

Blue Ink



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 2, Number 15

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Walt Disney was born today. Also today is the Netherlands' Christmas day, called Sinterklaas Day.

BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK: See if you can decipher these popular holiday songs. The clues would be synonyms for the typical titles.

- 1) Far off in a Feeder
- 2) Array the Corridor
- 3) Nocturnal Noiselessness

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney?

Answer on back page

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, December 5

- 6-12 Choir Concert @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 6

- Wrestling @ Flandreau Tourney

- 7/8 GBB @ BEC Tourney

Sunday, December 7

- FFA @ State Leadership Conference in Pierre

Monday, December 8

- FFA @ State Leadership Conference in Pierre

- 7/8/JV Wrestling @ Flandreau

- School Board meeting @ 5:30

Tuesday, December 9

- GBB v. Dell Rapids St. Mary

Thursday, December 11

- MS Spelling Bee @ 2:15

- Wrestling v. Fulda and Windom

- GBB v. Tri-Valley

Blue Ink Student Editor: Katie Giesler



Scan for the full upcoming event schedule

Lady Blue Dragons Basketball Bounces into Season!

By Beth Schmidt

The Lady Blue Dragons start off their basketball season as they come off a state appearance last year. The team lost two seniors, but retain quite a few ladies with state experience under their belt. Those same ladies want a chance to make it back to state this year.

The Lady Blue Dragons have been practicing for two weeks. They will have their first game versus Dell Rapids St. Mary's Cardinals on December 9th at home, recognizing their parents before the varsity game.

The head coach is Dave Mudder, and assisting is Coach Kevin Steckler.

This year, the Lady Blue Dragons have three seniors, four juniors, three sophomores, and six freshmen.

It is still early in the season, but the team is different than last year's; thus producing a different product on the court and having different goals for the team.

Sophomore Brandy Greenhoff declared, "I say we improved as a team, and as a team, have our free throw percentage higher than it was last year."

Steckler proclaimed, "My goals for each season never change. Number one, we want

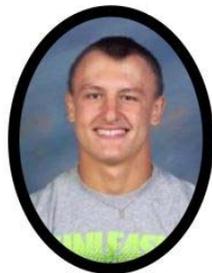
each and every girl to improve individually, that's the first goal. Number two, if each and every girl improves individually, we're going to improve as a team. And as we improve as a team, then our third goal is to play as well as we possibly can play each and every night. The last goal is we want them to have fun and learn something about the game that can help them in life."

Greenhoff asserted, "I hope that we have more wins than losses. I hope that as the season goes on, [that] we improve on offense and defense."

Steckler also revealed, "Well obviously a lot of [how] the season goes is based on those goals. Obviously we want our kids to improve. And if our kids improve, we're going to play well. And as long as we play well, we're going to have a chance to have a successful season."

The Lady Dragons are now continuing practices and counting down to the first game. The C-team begins at 5 and then JV at 6:15. Varsity will follow, tipping off at about 7:30. Good luck Lady Blue Dragons!

November Students of the Month Selected



Senior
Matt Johnson



Junior
Peyton Heitkamp



Sophomore
Noah Rieber



Freshman
Emily Malsom



Eighth Grade
Drew Blossom



Seventh Grade
McKenzie Northrup



Sixth Grade
Madden Lardy

Is Christmas Going Overboard?

By Abriana Scholl

Ah, it's that lovely time of year where houses are covered in beautiful Christmas lights and people are bundled up in sweaters while stocking up on their hot cocoa. But the question is, is Christmas coming a little too early or just at the right time?

As December has just made its way back for the year, businesses have started bringing back their cheesy and jolly advertisements. Some people are enjoying and absorbing the Christ-

mas spirit, while others feel that it's just too much to handle.

With stores displaying all their Christmas trees and decorations, it could either seem a little overwhelming, or comforting. Junior, Kyrstyn Beck shared, "I don't really mind it, to me Christmas is only Christmas for only the 22nd-26th of December."

"Honestly I really don't care, it's pretty much just 'cool sales,'" Beck stated.

