

Hannah Frewald takes her third straight spelling bee

Blue Ink



More new testing options arise

Sophomores get to have a practice of the ACT before officially taking it in 18 months

by **Sam Gonzalez**
staff writer

Lip biting, hands shaking, you race to finish the last few questions on the test with only a one minute left. For some, testing comes easily, but others; just the thought of a test deflates their heart. The PreACT is the perfect way to get a head start for a test especially for those who get frenzied.

The real ACT consists of five timed sections: English, Math, Reading, Science, and an optional writing course. Since there are no universi-

ties in South Dakota that require an ACT score, there is no reason to take it. Unless you plan on going out-of-state, then most are require a score.

"For the last four years, Garretson High School has been offering an ACT prep course in the spring. Since offering this prep, our school's ACT Composite average has been better than the South Dakota average." Mrs. Danielson, high school counselor, stated.

This is the first year that sophomores are able to take the ACT prep. It's optional, so no pressure. This Wednesday, about half of the sopho-

more class took the PreACT in four full class periods.

"I feel like taking the PreACT will help me get a general idea of what to expect when I take the ACTs. Also with my results, I will know what areas I need to improve on so I can focus my future studying on those."

Though you feel like you won't need a practice run, it'll definitely look good on an application and give you a confidence boost. It doesn't sound fun, but if you're investing in a good career or college, the ACTs is a test to take.

2016, a memorable year, has almost come to a close

A very brief year in review reminds of us everything that happened over the last 366 days

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer

2016 may not have been the best year for most people and this year may have gone by faster than you thought. There are also some things that you might think back on and think "That was this year?" For those exact reasons here is a short, little recap of 2016.

NBA: The Golden State Warriors (73-9) were up 3-1 in the NBA finals, but the Cleveland Cavaliers (57-25) came back and won three straight games to win the finals.

MLB: The Cleveland Indians (94-67) were in the same situation as the Warriors, up three games to one.

But the Chicago Cubs (103-58) came back, winning their first World Series in over 100 years.

NFL: The Denver Broncos (12-4) rolled over the Carolina Panthers (15-1) in Super Bowl 50.

Government: Donald Trump defeats Hilary Clinton in the presidential election.

Mass Hysteria: There was a breakout of clowns, some creepy, some not, around Halloween 2016.

Olympics: The 2016 Olympics were held in Rio. Swimmers Michael Phelps added more gold to his collection and Ryan Lochte made headlines for all different reasons.

Health: There was a breakout disease called Zika in 2016. It has been linked to development issues in new-

borns.

Opt Out: The Garretson community rallied around the school and passed an opt out.

Powerball: Each of the three winners collected 310 million dollars in one of the largest jackpots ever.

Winter Weather: A massive now storm in New York dumped a couple feet of snow over the northeast and delayed over 2,000 flights.

Summer Weather: Hurricane Matthew ravaged the Caribbean area, much of the damage was concentrated in Cuba in this tragedy.

Music: GHS band and choir traveled to Chicago. They had a great time and shared their exploits on social media with #GHSinChicago

Santa did what?

Our iconic Santa Clause takes on different personas and tasks depending on where in the world you are

by **Emily Malsom**
staff writer

Santa came to the United States in the 1860's. He is known as such from a Dutch word sintaklaas. Santa became the iconic figure of the holiday season in America after being featured in a novel written by Washington Irving about 200 years ago. A typical Christmas in the United States is often centered on snow, cookies, and Christmas gifts. Santa comes down the chimneys and through the doors of homes everywhere to stuff the stockings and put presents under the tree. There is even a website to track Santa on Christmas Eve. (<http://www.noradsanta.org/>)

Christmas in the Congo of Africa involves caroling in the morning, attending a worship service with a love gift as offering to Jesus. Christmas dinner follows with a table placed outside of the house and inviting friends. Christmas is celebrated in the summer instead of the win-

ter and has many flowers instead of inches of snow.

In Finland, they set up their Christmas trees on Christmas Eve. They also tie a sheaf of grain, nuts, and seeds to a pole in the garden for the birds to eat. The Christmas Eve meal is begun when the birds have eaten the grain in the garden and when the first star appears in the sky. They also say Merry Yule instead of Merry Christmas.

Holland celebrates Christmas much different than the United States. St. Nicholas arrives in Holland in November, wearing bishop's robes. He travels by boat from Spain and doesn't have any elves, but rather a helper called Black Peter who wears Spanish clothing. St. Nicholas and Black Peter spend their time making a list of what all the children want and writing their behavior in a little red book. Farmers in Holland blow long horns over wells at sunset during the Christmas season to declare the coming of Christmas. Christmas Day is a religious time in-

volving going to church, sitting around the tree, singing carols, and telling stories.

