

G.T.F. RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNOR

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New Finals Schedule: Joyful or Dreadful?

By Nathan Bader

In some countries, at a young age children are given a test to determine the type of education the student will receive as they grow older.

Countless parents are extremely nervous about this test. Many go to the point of hiring tutors for their child in a test that can seem like a matter of life and death.

Semester tests, on the other hand, are not quite life and death for any student. Still, these tests are a major portion of our grade in each

class.

There have been mixed feelings about the need for semester tests since they were started. One of the main complaints among students, as well as teachers, has been holding semester tests after Christmas break. These complaints reached all the way up to the school board last year, when they voted to have students take semester tests on the last three days of school prior to Christmas break.

Many people, whether they are administrators, students, or faculty, rejoiced

at the news. Some, though, are more anxious to see how the new format will run.

Semester tests at the high school level will be a new experience for this year's class of freshmen. Tim Walsh is one of the freshmen who is looking forward to experiencing the tests this year.

"Moving semester tests to before Christmas is a great idea, in my opinion. I mean who studies over Christmas break anyway? Why hold the tests after break? It just doesn't make sense to me," Walsh said.

Students are glad the stress of having to worry about how much they have to study over a vacation from school is gone, but many students such as sophomore Amanda Jandt feel a possible downside to semester tests being sooner this year. She feels that many teachers are cramming lesson after lesson into a shorter time than they previously had.

"I am not sure how many students can understand all of the material almost every teacher has been giving us in such a short time," Jandt said.

Other students do not care too much, as to when semester tests

are held by the administration.

Junior Avery Allison said, "I don't see the major deal of when semester tests are. If we have to take them anyway, then why does it matter? They are just tests."

We may look back sometime during Christmas break and ask if the new schedule worked better, but for now senior Anna Maher summed up the feeling regarding this new format from most students.

"Boss," Maher said.

Raising the Minimum Wage: Effective or Costly?

By Marcella Lees

With Christmas knocking, many people are rushing to buy last minute gifts for loved ones. The air is full of joyous giving and the laughter of friends. After the hustle and bustle of pre-Christmas and the cozy family fun of Christmas, however, it's time to take a look at the bank account. Many are dismayed to find hundreds of dollars gone to presents, travel, and fun with friends. It seems appropriate, therefore, that the recent minimum wage change would happen right as

a new year full of post-Christmas debt begins.

Beginning on January 1, South Dakota's minimum wage will be changed from \$7.25 to \$8.50. This has the potential to put extra money in students' pockets, but could also cause economic harm in the form of increased prices and layoffs.

"It's [the minimum wage raise] not necessary because the cost of everything else is going to go up now, and some employers are going to have to let some workers go because they can't maintain that kind of salary for all

of them," senior Sam Ullmann, who works at Mary House, said.

"It honestly wasn't needed because if we are increasing minimum wage then everything else is increasing too. So, we're not really making a difference," YMCA Kids Stop worker and senior Alexis MaComb said.

"It's stupid and will just make the cost of living go up even higher than it already is," sophomore Ashley Wilson said.

It's not all negative though; many students attempting to pay for Christmas pres-

ents or save for college are glad for every extra dollar they can get.

"I think it will be good for people. Most students should be happy about it because it's more money in their pocket that they can spend or save," Zesto worker and senior Renae Kueter said.

"People are upset because they think the prices will go all up [as a result of the minimum wage raise] and I understand that, but it makes it easier to afford things that are already overpriced. The price of living went up like a month before they

voted [on the minimum wage raise] so now people can actually afford to live," Subway employee and junior Sammiee Trinneer said.

"I think it's so controversial because some people are saying that the cost of everything else is going to go up, but it's good for the people who make minimum wage because they will have more money to work with," Ullmann said.

With a fairly even split on both sides, only time will tell if the minimum wage raise is effective or simply causes more problems.

This month's issue:

Page 1: Semester Tests; Minimum Wage

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Page 3: Columns

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Pages 6 & 7: Sports

Page 8: Bachelor/Bachelorette of the Month, Sibling Rivalry, Fine Arts

North Pole Wisdom

The most wonderful time of the year is finally upon us, and I could not be any more ecstatic if I tried. To say that I am obsessed with Christmas is an understatement. Not only is the season filled with gifts and cookies, it is also a time to recognize and appreciate the ca-

m a r a d e - r i e among all mankind. Beneath deep layers of the commercialism is a simple, pure sense of hope and joy. I believe the best example of the principles of true Christmas spirit is the Code of the Elves from the classic movie, *Elf*. Will Ferrell's Buddy, although human, exemplifies the very essence of a North Pole-dweller, and all of us could learn a thing

or two from him. Now let's recite the Code of the Elves, shall we?

