices were lower.

Q: What is your favorite item you purchased?

SS: Favorite item I purchased was a new echo dot.
JB: My favorite item I purchased was probably my gift

for my secret Santa because it's fun to shop for the things that you also have interests in.

Q: What are you hoping for for Christmas?

SS: I'm hoping for some AirPods.
JB: I think the thing I want the most for Christmas is either shoes or lots of clothes and money.

Q: Why weren't you able to go Black Friday shopping?

Sophia Mosley (SM): Because I have no money.
Chloe Flahaven (CF): I did not want to go and even if I could, I still wouldn't have gone.

Q: If you were able to go what would you have gotten?

SM: Probably a Nike sweatshirt.
CF: I don't know there's nothing I really needed.

Q: Do you prefer online shopping to shopping in stores?

SM: Shopping in a store
CF: I prefer online shopping because then I don't waste time to go to the store if the store doesn't have what I want.

Q: Have you ever had a bad experience with Black Friday?

SM: No I've never been Black Friday shopping.
CF: I have never gone shopping on Black Friday.