Russia observes Christmas Eve on January 6th and generally people fast 39 days before. When the first star appears in the sky that night, a 12 course meal is eaten in honor of the 12 apostles. Hay is spread on tables and floors so that their horse feed grows plentiful all year. Also people make clucking sounds to encourage their hens to lay eggs. Babushka is the Santa-like figure of the holidays in Russia. It is said that she didn't want to go with the three wise men because of the cold. Later she changed her mind and tried to catch up. Along the way to the manger, she collected gifts for Jesus. After searching unsuccessfully, she gave the gifts to children throughout Russia.

No matter what you believe or what nationality you are, the spirit of giving is alive during the holiday season all around the world.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: According to Business Insider, the cost for all the items in the "12 Days of Christmas" totals \$34,363.49, up a few hundred dollars from 2015.

GERMAN WORD OF THE WEEK:

Merry Christmas =
Frohe
Weihnachten
(fro-heh vie-nahk-ten)



JOKE OF THE WEEK: What kind of ball doesn't bounce?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: The following are the first letters of the first few words of popular Christmas songs. Can you decipher it?

1. IBHFCYCPOM
2. SBSBICITIC

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday, December 22

- MS to Pizza Ranch
- Wrestling @ MVP Invite (2:00)

Friday, December 23

- No School—Winter Break
- GBB @ Entringer Classic in Colman vs. ORR (3:00)

Wednesday, December 28

- JV BBB @ Dell Rapids Tourney

Thursday, December 29

- Wrestling @Floyd Farrand Tourney at Lincoln HS (11:00)
- BBB @ Parker (4:00)

Friday, December 30

- Wrestling @ Floyd Farrand Tourney at Lincoln HS (11:00)

Saturday, December 31

- BBB @ Entringer Classic in Brookings v. Arlington (11:00)

Monday, January 2

- No School—Winter Break
- BBB v. Vermillion (6:15/7:00)

Tuesday, January 3

- School Resumes
- GBB v. Dell Rapids (6:15/7:00)

Scan for a look at the district activities calendar.



Worth Mentioning

Winter Break lasts from Friday, December 23 through Monday,

Gift guide for the meme lover in your life

A unique holiday approach to gift giving

by **Sylvia Larson**
staff writer

Since we all grew up in the age of technology, most high school and middle schoolers have an account on the popular photo sharing app, Instagram. A lot of insta-savvy teens have perfected their aesthetic, and post photos on the regular to showcase their action packed lifestyle. Some, however, prefer to use the app to scroll through and discover new memes.

What's a meme, you ask? A meme, in simpleton terms, is an inside joke for people who spend too much time on the internet. Memes originated on websites like 4chan and Reddit back in the early 2000s, but have since found their way into the public eye. Since old-school memes are pretty well known to other adamant memers, a meme queen may want to showcase his or her love for the craft.

It's pretty much too late to order anything online to get here before Christmas, but I have comprised a list of the best gifts for the meme lover in your life.

Popular (Though Slightly Outdated) Meme Stickers



Why not embellish your laptop or notebook with jokes that only few understand? With these stickers, that can be done! The pack includes a bunch of stickers, including Pepe and cringing Ariana Grande. At a low price of only \$5, it's possible to get everyone on your Christmas list.



None Pizza With Left Beef Neck-lace

Originating from an ancient screenshot of someone's late-night alcohol-induced pizza order, this charm really captures the magic of the no-sauce-no-cheese-only-beef-on-the-left pizza. At a feisty \$16, fans of this pizza pie concoction can relish their love forever with the keepsake pendant.

What Would Nick Cage Do? Tee Shirt

The almighty Hollywood God Nicolas Cage has found a way to



make a meme out of himself practically since memes started appearing online. This tee pokes fun at that by adapting the popular Christian mantra 'What Would Jesus Do?' And putting a meme-afied spin on it. For only \$21, meme lovers can showcase their love of sarcasm and irony to the world.

Sloth Drinking Starbucks Mug

This one isn't necessarily a meme, but any cultured meme lover can probably identify with a sloth. For \$16, you can get the more basic meme aficionados a mug to hint at their hidden identity.



What Do You Meme? Card Game

Originated by an instafamous guy with a NSFW username, What Do You Meme? is a new card game to compete with Cards Against Humanity. Unlike CAH, this game is appropriate for most



ages. Each player gets 7 caption cards to match to a chosen meme. For a hefty (but worth it) price of \$30, this game would be a great component to a meme queen's party game repertoire.

Harambe Is Bae And Also Santa Socks

Back in August, the nation received one of its many 2016 blows, the death of the gorilla Harambe. Harambe became one of the most popular memes of the year, spawning national unity and many, many, tumblr textposts. These \$14 socks would be perfect for the juniors this year, who put Harambe on their class tee shirts. Last but not least,

The Bee Movie Script Except Its Printed In Its Entirety On A Tee Shirt

The Bee Movie, along with being one of the best movies to ever grace our TV screens, is also arguably one of the funniest memes of 2016. Showcasing your love for the art of meme irony will only cost you \$17.



