

Films of December

By Zeb Johnson

December is a month filled with wonderful things. Among those things are a great many films to go enjoy. Throughout the whole month, giant releases are planned.

The first well publicized release is that of *Exodus: Gods and Kings*. *Exodus* is a film based off of the book of Exodus from the Bible, and will be released on December 12. It is a theatrical representation of the Jews' exodus from ancient Egypt.

The film stars Christian Bale as Moses, as he leads his people to freedom. The movie is seen to have spectacular special effects, with scenes such as the plague of locusts, and stunning views of an ancient city on the Nile river.

The second large release of the month is perhaps the most anticipated of the season. *The Hobbit: The Battle*

of Five Armies has been awaited for over a year, and will be released on December 17. It is the final part of the *Hobbit* trilogy, and as such will be the epic conclusion to a film series that brought one of the most treasured fantasy universes of all to life: *The Lord of the Rings*.

The return to Middle Earth will feature the same cast as in the other two parts, among them Ian McKellen, Martin Freeman, Benedict Cumberbatch, and Orlando Bloom.

On December 19, two films are being released nationwide. One of these is *Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb*. A release, third in the series, mostly geared towards families, the movie will be enjoyable to view. But perhaps more of its significance comes from the fact that the recently de-

ceased Robin Williams stars in it as Teddy Roosevelt. This was one of the last movies Williams worked on before his death, and will draw crowds to remember the actor.

The second large release on the 19th is a remake of the classic musical, *Annie*. The original *Annie* was released in 1982 and has been loved by many since its release. The 2014 edition will star Quvenzhané Wallis as Annie, Cameron Diaz as Miss Hannigan, and Jamie Foxx as Benjamin Stacks.

As you can see, December will be a month full of wonderful films to attend, whether bringing new life to a classic, remembering an amazing actor, traveling to Middle Earth, or watching a theatrical interpretation of one of the most famous tales in the Bible.

Growth Equals Options and Opportunities

By Jared Fitzgerald

Sioux Falls has been continuing to grow and develop, and with growth you need to update and get bigger and better things.

With the doubling population from 1961 to 2003, Sioux Falls decided to add additional venues for sporting events and concerts.

Even though the Sioux Falls Arena has been the entertainment hot spot ever since it was built over fifty years ago, changes needed to be made. The multipurpose building made it easy to satisfy the needs of the people. Concerts, rodeos, football games, almost anything you can think of were held in the Arena.

With the rapid expansion of Sioux Falls, the Arena was not enough for the increasing demand. Looking for answers, Sioux Falls decided to build the Sanford Pentagon and then next have the Denny Sanford Premier Center constructed.

Geof Furness commented, "It's great 'cause now more events will be

held in the area which will bring in more money."

Ground was broke on May 15, 2012 to build the Pentagon, and construction took a little over the year, finishing September 2013. This structure cost roughly \$19 million to erect.

Some amazing events have already been held in the Pentagon. An NBA game was held last year between the Minnesota Timberwolves and the Milwaukee Bucks to a sell out crowd. Also, there have been many college games held in the Pentagon including Wichita State vs. University of Memphis, and an upcoming game of the Jackrabbits hosting Florida Gulf Coast University, all being sellouts.

The Pentagon currently hosts multiple camps, clinics, and floor space for middle school and high school volleyball and basketball teams, as well as playing as the home of the Sioux Falls Skyforce, NBA D-League affiliate of the Miami Heat.

The Premier Center was put up after, costing around \$117 million; not cheap.

"That's where all the taxpayers money is going," responded Junior Jacob Fitzgerald.

The Premier Center has been talked about being built since 1999 but never received enough votes.

Just opening up a little over two months ago, the Premier Center has already held many events. This building was made to have more concerts than sporting events. Some big name artist that have or are going to play in the Premier Center are Demi Lovato, Jason Alden, and Eric Church.

Aside from holding concerts, the Premier Center is the home of the Sioux Falls Stampede.

The addition of the Pentagon and the Premier Center has created more revenue for the Sioux Falls area. They have also attracted many tourist from across the country to go to the events held in them.

Taking Holiday Spirit to Another Level

By **Cassy Heath**

Every holiday is different, because every family is too. Christmas could be having over the great aunts and uncles, that you pretended to remember, remind you that you were a baby once; and to be honest, that was probably the last time you saw them. Or, Christmas could be going to your grandma's house with your parents and siblings just for supper.