For all the people who are early when it comes to Christmas shopping, the Christmas spirit really keeps up the motivation.

Many believe that the Christmas season starts just right after Black Friday. Others believe that they shouldn't bother putting up the tree until a week, or less, before Christmas day.

Whether it's too early or not, Christmas can begin and end at anytime for anyone.

#AlexFromTarget

By Alli Kruger

If you haven't heard about Alex from Target, also known as Alex LaBeouf, he has been nearly one of the most viral trends out there lately. He was recently on *Ellen*, a syndicated show locally aired on KSFY, as just a cashier from Target. His followers on twitter keep racking up day by day.

He literally had 300,000 followers in under twenty-four hours. As soon as someone had uploaded a photo of him on twitter, everyone started questioning, "Who is Alex from Target?"

Alex wasn't even aware that a photo had been taken and put on the Internet. When his manager showed him the picture, Alex thought it was fake, as stated while on *Ellen*.

Soon enough, he became a very large trend on social media apps. Considering the fact that Alex is only 16 years old, does he feel frightened that he's in the spotlight? On twitter, he seems to be loving the attention, with one of his tweets being "Am I famous now?" and also "So many followers!"

Alex said, "He feels pressured" as seen on *Ellen*.

Is Alex from Target really just "famous" because of his looks, maybe it's a talent? Mataya Lines stated, "He is probably just hot, because I saw him on *Ellen* and she asked the same thing." All he said was, "Well apparently I can bag things pretty well."

Alex is sure swiping the media with photos that he didn't even know were taken. As Alex from Target slowly becomes non-viral, some females are still ranting about his looks.

Cyber Monday

By Tabi Klingenberg

Last Monday, December 1st was the 10th Cyber Monday ever, making its debut November 28, 2005. Some say that Cyber Monday is losing hope, but is it really?

Senior Shambree Smith noted that she had to work on Cyber Monday, but hadn't had much money to spend for it anyway.

Smith feels, "If I went Cyber Monday shopping, I would have shopped from Amazon because that's where I purchased from before."

So why don't people go shopping on Cyber Monday? Maybe it's because there is no money to spend, or they would rather get out and do the shopping themselves than sit at the computer for hours trying to find the right deal.

Tim Hughes feels differently about Cyber Monday being halfway decent. "Black Friday would probably be the better of the two because Black Friday allows you to see people act crazy. You see 90 year old women trying to beat up 14 year old girls to get a purse. You see groups of women who are coordinated beyond compare. One has electronics, one has the kids clothes, one has toys, one has the girls clothes. You name it! They've got it all sketched out."

Needless to say, Mr. Hughes is not going Cyber Monday shopping. He never has gone shopping specifically on Cyber Monday, and probably never will.

Hughes continued, "I think Black Friday al-

lows you to people watch; whereas, on Cyber Monday, you get stuck online."

However, there are better and more valuable reasons to go shopping on Cyber Monday instead. Black Friday is known as a war and many might have asked how many were killed on a day like that.

When you sit from the comfort of your own home with an opportunity to be lazy rather than rush, there are no worries, no lines, and no waiting around. Not only that, but it doesn't take away time from family nearly as much as Black Friday. The shopping can come from anywhere while still not get in the way of Thanksgiving.

The Hobbit Set to Thrill Once Again

By Micah Mader

Seventeen years after Peter Jackson won the rights to the film *The Lord of the Rings*, he is finally taking leave of JRR Tolkien and Middle-earth with the conclusion of *The Hobbit*. *The Hobbit* trilogy started off in rather slow fashion, picking up speed as the story progressed, but as for the third installment, it is sure to appease even the most devoted fans of one of the most popular franchises in movie history.

The film takes a new approach bypassing any kind of introductions or concessions to anyone who is a neophyte to the series. The battle of five armies picks up exactly where *The Desolation of Smaug* left off, without any kind of

attempt to ease you into the movie or explain who is who. From the second one, we are submersed into the action, with the dragon ravaging the town as many viewers suspected.

"It is my favorite movie series of all time and I've heard great reviews on the movie; I'm excited to see what's supposed to be the most exciting movie yet," stated G-Town alum Christian Mader.