Number one: treat every day like Christmas. Why does Christmas bring out humanity's innate kindness, but every other day of the year, we seem to forget? We all possess the

EDITORIAL

capac- bility to re- spect, help, and cherish each other, so let's hone in on these qualities and utilize them on a daily basis. Put your energy toward helping others and appreciating what life has to offer, and the world might not end up being as bad as it appears to be.

Number two: there's room for everyone on the nice list. Let's face it: everyone knows a

few Grinches. Christmas is not just a commercialism wonderland; it's also an opportunity time to give back to others and the community. Volunteer your time and efforts toward something meaningful this season. Even helping one person can make a huge difference. This doesn't have to involve eating a whole roll of Tollhouse cookie dough as fast as you can; even simple gestures of kindness can brighten a Grinch's day. Who knows, maybe smiling will become someone's new favorite.

Number three: the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear. If you are surrounded by a bunch of Scrooges, be the person who isn't

afraid to openly love Christmas and all that it represents. Go ahead, sing some Christmas carols, make a couple dozen cookies, and decorate every inch of your life in strings of lights. Christmas only comes once a year, so why not enjoy this month filled with holiday traditions? Well, besides the fruit cake; you can probably skip that part.

You don't have to believe in Santa Claus or travel through seven layers of the candy cane forest to believe in Christmas. Very rarely can everyone agree to set aside their quarrels to find joy in our broken world, and that is an occurrence we need to treasure. From everyone at the *Governor*, have a wonderful Christmas and joyous New Year!

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Thank you to all that made this issue possible!

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Wade Kippley

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What's hot and what's not this month

...to Christmas movies
...to the weather being warmer than usual
...to UGG boots
...to Trivia Crack
...to basketball games. Go Gobs!
...to Christmas vacation in general
...to the V.S. Fashion Show
...to college friends coming home home for Christmas break
...to New Year's kisses
...to presents: giving and getting them
...to all you can eat pie at the Capitol
...to ugly Christmas sweaters

...to semester tests
...to homework that you don't do
...to getting Trivia Crack answers wrong
...to burnt Christmas cookies
...to not knowing secret santas
...to studying for semester tests
...to a probably brown Christmas
...to Landon Badger being on 2nd line
...to having to read Honors books alone
...to getting acid squirted in your mouth.
...to being broke after Black Friday.

DECEMBER TRIVIA

If you received all the gifts in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" song, how many presents would you have?

Write down your name and your answer on a piece of paper and turn it in to Mr. Kippley for a chance to win a \$10 gift card to Wal-Mart.

All correct answers will also be kept for the grand prize drawing in May.

The December winner will be drawn at 8:15 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7.

Celebrating the Season, According to Clay

This month, I decided to interview one of my classmates, Clay Bush, to get his take on enjoying the holidays. The following is the interview that occurred.

How do you usually spend your Christmas break?

Clay: "We usually spend Christmas at home, watching movies by the fire, and baking cookies with Grannie, but I can never seem to find a favorite thing to do! Here's a list of what I usually do during break:

- Going caroling with The Bush Clan
- Giving, NOT receiving, gifts
- Skipping basketball practice (I'd rather be playing with the cows)
- Wearing matching Christmas pajamas with John, Cayley, and Jessica
- Writing letters to Santa (I usually wish to become a strong farmboy)
- Waiting for bae (Kathleen) under the mistletoe
- Having snowball fights and sledging with Spencey and Twiggy

What are your favorite songs to listen

to during Christmas?

Clay: "Well, I love anything from Avril Lavigne or Nickelback. I have never been a fan of the classic Christmas songs like "Jingle Bells" and "Holy



Miranda Rockwood

REFLECTIONS

Night", but some of my favorites would have to be: "Baby It's Cold Outside" - Idina Menzel and Michael Buble "Santa Baby" - Madonna "All I Want For Christmas Is You" - Mariah Carey "Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" - Miley Cyrus "Let It Go" - Idina Menzel "The Christmas Song" - Usher and Justin Bieber "White Christmas" - Taylor Swift

So Clay, after all these great answers you've provided today, is there anything else you would like to say?