Cassie Faber said, "I go on family trips during the holidays, and we just bond with each other."

Even though it probably feels like you're being dragged along to every holiday event with your fami-



Mertz stated, "Holidays with me consist of watching football, eating big

meals, and spending time with my family." Some people can't relate to any of the above scenarios, and that is not always a bad thing; but it's not always good either.



Some kids don't wake up on Christmas at five in the morning looking for their Christmas presents because they know there won't be any. But they're not sad about it because that has never been something their family did.

Or, instead of those awkward moments with the great aunts and uncles, they are sitting at home acting as if today the "special" holiday was just any other day.

Sometimes people don't celebrate holidays because they don't have enough money for the presents or the food.

Programs and charities such as Toys for Tots and the American Red Cross



help low-income families have the holidays they deserve by getting them Christmas

presents, providing them with a Thanksgiving meal, or just supplying the families with proper winter clothing.

Anyone can donate to a charity, and just knowing that you may have made someone's holiday ten times better is all you really need in return.

You don't have to hesitate if you are feeling the Christmas spirit a little more this year. There is nothing wrong with starting a new family tradition.

There are a few charities that have drop offs in Garretson. Be on the lookout for those as the holidays near.

Others in the Sioux Falls area are: Toys for Tots, Operation Christmas Child, the Salvation Army, the Banquet, the Sioux Falls Humane Society, and Feeding South Dakota to name a few.



Let's Put on a Show

By **Beth Schmidt**

On Monday November 17, the Garretson Oral Interp team traveled to SDSU in Brookings to the Regional Oral Interp meet, hoping to qualify for the state competition.

Mr. Andrew TerWee stated, "For being a young squad they did well, and it was good to see other performers from different schools."

There were six students who participated from Garretson. They competed against eight other schools: Dell Rapids, Deu-



brook Area, Deuel, Flandreau, Flandreau Indian, Hamlin, Madison, and Sioux Valley.

Freshman Lana Braswell, who received fifth in poetry, recited, "If you want to do Oral Interp, I would suggest doing a poem that matches your personality."

The other interpers faired about the same as Braswell. Seventh grader, Noble Nothstine, placed fifth in story telling. Sophomore Abriana Scholl also placed fifth in oratory. In duet, juniors

Katie Giesler and Kyrstyn Beck were honored with a tie for fourth.

Freshman Sylvia Larson, who received fifth in humorous, announced, "There is a lot of pressure; I always try my best, but I never really cared if I made it or not."

Although no one qualified for state, the Garretson Oral interp team will show off their talents in Yankton for the Runners-Up meet on December 2nd.

Braswell noted "[Oral Interp] was a really good experience at regionals and I hope to do better at Yankton."

The Battle of Black Friday

By Tabi Klingenberg

It's nearly that time of year! No, not Thanksgiving, nor Christmas. For those out there who love a good deal and will do just about anything to get it, they better prepare to sacrifice their lives for the things that they so desperately want.

It is time to gather all the loose change you can and prepare to fight for what you have on one of the most deadly days of the year: Black Friday.

Some see Black Friday as the best day of the year, like a holiday itself, to get amazing things for great deals.

Others see it as the worst day of the year, a day to not be caught dead in any store; otherwise, they just may be.

Some of the more popular stores to shop with the best deals include Walmart, Target, Best Buy, and places within The Empire Mall.

It seems as if the most famous items to buy from stores like the ones mentioned are electronic devices, toys, household items, and clothing. So try to hurry, because by the end of next Friday, all those flat screens, blankets, and jeans will be gone!

Junior Annika Hanson commented, "People are trampling over each other trying to get good deals when you can just go online and get the same deals and no crowds."

John Hauck agrees, "It is not a good use of time. I would rather buy it on the internet." Fingers crossed the item wanted does not sell out too quickly.

Hauck continued, "Shopping on Thanksgiving is silly. It takes away from family time."

That may be true. After all, the people who really want those deals and will camp outside over night to get them are missing one of the other most unforgettable days of year, Thanksgiving.

After all, what is the point of going out and buying cheap Christmas gifts if you can't even spend Thanksgiving with your family?

Cyber Monday is only a few days after, but Black Friday seems to still be the preferred day.

