

# Holiday Season

## It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By Bethany Saffert

NEW ULM - The celebration of Christmas is just around the corner and it has so many people buzzing with enthusiasm. The radiant, multi-colored lights that glow at night, the pine tree's decorated with sparkling ornaments and shiny tinsel, and the aroma of freshly baked cookies wafting throughout so many houses are only some of the reasons that the holidays are so delightful.

"I feel excited around the holidays," said New Ulm High School senior Caity Bierk. "I love this time of year!"

We all have our own reasons about why we think the Christmas holiday season is such an enjoyable time. Along with apprehensively waiting for gifts to be exchanged, most kids are anxious for the snow to fall and winter break to arrive...or even those hallowed snow days off!

"I'm excited because it's fun and nice to get out of school for a while," said NUHS sophomore Kallie Guggisberg.

Many enjoy spending precious time with their families

and just relaxing over the holiday break.

"I get to be with my whole family and I like decorating and putting up the tree," said Guggisberg.

"My favorite part about the holidays is being cozy by the fireplace with my family, opening presents, and enjoying the time off from everyday life to just relax," said Bierk.

"I like being with my family because we always play board games and that's a lot of fun," said NUHS senior Kelsey Koch.

In addition to enjoying the relaxation that comes with holiday break, most people consider it a tradition to give and receive gifts on Christmas.

"My favorite part about Christmas is definitely opening up all of the presents," said NUHS senior Danny Farasyn.

Most of the top ten gifts for 2009 are new and advanced technology items. One of the most popular gifts this year is a digital camera.

"I want a digital camera because I don't have one yet," said Guggisberg.



Another hot item this year is the latest version of the Apple iPod Touch. Due to wireless access to the iTunes store with just the touch of a finger, it is easy to see why this portable media player is so popular.

"I asked for an Apple iPod Touch for Christmas," said Bierk.

Christmas is not always about getting specific items that are popular at the time; instead, some people want things they will be needing in the future.

"I want money because I'm going on a big snowmobile trip in January," said NUHS senior Dalton Deinhart.

"I want new hunting gear so I can stay warm next winter," said Farasyn.

College is also in the back of some students' minds when they are thinking of what to put on their Christmas lists.

"I'd like a laptop for college," said Koch.

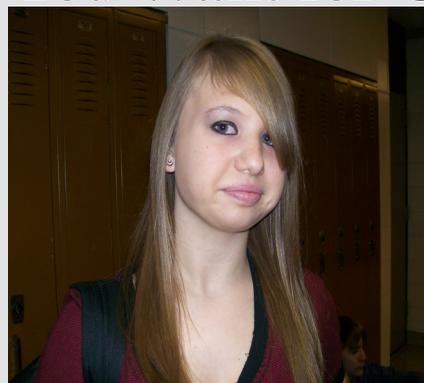
Regardless of the assortment of gifts students are wishing for this holiday season, they all have one thing in common - they are hoping to have a wonderful holiday break.



## What Do You Want for Christmas?



Isabella Foster (7th grade) - "I want an iPod for Christmas."



Amanda Calivert (8th grade) - "I want a puppy for Christmas."



Dominic Camacho (Freshman) - "I want a dance studio for Christmas."



Amber Gasner (Sophomore) - "I want a pony."



Kaleb Juntunen (Junior) - "I want money and clothes."



Kevin Guttum (Senior) - "Lawdy! I sure hope Santa brings me a Snuggie!"

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Chris Bertrand (Senior) - "For Christmas this year, I wish for a pack of mentos, a six pack of Buddy's Orange, & a very bright Cosby sweater."

## Blades of Glory

by Dylan Smyth

NEW ULM - Wa cha! There goes a slap shot straight into the net. Pshhhhhett! There goes the beast Bryan Kehren speeding past. Shaaaaa pow! There goes Jason "Deakster" Rolloff checking someone into the boards.

NUHS Boys' Hockey is starting off slow winning one of three games due to mutiple suspensions from the November Eagle Squadron incident.

"We started off slow playing some hard teams, but now we have most of our skaters back to hopefully get things going," said Erik Setterholm, the boys' hockey coach. The Hockey Team started off the season playing a good, solid New Prague losing 3-1.

"We started off the season with only 10 starting skaters



for varsity and only 10 starting skaters for JV," said Coach Setterholm.