Clay: "Watch out little cows!"

(As this issue went to print, Mr. Kippley disowned Clay Bush for mentioning Nickelback.)

Jone-Bear's Tips for Balancing Your Life

Dear Jone-Bear, I am in a sport this year that takes up a solid two hours of my night each week day. This particular sport has been a huge part of my life. It has not been that big of an issue until now. It seems like the homework and tests have been piling up almost every day. This is putting me in an extremely stressful situation, and I do not enjoy staying up late every night doing homework and studying. It would be heartbreaking if I had to quit, but it seems like quitting is the only solution. Not only that, but I still want to enjoy my high school years by spending time with friends, but that is almost impossible to do with sports, school,

and homework. What am I supposed to do to try and balance out all these things? The school is only half way through, but the pressure is building up to a point that I can't handle.

Sincerely, Too much homework, not enough time

Dear Too Much Homework, I have received a lot of

questions about this throughout the year, so I decided that at long last, it is time to answer them. This will also be good since the new semester starts in January, and you should start out on the right foot.

There isn't really anything I can suggest

about your sport, except maybe having to quit, but that is a drastic step, so let's talk about scheduling. After you get home at night from your sport, you should set aside time to work on your homework. Put any distractions away and don't look at them until your homework is done.

Eventually this will become a habit.

it you won't even have to think about.

I know that might not leave much time for friends that way, but there is something you should know, and it may come as a shock to many: You don't have to hang out with your friends every waking

minute of every day. Outrageous, I know, but chances are, they need to work on homework just as much as you do. You can always judge how much you can hang out with your friends depending on the amount of homework you have each night. Don't forget about the weekend, too. If you want to hang out with your friends Friday and Saturday nights, just make it your duty to do your homework on Saturdays or Sundays. It is all about managing your time to stay on task and on top of things.

Tune in next month for more advice from the Jone-Bear!

Joni Willoughby
ADVICE

Give the Gift of your Time this Season

December is perhaps the busiest month of the year. Even though Christmas is just one day, it seems to take over people's lives for weeks, even months now. It's almost as if Christmas begins the minute Thanksgiving ends. When many people think about Christmas, they think Santa, food, shopping, sitting around the fireplace with family and friends, and obviously, presents. Everybody likes receiving presents. Why, then, do more people not give to others? The University of British Columbia did

a study on whether it makes people feel better to give or to receive. Not surprisingly, they

found people turned out to be happier when they gave other people the money

they had the option of keeping for themselves. We think that a lot of people want to give more often, but they just don't know how. In reality, when you look around, there are

opportunities to give all around you. Giving doesn't necessarily mean physically giving

someone materialistic things; giving often means giving your time, your experience, or your talent to benefit

someone else. You could give by donating old coats, hats, and mittens to the local coat drives. Volunteer at the food pantry or the animal shelter. Do something as simple as

baking a plate of cookies for your neighbor, or something as extreme as donating blood for the first time. Help the elderly woman with her groceries. Pay for the car behind you in the McDonald's drive thru. Finally give the kid who always asks you for gum a piece. Shovel your neighbor's driveway. There are ways to give all around you this holiday season. Get out of your comfort zone and try something you've never done before. Make someone's day this Christmas. Happy Giving!



Macy and Maddie

Students Give Back This Season ‘Twas the Origin of Christmas

By **Steph Nelson**

There’s nothing quite like the Christmas season. No other holiday can be compared to the dazzling lights, fragrant trees, mouth-watering family dinners, and nostalgic carols that Christmas has to offer. The end of Thanksgiving and the arrival of December provokes an urgent sense of anticipation in students and teachers alike. The anticipation is not only from impatiently waiting for Christmas festivities to commence, but also from the prospect of school getting out and having almost two whole weeks of vacation. What you plan to do with those two weeks is up to you. It’s easy to

let those lazy days slip by, but you could make use of your precious time and make someone else’s holiday a little brighter.

The holidays can sometimes be referred to as “the season of giving”. This phrase does not necessarily mean the Christmas presents or money you may exchange with your friends and family. More importantly, it exemplifies the time you give to others and the community. Giving your time and abilities is probably the best gift you can give this season. Not a gift you can buy in a store. Nothing screams, “I care!” like offering someone your time and talents when in need.

