



News from the Nest



New Ulm High School *Home of the Eagles*

Volume 3, Issue 3



January 2, 2013

This Year Will Be Different, They Say

By Abigail Matthews

NEW ULM - I'll work harder in school. I'll be nicer. I'll get healthy. The coming of a new year is often polished with high hopes and big goals for a new start. Everyone wants another chance at change, and for many, New Year's resolutions are a prime place to start.

"This year, I'm only going to drink pop once a week and go for more walks," said junior Sydney Byro.

"I suppose I could try to get along better with my siblings," added sophomore Kate Denney.

"By the end of next year, I want to have a set plan for what I want to do in college," said senior Adolf Lechuga.

According to Margarita Tartakovsky, author of the article "Why We Make New Year's Resolutions," this tradition is "believed to go as far back as Babylonian times." Accord-

ing to Psych Central, most historians credit the idea of New Year's resolutions to Julius Caesar, who began making resolutions on January 1 as a means of honoring the Roman god Janus, whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past year as well as into the year to come.

For some, New Year's resolutions are empowering; they believe that the idea of bettering ourselves is a motivator. However, others simply find them trivial. "I don't like setting myself up for failure," said English teacher Mrs. K. Nelson.

According to the studies of Statistic Brain, 45 percent of Americans "usually make resolutions" each year. However, nearly just as many, about 38 percent, "never make resolutions."

"I try to only make a resolution every three years," said Lechuga. "That way I have time to recuperate from my last failure."

This negative outlook on annual resolutions is certainly not uncommon among the general public. Thus, the statistic that generally scares people away from setting these seemingly unachievable goals, as published by Statistic Brain, is that only 46 percent of resolutions last past six months, and only 8 percent are actually successful.

The thrill of the holiday season and the anticipation of a new year can make it incredibly easy for people to get a little overzealous, especially when it comes to making their New Year's resolutions.

New Year's Resolutions pg. 10

The Nuisance Article Policy: Should Phones Be Banned From School?

By Alexander Ahern

NEW ULM - For many years, students at New Ulm High School have complained about the rules regarding cell phone use (or lack thereof) at school. Some believe the rules are too strict, others disapprove of the consequences, and many students and teachers would like to see a revision of the policy.

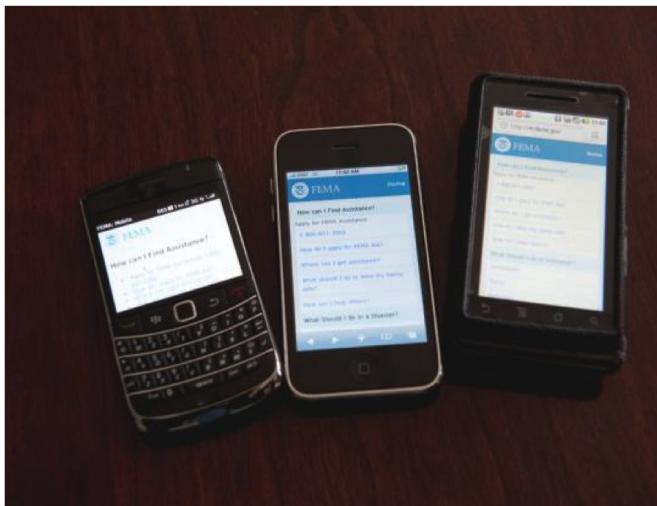
Cell phones, iPods, and other such electronic devices are all defined as "nuisance articles" and the use of them during

school hours is prohibited. Once students are in the building, they are not allowed to use their cell phones until the bell rings at 3:06 p.m. Teachers are obligated to take away phones if they hear them or see them, and then bring them to the office with the students' names on an attached note.

The consequences for students breaking the rules increase with each offense:

- * 1st offense - Phone is returned to student at the end of the school day.
- * 2nd offense - Phone must be picked up by parent, or student may pay a fine of \$5 in order to receive his or her phone.
- * 3rd offense and thereafter - Phone may be picked up after 5 days, or the student may pay a fine of \$25 (\$5 per day) to get it back.

(Further details of this policy are explained in the Student Handbook on Page 6 under the section "Nuisance Articles.")