Jackson has gone to great lengths to entrench characters and set in place an absurdly in depth story line before they usher in the real spectacle. *The Battle of Five Armies* is considerably shorter than its precursor. However, the

film is virtually one long array of battle scenes.

Lord of the Rings enthusiast Zeb Johnson stated he is most looking forward to the "giant battle scenes" that scatter throughout the movie.

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With added gore, violence, and action it is clear Jackson has outdone himself again. Next weekend the trilogy is set to come to an epic conclusion in theaters throughout the nation.

First Ever College Football Playoffs!

By Tait Johnson

Throughout the years in college football, how a team made the BCS National title game was a point of contention. The 12-member committee has decided to try a "four-team playoff tournament" to enter the game and potentially win the title.

Sunday will mark selection day, as to who has made the top four, securing a chance for the title and who will have to wait for another season.

TCU moved back into the College Football Playoff rankings' first, and leapfrogged undefeated Florida State in the process.

The Horned Frogs were ranked third, one spot ahead of the Seminoles, in the rankings released Tuesday night.

Alabama and Oregon remained No. 1 and No. 2, respectively. Ohio State was ranked 5th and Baylor, which defeated TCU on Oct. 11, was 6th.

TCU routed Texas, 48-10, this past Thursday to win its sixth straight. Florida State held off Florida, 24-19, in Will Muschamp's final game as the Gators' coach, but still slipped a spot in the CFP rankings despite winning its 12th straight game this season.

Some other top teams have decided to part ways with their head coach. Number 24 Ne-

braska Cornhuskers have fired their coach Bo Pelini who has been with the Huskers for 13 years.

Michigan also let go of their coach Brady Hoke after 3 years; this is the 3rd time Michigan will be looking for a head coach in the past 7 years.

Micah Mader commented on Michigan firing their head coach saying, "I'm glad they fired Hoke, because he didn't do anything with the talent Michigan had. Just an overall bad fit for the team."

You better buckle up, it's going to be a wild ending to the first ever college football playoff tournament.

Black Friday Fail

By Jared Fitzgerald

Black Friday, the favorite night of the year for psycho moms and people that are just trying to save a buck or two. Although many people may think that Black Fridays sales gain them a lot of revenue, this year was an exception.

Sales over the weekend were reportedly down 11% from last year, going from 57.4 billion dollars of sold merchandise to roughly 50.9 billion dollars. Not only were the in-store sales down, but so were online sales, dropping almost 10% from last year to this year.

One of the reasons for the drop is the amount of people that went shopping this year. Stores saw almost 6 million less shoppers

than expected. With no shoppers, who's going to buy the products?

Although, sophomore Riley Nordstrom commented, "I couldn't even walk in Walmart. I felt like a cow being herded to the electronics area."

Another hypothesis for sluggish sales is the economy and lowered gas/oil prices. People think that since gas/oil prices are down that more money would be spent, but many Americans are just trying to make by with what they have is reportedly why many did not go shopping.

"Black Friday just kind of makes me mad with all the racing people," said sophomore Alyssa Bunde.

Nordstrom later stated, "Forget Black Friday, Cyber Monday's were it's at."

It's not all that bad though. Sales are expected to spike again by the end of the holiday season by 4.1%, making up a little for the Black Friday failure, predicted the National Retail Federation (NRF). That number definitely does not disappoint stores.

Hoping for a better turn out next year, all the stores can do now is just look at what they can do next year to improve sales. Going back to the drawing board, many stores are praying that next year their sales won't go down 11%, but UP at least 11%.



The Force Awakens

By Zeb Johnson

It finally happened! The trailer for *Star Wars* Episode 7 has been released, and it brings back so many golden memories for the series.

Star Wars has been around for decades, and still gathers new fans every year. The first film was released in 1977 as just *Star Wars*, but was later changed to be the fourth episode in a saga spanning six movies when it was met with such a successful release.