The team followed up with a win against St. Peter on December 3rd winning 6-3, and then losing 5-1 to Delano. This year the team hopes to make it one step further than they did last year winning that final game and making it to state.

"My goal as a coach is to improve the team every game throughout the year and when we get to that final game, win it, and go to state," said Setterholm.

"I would love to win our conference and make it to state, baby," said Quinn O'Conner, a senior captain of the hockey team. Another senior, Jason Rolloff, agrees that he would like to go to state as well.

"I really want to make it to state this year and beat our rivals Litchfield and Waseca," said Rolloff.

Looking at the team's potential, a state appearance looks like a strong possibility.

"We have 3-4 returning defense of men, and many returning forwards, and we have a few talented sophomores that help out this year, too," said O'Conner.

"We are very quick this year making us a good team, but we still need to work on our defense of zone," said Zach Munce, another senior skater on the team.

So, the hockey team has a lot of potential and has some good strategies to make it far. The team only needs one thing to make for success, though, and that is a student crowd!

"It would help out a lot to see a good student body at every game even after the volleyball problems. It helps the team out!" said Setterholm.



## FCCLA Donates Big

By Drew Dauer

NEW ULM - Family Career Community Leaders of America. New Ulm's FCCLA group is well on their way to another year of donating and giving back to the community that serves us everyday.

FCCLA is a student run, non-profit organization, which promotes leadership and skills to become responsible citizens. It is a group of high school students giving back and raising money for people in need.

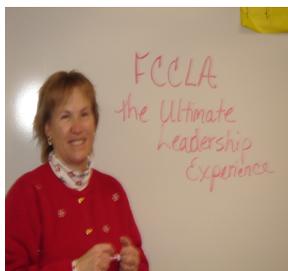
"My favorite aspect is that we organize a bunch of fundraisers to raise money for different organizations that need help," said Janelle Curry, a senior and 4-year returning member of FCCLA. "Right now, during the Christmas season, we are donating to Santa's Closet, Make a Wish Foundation, and the food shelf."

Teacher Mrs. Jill Curry is the woman in charge of this non-profit organization in New Ulm. She got the job when she started teaching Family and Consumer Science classes (FACS). It is a student organization and she eventually fell right into the job as a FACS teacher.

"I love coordinating FCCLA because it allows the students leadership roles, and I like watching them grow all the way until they are seniors," said Mrs. Curry.

FCCLA has high hopes and goals for this year in their efforts to make the world a better place.

"Our number one goal is to get more members and so far, we have had a lot more," said Mrs. Curry. "Another is to have students more involved with service type projects."



One of the big events that FCCLA does during Christmas time is Santa's Closet. In this rewarding fundraiser, the members collect money in students' homeroom classes. The students use the money to go shopping for Christmas gifts for the less fortunate. They then deliver the gifts to the Armory and the toys are distributed thereafter. The student body usually raises between \$3,000-\$4,000 per year.

Along with Santa's Closet, FCCLA puts lots of time into many other organizations to help out the community. Members are constantly busy helping others who are in need.

"We volunteer at the Brown County Humane Society, leadership training, run the concession stand at the football games, and offer childcare for the children of deployed soldiers," said Mrs. Curry.

FCCLA is a big part of giving back to the community and helping out in the world. After all, volunteerism makes a person feel good inside.

"I think it gives students the skills in order to be a good and successful leader. It also teaches the importance of helping others," said Janelle Curry.



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## Speech Team Getting Organized

By Butch Dwyer

NEW ULM - The New Ulm High School Speech Team is beginning to gear up for the 2010 speech season. This year's team has a handful of seniors, but no returning competitors from last year's team. Monica Reising, a junior this year, has had previous speech team experience but not here at New Ulm Public. Seniors joining the team this year include Leah Nelsen, Lauren Horsch, and Mad-die Babel.

Even though this year's squad may lack in speech competition experience, the fearless leadership of Coach Lucas Van Leeuwe will undoubtedly lead the team to glory and success. This is Van Leeuwe's third year as the advisor of the team here in New Ulm.

"My goals would be to have more students placing at tournaments this year and increase the size of the team," Van Leeuwe said. So far, the size of the team is considerably larger this year, even though several competitors from last year graduated. Any seventh through twelfth grader can join the team as long as they are academically eligible for extracurricular activities.

The team will be hosting its first home tournament ever this year on March 27, 2010. Van Leeuwe said he is very excited about this

upcoming event because it will give team members a chance to show their hometown crowd what they can do.