You might be wondering, how does the act

of giving tie into Christmas? While you are sitting at home, enjoying your time off with friends and family, you could be spending that time somewhere useful that could benefit endless numbers of people. This could be as simple as babysitting a neighbor’s kids or helping her wrap presents. If a neighbor leaves for Christmas, don’t be afraid to shovel off his or her driveway if it snows. They might not seem like it, but simple acts of kindness make a huge, lasting difference. Churches are always a big hit during Christmas. Any of the churches in town would take you up on some help in a heartbeat. Remember to be creative and not afraid to offer. Even

the most unlikely places need help, so don’t hesitate to lend a hand. The worst answer you could receive back is “Thank you, but I’m good.”

Some students at Riggs have already started holiday volunteering through different clubs, spreading awareness and the true Christmas spirit. Certain church groups and Student Senate members have stood outside in frigid temperatures to ring bells and accept donations for the Salvation Army. The National Honor Society visited several elementary schools, helping kids write letters to Santa that benefits the Make a Wish Foundation. Senior Dagne Ode, a member of both organizations, enjoyed making

a difference this holiday season. “Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and help out in the community, and it feels really good knowing that I’m making an impact in someone else’s life.”

If you still need some direction, you could call organizations like Feeding South Dakota or the Food Pantry. Hunger has become a big epidemic in the community and across the nation. From what I’m told, they are always looking for help unloading boxes, tearing down boxes, sweeping and just generally organizing all the food items. There is always the Thursday night banquet. Although groups sign up to provide food, students are always welcome to go and visit and just hang out with the guests. Southeast Church is also home to a group called Busy Bees that provides activities for kids in the neighborhood. They will always take helping hands.

The excuse of needing to study for semester tests isn’t going to fly this year. Maybe this new change in the semester test schedule gives us a chance to help others and help brighten their holiday. A wise friend once told me, “It’s not about having time, it’s about making time.” By making someone’s holiday, your holiday will be made. Just trust me on that. Enjoy your Christmas break and your TV, or whatever you’re going to do.

By **Austin Lentsch**

Shopping, Santa Claus, silver bells, snow, red and green everything, and just recently, a peculiar little thing called an “Elf on a Shelf.” (Yeah, I don’t understand that last one, either.) Yes, it is hard to imagine a world without Christmas. This year, I heard my first Christmas song sometime around Halloween. Especially in America, the holly jolly holiday permeates our culture for a very large portion of the year. Everyone knows what it means—presents, vacation, and family reunions. But, where did this festive festival come from? According to the Christian Apologetics and Research Ministry, back in the day the Romans

celebrated something they called Saturnalia. It lasted a week, beginning December 17 and ending the 25. This is the time of the winter solstice, when the days begin to become longer. Therefore, the celebration was of Saturn, the god of agriculture, gaining back control of the day. Revelry and feasting among other less appropriate activities made this occasion quite extravagant

When the Roman Catholic Church rose to popularity in Europe, it did not like the feast, and attempted to do away with it. Being around for centuries, however, made the celebration hard to eradicate. The church decided that if you can’t beat them, join them. So, in the early 4th century,

the Catholic Church adopted it, and declared December 25 the Feast of the Nativity. Another title for the holiday was christes maesse, or “the Mass of Christ.” Somewhere along the lines of translation and slurring of words, this became Christmas. Contrary to popular Christian belief, Jesus was actually born sometime in the summer, and Christmas is simply a Pagan holiday.

Many traditions of the holiday are also quite bizarre. One of my personal favorites is the hanging of stockings by the fireplace... or somewhere else if you don’t have one. Funny enough, this story also explains where Santa Claus

comes from. A father of three daughters had just lost his wife in present-day Turkey. They were very poor, and not sure of what was going to happen to them. A former monk named Sinter Klaus (see the resemblance?) heard of their plight, and came up with a plan. He snuck into their house, and left several bags of gold on their fireplace while they slept. One of the bags slipped into a sock hanging nearby. When they woke up and found the gold, they were amazed at the kind stranger’s generosity. After several nights of this, the four of them decided to figure out who the stranger was.

They stayed up that evening and waited. When the man, later named St. Nicholas, showed up to leave the gifts, showers of thanks from the family greeted him. He asked for them to keep his good deed a secret, but word soon spread far and wide.