Deep dark chocolate cupcakes

Tabi Klingenberg shares a holiday dessert favorite

Ingredients:

1 3/4 cups flour, unsifted
2 cups granulated sugar
3/4 cup Dutch process cocoa
2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. salt
2 large eggs
1 cup brewed coffee, strong (not hot)
1/2 cup sour cream
1/2 cup sour milk or buttermilk
1/2 cup vegetable oil
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Directions:

1. In a large mixer bowl, combine the flour, sugar, cocoa, baking soda and powder, and salt. Next, pour the eggs, coffee, sour/buttermilk, sour cream, oil, and vanilla extract. Beat on medium speed for about two minutes.
2. The batter should be quite thin. Pour the batter into the muffin cups. Fill the cups three-quarters of the

way full. Bake for 17 -20 minutes at 350, or until a toothpick inserted in the center of a few cupcakes comes out clean. Let the cupcakes cool for a couple of minutes in the pan, then finish cooling on a rack. When they're completely cooled they can be frosted.

Fluffy Mocha Frosting

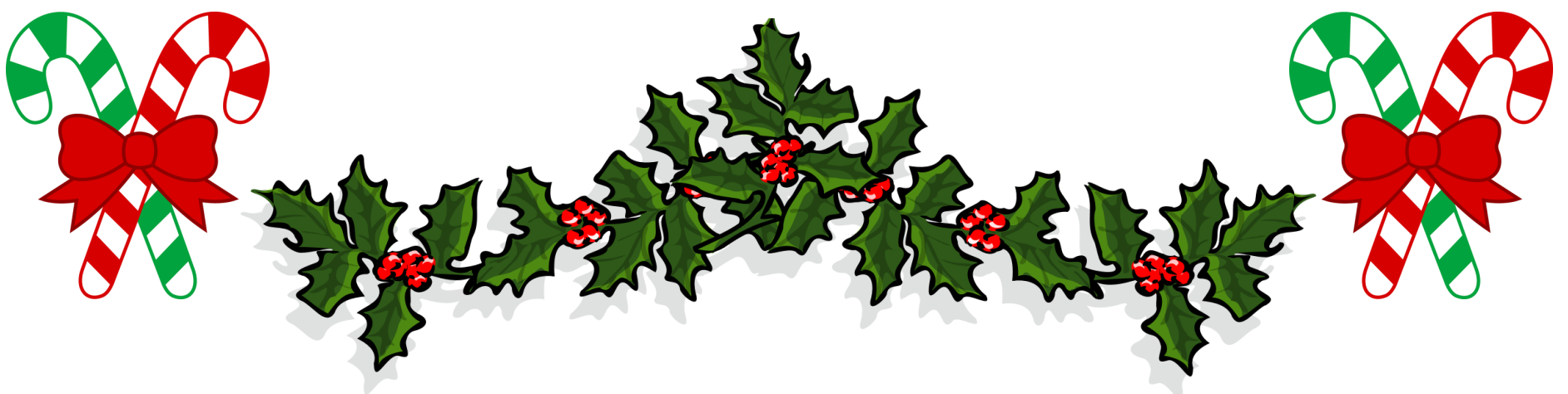
2 cups vegetable shortening
8 cups of confectioners' sugar (powdered sugar)
1/2 tsp. salt
2 tsp. vanilla
1 cup of heavy whipping cream
2 Tbsp. strong brewed coffee, very warm
4 to 6 Tbsp. grated chocolate, any kind you love (Bittersweet chocolate, Ghiradelli, etc.)
1 tsp. instant coffee powder/granules (or espresso powder)

Directions:

1. In a large mixing bowl, cream the shortening on medium speed until light and fluffy or for three minutes.
2. While the shortening's mixing, in a very small bowl mix the warm coffee and the grated chocolate. Stir until the chocolate is completely melted and combined. Set aside.
3. Add the sugar, salt, and vanilla gradually to the shortening, in the large mixing bowl, and continue creaming until well blended. Pour 2 oz. of the heavy cream in, then pour in the chocolate and coffee mixture. Mix on low speed until just blended.
4. Pour 4 oz. more of the heavy cream into the bowl. Increase the speed to high and beat until the entire mixture is light and fluffy, a couple of minutes or more. Stop every now and then to scrape the bowl and the beaters; the shortening tends to stick to the bottom and the sides of the bowl.



5. Reserve the remaining 2 oz. of cream to use just in case the frosting seems too thick to you, or too dry. Add more confectioners' sugar gradually if you think it's too thin.
6. Refrigerate any leftover frosting. This recipe makes at least enough to frost a two-layer cake, and more than enough for 24 cupcakes.