"I am excited to host our tournament because it will bring recognition to New Ulm and our team. It will be a good opportunity for the community to see our team in action," Van Leeuwe said.

Nelsen is also excited to get her first season of Speech underway.

"Since it is only my first year, I just hope to have lots of fun and to just do my best at every event we perform at," she said. "My friend Trevor [Hildebrandt] talked about how great of an experience it was and it really sparked my interest." Nelsen also added that she is interested in competing in the humorous duo category this year.

Another newcomer to the team this year is fellow senior Lauren Horsch, who will likely be competing in the informative speech category. "I was always interested in it [speech] and I never had the time until this year to be in it. Mr. Van Leeuwe has been a big help too. I'd really like to see a lot of us place really well and see

participation rates go up. I'd like to see the season go smoothly."

The Speech Team will kick off its season starting with the Mankato-Loyola tournament on February 13, continuing through mid-April. Keep your ears open for more updates on the Eagles' Speech Team this year as they prepare to trounce local competition.



### Did You Know?

More than 50% of the people in the world have never made or received a telephone call.

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

## Too Legit to Quit

### Eagle Girls' Basketball Team's Work Ethic like None Other

By Molly Johnson

NEW ULM - The New Ulm Girls' basketball team has tipped off a great start to their season. With a current record of 4-0, the Eagles look to improve their game every time they set foot on the court.

With a new head coach this year, the girls are looking forward to a new and improved season. Matt Dick has been coaching basketball for ten years and came to New Ulm to coach the Eagles.

With wins over Mankato West, St. Peter, St. James, and Sibley East under their belt, the girls feel pretty confident about this season.

"We're looking pretty good," said junior point-guard Marissa Klimmek. "We have a couple things we need to work on, but we're really coming together."

Although the Eagles are off on the right foot, they still have tough competition ahead.

"Fairmont has always been good," said senior captain and post Marne Louters. "And Waseca is always a good game just because they're our school's rival."

On top of the competitiveness and the speed of the game, Coach Dick notes some other strengths of the team.

"Our work ethic is one of our biggest strengths, along with our hustle and determination," said Dick.

Louters agrees. "We are getting better at defense, and we are definitely a quick team," she said.

Klimmek, who has been a baller since the third grade, enjoys run-

ning up and down the court, fast breaking, and scoring on teams.

"My goal is to continue to get better, to rebound better, and to just play together as a team," said Klimmek.

"I'm hoping to be over the 50/50 [win/loss] record this season," said Louters.

Louters has been playing the game since first grade and is capable of playing almost any position on the court.

"I like getting rough and tough in there [the game]," said Louters.

With a different coach on the bench, there are some differences between previous seasons and this year's.

"It's more positive; it's a change. I like change, and our new coach is great," said Louters.

"I think we all come together more, our chemistry is better, and we just all have fun together," said Klimmek.

"So far everything is looking great.

We're going to get better every day and just take it from there," said Dick. "You can expect a lot of hustle, a lot of hard work, and hopefully a lot of wins this season."

Throw on some purple and white, grab your foam fingers, and get a seat in the stands on January 5th to watch the girls take on the Hutchinson Tigers.



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## Gymnastics Flexing Their Way to State

By Zach Munce

NEW ULM – The gymnastics team has had one meet so far with one match being canceled due to bad roads. They are zero and one so far this year, losing to Redwood Falls in a very close call.

“The team seems better than previous years,” said Meredith Norby, the gymnastics coach. “We are going to have new strategies this year such as on the beam we are only going to take a few individuals at a time instead of the whole team at once.”

Most people would like to achieve goals to make themselves better at what they do.

“I would like to send a few of our girls to the state competition,” said Norby.

“I would love it to make it to be able to the state competition,” said Shyranda Hornick, a senior on the squad.

A lot of people that do not know much about gymnastics wonder how a competition works or what they do during practice.

“A competition works like this: one team does the vault as the other team does the bar. They then switch and compete on the other,” said Norby. “The same thing goes for the beam and the floor.”

People in sports are committed to the sports they are in and have usually played since a young age. Something gets them interested into trying what they love to do. A strong

body is necessary for gymnastics. That is how you see the people on T.V. because they keep their bodies strong and fit.

“I have danced ever since the third grade, and I have practiced almost everyday,” said Jatia Traulich, a junior on the team. “During practice I work out and practice my skills.”