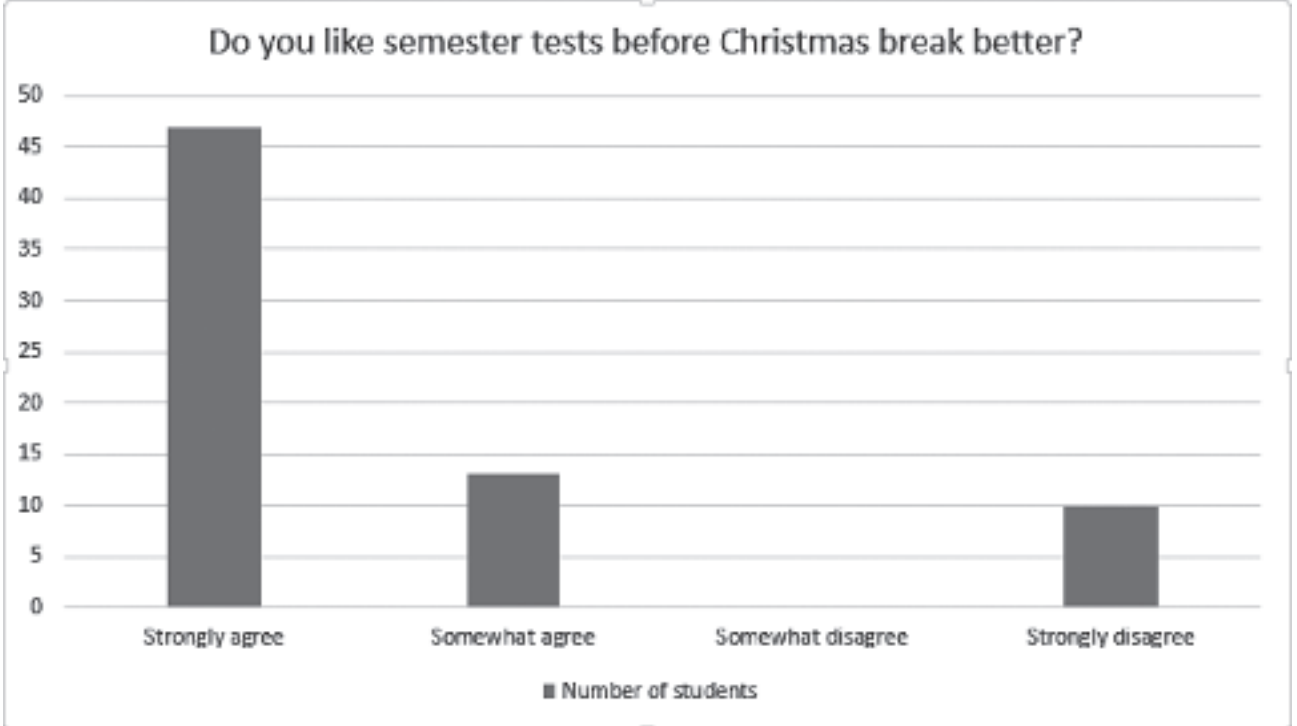
You also might be wondering where the tradition of decorating trees originated. Long before the advent of Christianity, plants and trees that remained green all year had a special meaning for people in the winter. Just as people today decorate their homes during the festive season with pine, spruce, and fir trees, ancient peoples hung ever-

green boughs over their doors and windows. In many countries it was believed that evergreens would keep away witches, ghosts, evil spirits, and illness. Germany was the first country to start decorating the evergreens and placing them in their homes, and people around the world have been doing it ever since.

Some people think that shortening Christmas to X-mas is incorrect, but in the Greek language and alphabet, the letter that looks like an X is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ, Christos, so you would still pronounce the word “Christmas.” The twelve days of

Christmas? It’s not just a classic carol. They start on Christmas Day and last until the evening of the 5th January - also known as Twelfth Night. The Twelve Days have been celebrated in Europe since before the middle ages and were a time of celebration.

As all of us finish semester tests and head our separate ways for the holidays, I would challenge each of you to do a good deed or two over the break. It doesn’t necessarily have to be anything big, but maybe just washing the dishes after meals, or holding a door at the mall. Everyone can use a little kindness over the Christmas season.



The opinions of the student body when asked about the semester test schedule change.

Compiled by Nick Marbach

Students Reminisce About the Holidays

By **Shelby Guthrie, Raegan Winder, and Brooke Miller**

Christmas is a time for great cheers, so let’s take a look at how people have celebrated this wonderful season in the past years. It seems like everyone has interesting Christmas memories and family traditions. A lot of you have told us that some of your favorite things about the holidays are open-

ing presents, eating Christmas dinner, secret Santa gift exchanges, traveling to families houses, and sleeping in on Christmas Day. Some of our more unique answers we just could not resist sharing.