Cell Phone Policy pg. 4

Inside This Issue

News

The Hobbit Movie.....	pg. 2
Middle School Sale.....	pg. 4
Open Lunch Update.....	pg. 5

Features

World Holiday Traditions.....	pg. 9
Ag Greenhouse.....	pg. 12
ACT Prep.....	pg. 15

Sports & Activities

FFA Week.....	pg. 12
NHL Lockout.....	pg. 13

The Hobbit: There and Back Again

By Gabby Budenski

NEW ULM - Academy Award-Winning filmmaker Peter Jackson has captivated audiences once again with the “enchancing prelude to *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit*.”*

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, the first of three movies, will follow the journey of Bilbo Baggins as he treks through treacherous lands swarming with Goblins, Orcs, deadly Wargs, and Sorcerers.** With the help of Dwarves, Bilbo must reclaim the stolen treasure from the dragon Smaug.

Fans all around the world have been waiting since 2003 when *The Return of the King* came out for Peter Jackson to finish the greatest fantasy epic of our time.

"I've never looked forward to a movie coming out so much as I have *The Hobbit*," said Ashlee Lindberg, a senior at NUHS.

Michael Nosek, also a senior at NUHS, shared the same excitement as Lindberg. "*The Hobbit* is awesome and I've been waiting for this since the cartoon version came out."

But J.R.R. Tolkien hasn't always been popular amongst students at



NUHS. *The Hobbit*, having been part of the curriculum for so long, flows in and out of the interest of students throughout the years. Mr. Torgerson, an English teacher at NUHS, agrees. "It seems like interest in these novels ebbs and flows...However, with the movie coming out,...there may be a kind of renewed interest in it."

Hannah Jakel, a senior at NUHS, was one of many who did not enjoy *The Hobbit* Unit. "I wasn't interested in the series at all."

Teaching *The Hobbit* hasn't been an easy journey either for teachers at NUHS. "When I first read it, it wasn't my favorite," Torgerson said. "As I've taught it, I've come to enjoy the characters...so I've been able to identify with him [Bilbo Baggins] a little more, and I think a lot of students can too in a lot of ways."

J.R.R. Tolkien fans as well as *The Lord of the Rings* fans were ecstatic for the midnight premiere of *The Hobbit*. December 14, opening day, drew in crowds everywhere excited to watch the start of the journey of Bilbo Baggins.

"It was perfect," said Emily Youngblom, a senior at NUHS. "I would definitely see it again."

Grady Smith, writer for *Entertainment Weekly*, believes fans should see *The Hobbit* regardless what critics have to say. "*The Hobbit* veers from the earlier *LOTR* films in that it is geared much more toward

families, which may anger fans of the original trilogy's epic tone...the shift in tone hasn't gone over totally well with critics."

Lindberg was also one of many who went to the midnight premier. "It was awesome -- better than I expected it to be. I would definitely see it a few more times." Lindberg saw *The Hobbit* twice on December 14 despite what critics had to say.

Critics at *Entertainment Weekly* gave *The Hobbit* a solid B+, and some are predicting *The Hobbit* will bring in \$140 million opening weekend.

The second installment to Peter Jackson's *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* premieres December 13, 2014. Bilbo Baggins escapes from the Misty Mountains with the help of Gandalf, the Dwarves, and with the ring, and destroys Smaug once and for all.

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Twilight: The End of an Era

By Emily Portner

NEW ULM - Edward Cullen. Jacob Black. Isabella Swan. Forks, Washington. Vampires and werewolves. Vampires sparkle in the sunlight. Certain members of a tribe turn into oversized wolves. These are the key elements near-and-dear to the fans of the *Twilight* saga that started back in 2005.

The end of the *Twilight* saga left a few of the main characters from the movies with "mixed feelings." "In a year, I think I'll definitely miss it," said Robert Pattinson, who played Edward Cullen in all of the *Twilight* movies. "I'm gonna miss these things. [gesturing to the crowd of fans]," he said.

"I'll probably miss making movies with everyone. I'll miss working with the guys," said Kristen Stewart, who played Isabella Swan.

"They're some of my best friends and that won't go away at all," added Taylor Lautner, who played Jacob Black. "It will be more difficult because we don't have the excuse to spend months and months, day after day, with each other."

The author of the *Twilight* books, Stephanie Meyer, also shared her feelings about her saga coming to an end. "It's the end now, definitely," Meyer said. "I need some breathing space."