“I got interested in gymnastics by seeing people do backflips and going to watch the competitions when I was younger,” said Hornick. “I have done gymnastics from kindergarten all the way until now. I compete in all events: vault, bars, beam, and the floor. I have always done all events.”

“This is my last year doing gymnastics though. I don’t think my body can take it anymore,” said Hornick.



Every sport has some weaknesses and strengths that they are either proud of or need to work on.

“Our strengths are the vault and the floor. We get higher scores in those two events. Our weaknesses are the beam, which we are working on,” said Norby.

The gymnastics team is a young team with only four seniors on the squad. The next oldest person on the team would be a tenth grader, the youngest being a seventh grader.

The girls’ next meet is in Marshall on January 9, 2010.



## National Honor Society: Scholarship, Character, and Leadership

By Drew Dauer

NEW ULM – Creating enthusiasm for scholarship, stimulating a desire to render service, promoting leadership, and developing character in the students of secondary schools. This is the motto of the National Honor Society.

Many overlook this helpful organization in our school today. Mr. Charles Anderson, advisor of the society, explains what NHS is all about.

“It is an organization that recognizes and encourages academic achievement while developing other characteristics essential to being good citizens - characteristics such as scholarship, character, service, and leadership,” Anderson said.

The student organization does a number of service projects throughout the year.

The biggest event that happens for the team is the induction ceremony normally held in March.

“Last year went well. We had it at a new place and it went quite well. Our goals for the year are to expand our membership and expand our members’ service projects,” Anderson said.

The people involved with the society range

from students in grades ten through twelve who have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.5 as well as meeting other criteria.

The National Honor Society comes with plenty of good beneficial things.

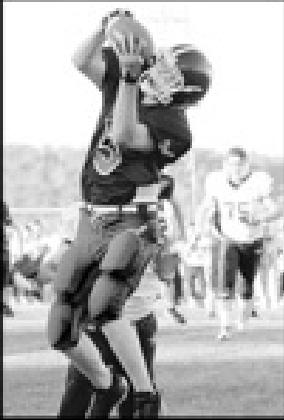
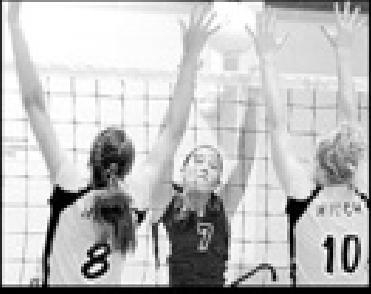
“It looks good for your college application

and you learn skills that will benefit you in your personal and professional lives in later years,” Anderson said.

The National Honor Society is a great and helpful organization, which benefits students in their futures as citizens.



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## Answer Please?

### NUHS Knowledge Bowl Teams Make Knowledge Worth Knowing

By Molly Johnson

NEW ULM - The New Ulm High School Knowledge Bowl teams, led by coach Mr. Rob Bute and senior captains Dan Mohr, Jacob Saffert, and Sadie Blackstad, anticipate another great season in 2010.

Knowledge Bowl is a sort of "team jeopardy" where teams split up into different groups and answer questions over a broad range of knowledge from math and science to history, sports, and current events.

"It gives the kids who are not involved in sports a chance to compete and do some competition," said Mr. Bute.

The NUHS Knowledge Bowl team has a total of 25 students involved, which shakes out to about 4 or 5 competition teams.

Each person on the team has his or her own responsibility. One person is a reader, one a judge, the person who runs the computer box, and one who is a spokesperson.

Every team has about five people on it. During competition, three teams are in a room at a time. The first round of competition

is the written round, which is similar to a test. The written round consists of a list of 45 questions.

Following the written round, their tests get scored and then they are ranked. Once ranked, the team will then go up against teams who scored in the same range they did.

Three oral rounds then follow the written round. During the oral rounds, the spokesperson for each team answers the questions and the team gets points for every question answered correctly.

A team can also get "power ranking" if it ranked and placed in one of the top three rooms at a competition. Teams who are "power ranked" get extra points just because the competition in their room is harder.

With an experienced coach and multiple returning members, the NUHS Knowledge Bowl teams hope to have a rewarding season.

"We do have a good team. I would like to get two to three teams to regionals, which is pretty typical, and hopefully one to



state," said Bute.