Fans flood theatres for newest Star Wars release

Rogue One: A Star Wars Story hit theatres last week and the buzz from the movie has been deafening all around

by **Peyton Sage**
staff writer

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away... Last Thursday the Star Wars franchise released their latest film, *Rogue One*, which is critically acclaimed. Thousands of fans lined up hours before the showtime, excited to see their favorite movie series on the big screen once again. *Rogue One* is the first stand-alone film in the entire series, making this the eighth Star Wars movie.

The movies are produced by Lucas Film and were recently distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures. Since then, the Star Wars franchise

has raked in about \$2.1 billion from their last movie, *The Force Awakens*, and about \$290 million from *Rogue One* so far.

Rogue One takes place about twenty-some years after *Star Wars: Revenge of the Sith*. *Star Wars: A New Hope* takes place immediately after *Rogue One*. The storyline: An army of Rebels follow Jyn Erso, the daughter of Galen Erso, the man who unwillingly had to help create the Empire's biggest weapon, the Death Star, and her quest to retrieve his secret plans for destroying it. Stealing the plans is a follow up to the fourth movie and by doing this, it sets up the plot for the fifth movie.

"My favorite thing about Star Wars are the interesting characters, planets, and spacecrafts

that capture the imagination," superfan Jason Sage stated. "I loved *Rogue One* because it has a great storyline that ties many loose ends from the previous movies together and of course, because it's another Star Wars movie," he added.

Another fan, Sylvia Larson, stated, "I love Star Wars overall, but the sixth movie [*Return of the Jedi*] is my favorite. Something about the way



it's all made in the 70's and whatever really floats my goat." She also added, "The end of *Rogue One* was 100/10."

Overall, *Rogue One* has had many positive responses and has many critics recommending everyone to go out and see it while it's still in theaters.

Easy Gingerbread Cookies

Jaden Braaten's tried and true recipe—a holiday favorite

Ingredients:

- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons molasses
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 1/4 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon ground ginger
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons ground cloves

- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 2/3 cup granulated sugar

Directions:

1. In large bowl, beat butter and brown sugar with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Beat in egg and molasses. Stir in remaining ingredients except granulated sugar. Cover; refrigerate at least 2 hours.
2. Heat oven to 350°F. Line cookie

sheets with cooking parchment paper or silicone baking mat. In small bowl, place granulated sugar. Shape dough into 1-inch balls; roll in sugar. On cookie sheets, place balls 2 inches apart.

3. Bake 8 to 10 minutes or just until set and soft in center. Cool 2 minutes; remove from cookie sheets to cooling racks. Store tightly covered up to 1 week.



Holiday Poem

Authored by Isaiah Mader

The room was all cozy,
But what's that I see?
4 little gingerbread men,
Marching around the babies' playpen.
Their sugary bodies in perfect sync,
Yet something was wrong as they stood on the brink.
Their faces showed anger and utter disgust,
Getting into that playpen was surely a must.
They went to a corner with heads huddled down,
The younger one seething, his face all a frown.
What was I seeing before my wide eyes?
The baby had stolen their favorite group of guys.
The rescue mission surely seemed simple,
All hinging on the guy with one very big dimple.
They would be in and out in a flash.
But maybe this idea was a little bit brash.
"Charge" the command was given,
Now this was really livin'.
The operation began, now in full swing,
But the troops became disgusted, hearing that deafening ring.
The telephone was bouncing off the hook,
As the father hobbled down displaying quite a dirty look.
The gingerbread men began their retreat,
Although certainly not giving in to defeat
It wouldn't be long before they continued their plan,
The only issue now, not wake Baby Stan.

Most annoying Christmas songs

Some have must plays, others have never plays



Santa Baby - Becca Weiland, Junior



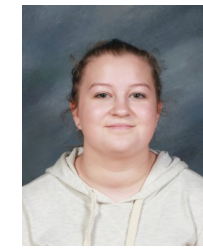
Santa Baby - Mataya Lines, Senior



Feliz Navidad - Mr. Sittig, Band teacher



Jingle Bells - Rakell Gnadt, Sophomore



Hot Chocolate - Keara Beck, Sophomore



I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas - Emily Erickson, Sophomore



Jingle Bells - Lana Braswell, Junior



I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas - Beth Schmidt, Junior



We wish you a Merry Christmas - Aliah Lymon, Freshman



All Christmas songs - Mason Hofer, Freshman



Jingle Bells - Cheyenne Helm, Freshman



Rocking around the Christmas tree - Carter Gullickson, Freshman



The Little Drummer Boy - Jacob Liester, Senior



Anything from Glee - Alex Uhl, Senior



Twelve Days of Christmas - Tabi Klingenberg, Senior



All Christmas Songs - Diontae Lymon, Junior



All Christmas Songs - Nic Pierret, Junior