Briana Plastow, 9: “My favorite Christmas memory was when my oldest brother, Malachi, got a gift that was wrapped in duct tape. He had a hard time

opening that present.” Katie Jockheck, 9: “There is one Christmas tradition I will always remember: My mom always gets my dad, brother, and I matching pajamas and gives them to us on Christmas Eve.”

Joana Zanin, 9: “Two years ago, we forgot to buy food for Christmas dinner, so we only ate one box of lasagna. We were definitely still hungry.”

Keegan Binegar, 10: “I will never forget when I fell off my roof.” I guess that memory speaks for itself.

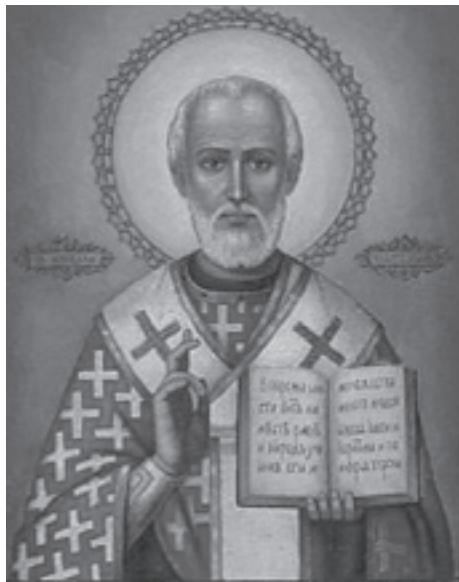
Jessica McCarty, 10: “I remember when my grandpa knocked over the Christmas tree. That was not a fun mess to clean up.”

Brooke Fendrich, 11: “My favorite Christmas memory was when my brother, Zach, would stay up and try to ask Santa to ride his

sleigh.”

Karissa Guthrie, 12: “My favorite Christmas tradition is baking delicious holiday goodies with the family. Most of the treats are ones we only make once a year, so they are very special to me.”

Now that you’ve heard other people’s stories, go make some of your own memories this Christmas. Happy Holidays!



A depiction of the original St. Nicholas that the beloved Santa Claus is named after.

Courtesy Photo

So far, so good: new team starts 1-0 Quick questions:

By Micah Howard

After kicking off its season with a win, a newly coached Lady Governors basketball team is set to move toward another victory.

The team, led by first-year head coach Scott DeBoer, is using the first few games of the seasons to find its identity and gauge its current position.

"We want to start to establish some roles and figure out how our expectations translate into our game plan and then deal with the bumps and learning curves," DeBoer said.

The transition to a new coach has been a challenge for the team.

Senior player McKenna Halverson says that learning new plays and breaking old habits has proved difficult.

With a 63-56 win over Mitchell, however, the team is off to a good



Senior McKenna Halverson sends a pass up the court in the season-opening game. Halverson scored 8 points in the win.

start under DeBoer. Halverson says the first few games of the season will help the team identify where it must improve moving forward.

"We hope to come

out strong and hopefully win most of our games, but most of all we want to learn and take that into practice and get better. At the end of the season, we

hope to be playing our best," Halverson said.

The team will aim to limit turnovers and shoot a high percentage.

"I think early on we need to make sure that we limit turnovers and control possessions when we have them. As far as strengths, I feel like we have a lot of girls who can make a decent impact, and I'm excited about that," DeBoer said.

Halverson said one of the team's goals is to shoot 40 percent, while holding the opposition below 40 percent.

As both DeBoer and Halverson stated, the team's goal for the season, as it stands, is to reach the state tournament.

"I think we have the potential to be really good this season. I'm looking forward to hopefully making it to state and doing well there," Halverson said.

girls' hockey

Destiny Barry, senior, team captain

What is a challenge you face every time you go out to play a game?

Barry: Every time I go out to play a game, a challenge I face is keeping calm. Hockey is a very intense, high speed game that requires everyone to give a 110 percent at all times. So, when I see teammates not playing to the level they are capable, it frustrates me.

How do you feel the season will go this year?

Barry: ...I think we have the potential to be one of the top advancing teams, but the thing that is dragging us down is some don't

have the heart and dedication needed to be the best they can be. Hopefully we can get it together soon though.

If you could give one piece of wisdom to any of the younger players what would it be?