Dan Mohr, a member of the Alpine White team this year, says that in order to do well in Knowledge Bowl, one needs to be a "quick thinker."

Both Mohr and Saffert feel they have a good chance of getting to state.

"Personally, I'm planning on attending the state competition at the end of the year. We'll see how that goes," said Saffert.

Although Knowledge Bowl gets pretty competitive, they also have a lot of fun. Mohr enjoys the after competition activities such as going to Subway.

Between supervising the weight room and coaching football and Knowledge Bowl, Bute gets a broad spectrum of students to work with. "I enjoy having the chance to work with a different group of students," said Bute.

## Enable Your STABLE

### Students Together Alive Better Learning for Everyone

By Dylan Smyth

NEW ULM - Good role modeling everywhere you look. STABLE stands for Students Together Alive and Better Learning for Everyone, and that is exactly what happens in this program.

"We are role models for elementary students and show the kids how not to drink and do drugs and bully," said advisor Mrs. Bergmann, the leader and organizer of the STABLE program. STABLE consists of 9-12 students that

wish to be a good role model for younger students that do not drink or do drugs.

"I like STABLE because I like to work with the younger kids and teach them to be good little buggers," said Jacob Thunander, a happy, sober senior in STABLE. "I like the experience with the younger kids, and I think that this experience will help me in the future too," said Thunander.

"I like STABLE because it is fun to be with everybody and doing sweet activities," said Zach Quiring, another senior in STABLE. "I like to teach little kids stuff and being in a real life setting with my classmates," said Quiring.

There are three total retreats that take place: a 3rd, 6th, and 8th grade retreat.

"The 3rd grade retreat is mostly based on bullying, and

the 6th grade retreat starts to get into more about drugs and alcohol," said Mrs. Bergmann. There is also a STABLE retreat that took place already and the STABLE members also help out at an 8th grade courage retreat in the springtime.

Former Vikings player Keith Nord came and spoke to the STABLE members on December 7, and taught them how to be good leaders.

"We visit elementary classrooms about monthly, once more in February and March, and then the retreats are in May," said Bergmann. "We set up stations for the kids and they rotate every 45 minutes, and every station is a real setting with STABLE kids that help out," said Bergmann.

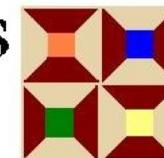
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## Frankly Speaking

Dear Frank,

Lately my friend has been acting sort of weird. She acts like she's better than everyone else and that she knows everything. I want to tell her, but I don't want to hurt her feelings. What do I do?

Sincerely,

Annoyed

Dear Annoyed,

I think you need to be up front with her. If she is acting superior to the people around her, especially her friends, she needs a reality check. You don't have to be rude about it. You can just simply call her on it when she does it one day. Just be like, "Hey (her name), I'm not trying to be mean but you are starting to sound like you are better than me (or whoever she was talking about). I'm not sure if you realize it but I've just noticed a change in you this year that isn't for the better." I hope it works out for you, and if it doesn't then maybe it's time to start distancing yourself from your "so called" friend.

If this doesn't work, then try being equally sassy. Start showing your intelligence on how much you know about cheese, Great Britain, and dogs just to drive your point home!

Sincerely,

Frank

Dear Frank,

My girlfriend Tyreasha and I love each other very much, but recently I feel she might be messing around with my homes Demarcus. They were at da club, and he be all up on her tryin' to be all fly and take my girl away from me. Now Frank-Dizzle, what should I do 'bout dat?

Sincerely,

Homeboy

Dear Homeboy,

Don't let him get up in your territory! I think you need to take your homes Demarcus out behind da club and have the dance-off of yow life! Show him that he might have skills but you be shawty burnin' on da dance floor. If yow gal Tyreasha is playin' on you, maybe she ain't worth the effort anymore. I'm sure there are pleny of ladies out there that think you're super fly. Let it be known that you won't settle for someone who plays on you and don't back down. You are your own boss!

Peace Out,

Frank



### Did You Know?

The expression "to get fired" comes from long, long ago. When clans wanted to get rid of their unwanted people without killing them, they used to burn their houses down.

## Sudoku Puzzle

7			3	6	1		4	8
8			9	5	4		2	
9					8	5		
1		7	5		6	2		
6				1				9
		9	8		3	6		7
		8	6					2
	5		7	3	9			6
4	7		1	8	2			5

### Did You Know?

Wearing headphones for just an hour will increase the bacteria in your ear by 700 times.