According to Hanson, it is also a dark day, and that is why it is called



Black Friday. In other words, she thinks Black Friday got its name from the heavy amount of pedestrian and vehicle traffic following Thanksgiving.

Senior Ryan Garcia has a different perspective on Black Friday. "Black Friday is awesome. Black Friday is bae."

Garcia noted that the best part is definitely everything being super cheap. He might go to Wal-Mart, Target, and maybe Game Stop to attain some box figures and new electronics.

So after you're done being thankful for what you have, be sure to prepare for the "Battle of Black Friday."

Oh Snow You Didn't

By Alli Kruger

With the winter just starting, that means all the advantages and disadvantages come with the winter also.

Nuisances like slippery sidewalks, frostbite, and freezing temperatures are just around the corner.

But things like snowmobiling, sledding, snowboarding and skiing come to a great open, now that we have our first coating of snow.

Winter is a fascinating time to celebrate and enjoy all that it has to offer. It is predicted that it will be the snowiest the United States has been in 11 years. With that fact racking up on the news, people seem to be a bit worried.



All the snow is coming down from a really bad storm located around Siberia. Their storm is quickly becoming not only our storm,

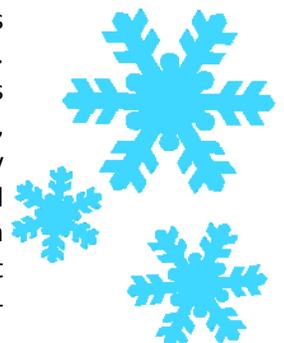
but it is also affecting Europe.

With it only being November and already seeing some below freezing temperatures on a consistent basis, the winter doesn't look like it's going to be great for winter activities, as the chances of frostbite and windburn are strong.

With December sneaking its way up to date, the temperatures are getting lower and lower. We are expected to have an average temperature of 16 degrees, so don't be afraid to wear a sweater for a good month or so.

The average annual snowfall for South Dakota is 44 inches.

Doesn't sounds very appealing, but hopefully this winter will turn out to be a safe and not too cold winter.



Mockingjay Set to Shock Nation

By Tait Johnson and Micah Mader

The long awaited third installment of the renowned *Hunger Games* trilogy has finally arrived in theatres. Psych! It's only part one.

In the past couple years, *The Hunger Games* has become widely understood, viewed, and engulfed in all age groups.

As previously stated, the book series is a trilogy, meaning there's three separate books. Having realized the movie series would soon come to a close, the director decided to make two separate movies, *The Mockingjay Part: 1*, and *The Mocking Jay Part: 2*. Whether or not this was simply a stunt to pad their pocketbooks or not is unknown. But one thing for sure, the fans are not any less ecstatic about the release.

"Last year I went to *Catching Fire* at midnight and it was quite the experience; there were a lot of people really

into *The Hunger Games*," stated junior McKenzie Blosmo.

She continued, saying, "After last year's experience, I don't think I could miss *Mockingjay's* midnight premiere."

Senior Brianna Mudder seemed to agree, replying, "I've read all the books and seen both movies, you could say I'm pretty pumped!"

Mockingjay Part: 1 premiered nationwide last night at midnight. Directors and cast members alike are hoping to quench the thirst of fanatics on opening night. As the movie makes its transition from arena drama to full-scale rebellion, directors and cast members hope to capture the essence of the book and create suspense for the fourth and final film.

With a substantial increase in total budget, the newest movie looks as if it will crush box office sales of the previous movies in the series.

The first *Hunger Games* reeled in \$152.5 million, while its big brother, *Catching Fire*, trounced its sales with a whopping \$409.4 million in total sales.

On the receiving end of this influx of income were the stars themselves. Jennifer Lawrence (who plays the main character, Katniss Everdeen) made just \$500,000 in the first *Hunger Games*, but wound up receiving a \$9.5 million raise for the last two movies.

Co-stars Josh Hutcherson (Peeta Mellark) and Liam Hemsworth (Gale Hawthorne) also benefited from the success earning a \$3 million raise from their previous \$2 million contract.

Starting its opening weekend off red hot, the film appears to record breaking. So grab a ticket while you still can and join the "The Hunger Games" movement!