Barry: My main piece of advice is to listen to those who are there to help. Whether it is the coach, a captain, or another teammate, listen to what they say! Take advantage of the opportunity to better yourself as a player. Not just that, but make sure you take advantage of any of the extra ice time you can get. Many won't be able to go on and play after high school, so enjoy it while it lasts. Have fun and make sure you give it your all no matter what!

Girls Basketball

Record: 1-0

Last game: Last Friday against Mitchell

Next game: Saturday at Brandon

Player comment: What is the most rewarding part of coaching basketball? "The most rewarding part about coaching any sport is working with your athletes and being able to witness them improve and meet their goals. Hopefully they will benefit from the byproducts of athletics in their future." -Coach Skip Kurth

Girls Hockey

Record: 0-4

Last match: Sunday at Rapid City

Next match: Saturday against Brookings

Player comment: What's the most fun part of hockey? "Probably the satisfaction of scoring a goal and watching the other team go home all sad." -Senior Savana Bogue



GO GOVS!

Compiled by Wyatt Rumrill

Gymnastics

Last meet: Last Friday, Hub City Invitational in Aberdeen

Next meet: Saturday, Mitchell Invitational

Athlete comment: What is your favorite event in gymnastics? "Vault, because I'm good at it." -Sophomore Ari Cournoyer

Girls Swimming

Last meet: Dec 12-14, Rapid City invitational

Next meet: Dec 19-21, Sioux Falls invitational

Athlete comment: How do you feel the team is doing this year this early in the season? "This early on in the season I think we're holding our own, and I see good things in the future." -Junior Ashley Theobald

Boys Swimming

Last meet: December 6 at Mitchell

Next meet: Dec 19-21, Sioux Falls invitational

Athlete comment: What's the greatest part of swimming for you? "The team aspect. My friends and coach and other people from other teams make it worthwhile." -Junior Nick Mahowald

Wrestling

Last tournament: Tuesday against Brookings, was canceled and rescheduled for February

Next tournament: Saturday at Elk Point-Jefferson

Athlete comment: Is winning worth the pain of the sport? "Yes, because the feeling of winning is indescribable because you put in all the time to win." -Sophomore Aric Williams



GO GOVS!

Compiled by Wyatt Rumrill

Basketball

Record: 0-1

Last game: Last Friday at Mitchell

Next game: Saturday against Brandon Valley

Player comment: How do you feel the team started off its season? "I think this first loss woke us up and showed that we have some improving to do. The intensity in practice has gone up and the games to come should be at a higher level." -Senior Charlie Anderson

Boys' Hockey

Last match: Last Saturday at Sioux Falls

Next match: Saturday at Watertown

Player comment: Why should people come watch hockey games? "Because you get to see the first line score one goal, the second line score six, and the third line do work." -Junior Peter Sanchez

Wrestlers eye third championship in four years

By Micah Howard

After two consecutive state championships in 2012 and 2013 and a runner-up finish in 2014, the Governor wrestling team is beginning another season with its eyes set on the top of the standings.

Head coach Shawn Lewis shared that the team has a common goal.

"We do goal sheets every year. And we didn't have a single person who didn't put down trying to win a state title as a team. A lot of these

kids have been a part of the back-to-back state championships that happened in 2012 and 2013. They really want to get themselves back to that level," Lewis said.

The team retained a significant portion of its varsity roster coming into this season, including 120-pound state champion junior Jebben Keyes and 170-pound state runner-up senior Dawson Monfore. The team also features a near-full junior varsity lineup.

Reaching the top of the

competition won't happen overnight, and the team has plenty of room for improvement, Lewis says.

"We need to continue to develop throughout the year. It was nice for us to get on the mat last week and really get to see the areas that we need to work on," Lewis said.

Claiming the state title will require a clear focus, constant improvement, and an aggressive mentality on the mat.

"We can't settle. We can't get complacent. We need to

go out and take the state title. Obviously, nobody is going to give it to us. There are about four other teams with the exact same goal we have. We are going to have to go out and prove each and every single week that we are getting better and that we are of course out to score points and make for some entertaining wrestling," Lewis said.

The team will see their next action Saturday at the Elk Point-Jefferson Tournament.

"We're going to see a lot of the best B schools in the state.

every single matchup.

How balanced is the team this year as you progress down the lines?

Ellwanger: The team this year is very balanced throughout every line.

As of right now, what are the teams' records?

Looking at the last rankings, we'll see five of the top six B schools in the state of South Dakota," Lewis said.