The last time a *Star Wars* movie was released was in 2005, and the release garnered \$868 million. It has been a relatively long time since new *Star Wars* content has been released, and the trailer could have relied on the

nostalgia generated by the music and aesthetics of the older movies, such as the sound track and shots of the old cast, to generate excitement. Instead, it greeted us with teasers of whole new characters and new places... That is, until the final moments in which the *Millennium Falcon* does barrel rolls past enemy fighters. And even though the trailer excited many, people are still skeptical about Episode 7.

"I liked all the movies, but since it's being made by Disney, I'm not so sure. I mean, what's up with the droid thing in the trailer, it is literally a soccer ball with a head," said freshman Clayton Bonte.

Bonte voiced the concerns of many with that statement. The original production studio of the films was Lucasfilm, but Disney bought the studio in 2012 for \$4.06 billion. And with the purchase began filming the 7th episode in the saga.

The film is set 30 years after the sixth movie in the franchise, bringing new faces for most of the main characters, although old stars such as Harrison Ford and Mark Hamill will reprise their past roles. The film is set to premiere over a year from now, on December 18th, 2015.

Frost Bite Bites Back

By Cassy Heath

Accidents can happen to anyone at any-time, whether you're a grown adult or a young child.

A majority of child-related accidents tend to happen during the winter. Things in this category include a child getting locked out of the house when it is really cold, kids getting frost bite on their body, or a child potentially getting hypothermia from being outside too long.

Just outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania a few years ago, a little girl, almost two years old, was found dead due to bitterly cold temperatures. She had wandered outside and not made it back home.

The force of Mother Nature is not something to tempt.

Art teacher Ms. Granberg said, "I keep my children safe in the winter weather by making sure they are clothed properly for the outside conditions."

Some other things that can be done is putting child-proof locks on the doors of one's home to prevent children from locking themselves outside in the cold. Or, like Ms. Grandberg does, just make sure they are wearing the proper clothing that will keep them warm and covered up.



Children don't usually worry about the risk involved with these types of situations. If they want to go outside to play, they won't know when it's time to come inside and warm up.

Fifth grader Samantha Kruger stated, "To keep warm in the winter, I wear warm clothes like a scarf, hat, gloves, and a winter jacket."

Parents and caregivers are recommended to know all the potential risks of winter. It will make it easier to protect children from the chilly winter weather.

Oral Interp Ends Season on a High Note

On Tuesday, the Garretson oral interp team traveled to Mount Marty College in Yankton for their last meet of the season.

This tournament is specifically geared for those interpers who did not qualify for state but still wanted to continue their season.

Garretson had four of their entries make it into the finals (top six performers from the initial rounds).

Freshman Sylvia Larson ended up taking fourth place in the humorous category.

Sophomore Abriana Scholl took third place with her non-original oratory. This

was a great success as Scholl switched to that piece late in the season.

Junior duo, Katie Giesler and Kyrstyn Beck, secured third place.

And seventh grader Nobel Nothstine wowed the judges and took second place overall.

Senior Spotlight

NAME: Tristen Wagner

SENIOR PROJECT: Building a meat smoker

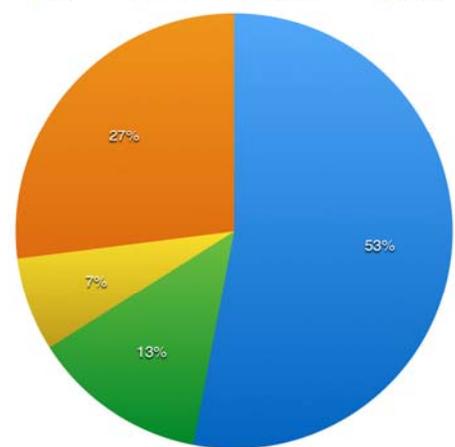
ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN: Football, Wrestling, FFA

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST: Going to School for Free

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR: Go to SDSU for Civil Engineering



● Food ● Family ● Traveling ● Sleeping



Student Opinion Poll

Students were asked what they enjoyed most about the Thanksgiving break.



Take a moment to vote on the student opinion poll for next week's *Blue Ink*. Polls are located inside Mr. Hughes' room and Mrs. Buchholz's room.