Wrestling Watches Weight, Readies for the Season

By Lana Braswell

Summer and autumn have passed, leaving behind sports like volleyball, soccer, softball, cross country, and football. Transitioning into the winter, sports like basketball, hockey, and wrestling are starting to gear up! Some people are excited for the winter sports, especially the Blue Dragon Wrestlers.

Wrestlers like freshman Jack Konechne personally love the sport and can't wait for the season to get underway. "Everyone in my family on my dad's side wrestled, so I decided to keep the tradition going."

The Blue Dragon wrestlers are ready to officially hit the mats, for they have been practicing even before wrestling started. Some have been keeping themselves on the edge of gaining/dropping weight for their specific class and staying there.

Konechne stated he has high hopes for himself this season, with his main goal of making it to state. "I fell one match short last year and I know I can win," stated Konechne

Last year, the Blue Dragon grapplers sent four to state: Tristen Wagner, Brady Schleuter, Jacob Fitzgerald, and Tyler Willems, and are hoping to equal or surpass that number this season.

Leading the way for the wrestlers is long time coach Jason Bohl back for another season.

Bohl makes sure this the wrestlers are always ready for the competition by keeping fitness, endurance, and encouragement strong. He pushes the wrestlers to give 100% of their efforts 100% of the time.

Even as a coach, Bohl sets goals for himself. His main goals are to have the team improve throughout the year

and to qualify as many wrestlers as they can for the state tournament.

That may not be as easy as it seems. "There are only fifteen kids. That's lower than what we usually have. It would mainly be twenty which would be nice to have," Bohl explained.

The low numbers will cause the team to have to forfeit three or four weight classes at the meets.

There are three seniors finishing out their Blue Dragon wrestling careers: Tait Johnson, Tony Weiland, Tristen Wagner.

Coaches Jeff Konechne, Oran Sorenson, and Thomas Howe are working with Bohl to get their best out of their wrestlers for the fifteen meets they have all season.

So good luck wrestlers and may this season be a good one!

FFA Succeeds Once More

By Sylvia Larson

On Monday, November 17th, 18 members of the Garretson FFA team headed to Hartford for the District FFA Leadership Conference with their adviser, Ed Mueller. Mueller has been advising FFA here in Garretson for 21 years.

"Our group got third," stated freshman Emily Malsom, "I had a lot of fun. Everybody had their own little competition to go to, so it was competitions the whole night."

Throughout the day, the students participated in various competitions including Parliamentary Procedure, Agriculture Broadcasting, Agriculture Sales, and Market Planning.

In Agriculture Broadcasting, senior Joshua Leister placed first, while sophomore Alex Uhl placed third.



Senior Joshua Leister took first place in Broadcast Journalism, earning a trip to the state competition.

The Market Planning team of Grace Homer, Allison Longhenry, and Claire Longhenry placed first. As did Cole Fiegen, Evan Fick, Moriah Flanagan, and Breana Genzlinger for Agriculture Sales.

There were two Parliamentary Procedure teams, junior and senior, that both placed third.

The junior team was comprised of Chance Anderson, Hunter Carver, Kristin Cordier, Ryan Fick, Jaden Flanagan, Myranda Folland, and Emily Malsom.

The senior team included Moriah Flanagan, Breana Genzlinger, Grace Homer, Joshua Leister, Allison Longhenry, Claire Longhenry, and Lydia Olson.

"FFA builds up some really good leadership

skills," commented Julie Mueller, the middle school science teacher.

According to the National FFA Organization's website: "FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education."

Each conference or competition the students go to helps the FFA's definition right true to its word.

"It's fun to be involved with [FFA]. I'm glad I'm staying involved even though [my kids] aren't in it anymore," stressed Mrs. Mueller.

Great job!



The Market Planning team of Claire Longhenry, Grace Homer, and Allison Longhenry took first place on Monday.



Sophomore Alex Uhl earned third place in Broadcast Journalism at Monday's conference.

Senior Spotlight

NAME: Breana Gersting

SENIOR PROJECT: Learning to shoot high-powered rifles

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN: Volunteering at the Humane Society

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS

THE MOST: Mrs. Howe's physics class last year

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR: Go to SDSU for Electrical Engineering



The Agriculture Sales team of Breana Genzlinger, Evan Fick, Cole Fiegen, and Moriah Flanagan was awarded first place for their efforts.