The tournament also holds special significance with both head coach Lewis and assistant coach John Kolda, who previously coached at Elk Point-Jefferson.

"It's going to be neat for us, as a coaching staff, to go down there and compete in a tournament that we were both a part of establishing," Lewis said.

Ellwanger: The JV team is 1-2. The Varsity team is 4-0 right now.

When will the next home game be played?

Ellwanger: The next home game is January 10 against Huron at the Expo Center in Fort Pierre.

Quick questions: boys hockey

*Junior Will Ellwanger,
Capitals forward*

How has the hockey team changed since last year? Did you lose a lot of players from last year?

Ellwanger: We have lost a lot of seniors, but the experienced kids from last year have really stepped up and taken over the reins.

What can the fans expect from the Capitals this year?

Ellwanger: The fans can expect a physical group of guys that will come out and fight to win

Bachelor of the Month



Max Seward, 12

Looks or personality in the opposite sex?

All of the above

Favorite leisure activity?

Shoveling my driveway, especially when it's below zero

What is your favorite pick up line?

You smell like trash. May I take you out?

What is one of your pet peeves?

When you let someone borrow your pencil, then they chew on it.

Do you have an age preference?

8-49

(exceptions have been made)

Why should the ladies choose you?

The real question is why wouldn't they want to choose me? ;)

What is the perfect date?

Taking out my hot air balloon for a ride with Taylor Swift.

Bachelorette of the Month



Annie Woodmaney, 12

Personality:

In your face s'awesome (for realsies yo)

Looks or personality in the opposite sex?

Why not both?

What is your ideal first date?

Broadway musicals. Nothing less.

Favorite leisure activity: Nonstop flute practice.

Pursue or be pursued?

Depends. Is a restraining order involved?

Eye Color:

Deliciously dark chocolate.

Hair Color:

Dark as midnight.

What is your favorite pick up line?

Hey there. You must be the fifth scale degree of the diatonic scale because you're always dominant in my thoughts.

Who is your celebrity crush?

Mozart is my man.

What is your pet peeve?

Five flats in the key signatures.

Do you have an age preference?

Must be from the 18th century.

Concert Spreads Cheer

By Amanda Pugh and Moina Syed

Everybody knows the familiar traditions of Christmas. Carols playing on radio, the smell of cookies baking, and friends and family all gathering together for some holiday fun. Honestly, Christmas just wouldn't be the same without those classic Christmas tunes. When attempting to get into the holiday mood, the Riggs band and choir have always been a big help. On Tuesday night, the music program held their annual Christmas concert.

This year, the concert, themed *Holiday Cheer*, showcased both the band and choir programs. This festive concert has always been a favorite for students.

"My favorite part of the winter concert is taking a traditional Christmas song everybody knows and loves and adding our own twist to it," Harrison Armstrong, a member of the Treble choir, said.

"I like being able to perform challenging songs that we have been spending so much time working on. It shows that all of our hard work is well worth the effort," sophomore Steph Nelson said.

Choir director Rodd Bauck stressed both hard work and fun leading to the success on Tuesday night.

"Choir and band are fun activities, but they require work. The work we put in is what makes the end product (the concert) fun, and last night, we all had fun," Bauck said.

Band director Mackenzie McKeithan also complimented the students' efforts.

"I am very proud of the hard work and dedication my students put in to the preparation for this concert. They played their hearts out and showed off everything we worked so diligently on," McKeithan said.

December Sibling Rivalry

Matt (12) & Hannah (10) Booth

Q: Which out of the two of you is the favorite child?

A: Can we say our little brother Aaron?-Matt. *He is definitely the favorite, but out of us two, you, Matthew, are the favorite.*-Hannah. **I am the favorite, but Aaron is so much higher on the swag ladder than either of us. It goes Aaron, me, and then are you even on the swag ladder Hannah?-Matt.**

Q: Despite how different in personality and interests you both are, what is your favorite thing to do together?

A: We like to pick on our younger brother Aaron together. We also eat Chinese food together, I guess.-Hannah. **Sometimes I calmly walk into Hannah's room when she is doing her homework, tell her she is super swaggy, and walk out as if nothing happened.-Matt**

Q: So with Matt going off to college next year, do you think you will miss each other?

A: I won't miss his stupid side.-Hannah. **She will miss me all the time, and I will miss her slightly. I think she will miss me calling her swaggy.-Matt.**