The "sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick" is said to be the toughest tongue twister in the English language.

The sentence "the quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter in the English language.

Every 5 seconds a computer gets infected with a virus.

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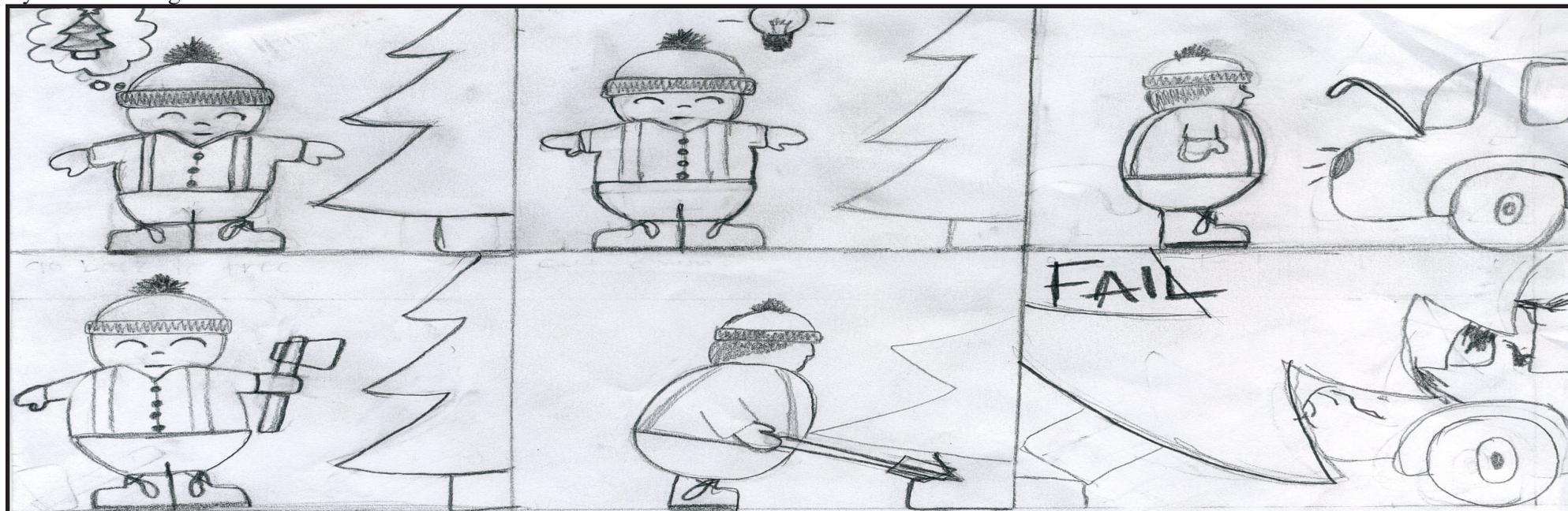
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# Cartoon

By Kacie Covington



## Shout Outs!

Shout out to Mr. Erickson with all those cheery holiday decorations! If there was a contest, you would win for sure...but there isn't. Good job anyway. An A for effort!

Shout out to Santa Claus. You better bring me something good this year, or I'll cry.

Shout out to all those kids running to lunch; it's like a wild stampede! That just goes to show how good our school lunches really are! Hats off to the cooks!

Shout out to old-man winter. Keep bringing us snow, and help us get out of school! One down...a few more to go...and missing another day of finals would be just fine.

Shout out to all you "New-Mooners." You are what keeps *Twilight* so popular. Give yourselves a pat on the back. Just watch out for the next full moon on December 31st with all those vampires and werewolves creeping about.

Shout out to all you trendy teachers. You are our fashion icons. We love the assortment of holiday sweater-vests, scarves, and turtle-necks.



Snow is bitter cold.  
Darn you portables. Hate chu.  
Put on my sweatshirt.

### Did You Know?

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle; if the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

The world's youngest parents were 8 and 9 and lived in China in 1910.

### Puzzle Solution

7	2	5	3	6	1	9	4	8
8	6	3	9	5	4	7	2	1
9	1	4	2	7	8	5	6	3
1	8	7	5	9	6	2	3	4
6	3	2	4	1	7	8	5	9
5	4	9	8	2	3	6	1	7
3	9	8	6	4	5	1	7	2
2	5	1	7	3	9	4	8	6
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