Students at New Ulm High School have their own opinions about the saga's end.

"[It was] sad because if she [Meyer] really wanted to, she could keep making more [movies,]" said Carissa Clancy, a senior at NUHS.

"I'm all right with it," said Jenna Braam, a senior at NUHS. "None-theless, the last movie was great with the big surprise at the end."

Some people aren't as frantic about the series. "I don't watch [the movies]," said Steven Bode, a junior. Bode also mentioned that he finds the *Twilight* movies to be kind of annoying.

For the fans of *Twilight*, there has been a bit of a "rivalry" between those who are "Team Jacob" and those that are "Team Edward." Some favor one over the other.

"Jacob because he's so hot," said Clancy.

"[I'd pick] Jacob because he is more of the best friend kind of guy, while Edward is more of the sweep-you-off-your-feet-type of guy," said Braam.

So why is *Twilight* appealing to some people and not to others? What



makes Clancy like the series is Taylor Lautner's hotness. Also, "there were some funny parts [in the movies]."

"I read the books because my dad ordered the book for me," said Braam. "I watched the movies after reading the books. After the first one, I went to see the rest of the movies, and I hoped they'd get better, and they did."

"I just never got around to reading the series, so I just followed the crowd that didn't like it," Bode added. "I tried reading the book. [but] I just didn't like it. The concept of Edward being sparkly is completely wrong for vampires."

While some people may find Meyer's take on vampires to be a little untraditional, as of December 2, 2012, all of the *Twilight* movies have grossed a total of \$2.5 billion worldwide. According to BoxOffice.com, the final movie was ranked 38 percent higher at the box office than the previous installment of *Twilight* as of December 2, 2012.

Meyer was inspired to start writing *Twilight* because she had a dream. "I woke up from a very vivid dream. In the dream, two people were having a very intense conversation in a meadow in the woods," Meyer said. One of these people was just an average girl. The other was fantastically beautiful sparkly, and a vampire."

Whether the *Twilight* saga is a favorable saga or not, it still has had an impact on our culture. It sparked five movies and five books. With the clothes, the posters, the backpacks, the keychains, the action figures, the blogs, the forums, and everything in between, there's no doubt that has sparked a phenomenon. It will forever entice a generation of fans.

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Brains! The Walking Dead

By Caitlin Harrington

NEW ULM - *Imagine waking up from a coma and discovering nothing but emptiness--or so you thought. You pull yourself from your hospital bed and begin to call out for someone, anyone. You're rewarded with silence. You walk out into the halls of the now-empty hospital and everything has been destroyed.*

This is *The Walking Dead*, a very popular TV show. Paige VanTries, former student, shares, "I watch every Sunday! It's one of the few shows that really has me hooked. The character development is phenomenal." The scare-factor as well as the intense action scenes appeal to the apocalypse-ready fanbase.

One may ask, "Why are zombies such a big thing right now?" Well, Gabrielle Budenski, a senior at NUHS, states, "I think they're popular because everyone just got tired of the whole vampire/werewolf thing. Not to mention, who doesn't like watching things come back from the dead? It's interesting."

The Walking Dead follows a group of survivors who are try-



ing to make their way back to normal civilization, picking up and losing people along the way. The main character and group leader is Rick Grimes. He tries his best to keep everyone around him content, although he has trouble holding onto his own sanity after the death of his wife in season 3.

Many people believe that Rick will be one of the next to die. Everyone then asks, "Who would take over as leader of the group?" Well, the popular belief is that Daryl Dixon, rebellious redneck, should be next in line.

"It just fits," says VanTries. "It's almost like he's more fit to lead the group than Rick."

VanTries is not the only person who would like to see Daryl lead the group.

Nick Gjerde, college student, says "I just think that Daryl could have a better handle on things."

The Walking Dead has taken a break until February, leaving fans in a disheveled state. Predictions for what happens next do not seem promising.

"I'm afraid that Daryl is going to die," says Budenski.

Will It Be A Blizzard Or Just Flurries?

By Kelsey Miller

NEW ULM - Winter is now here and we have gotten our first blizzard of the season. People may wonder how much snow we are going to get. Some people do not know if we will get a lot of snow this winter or not much at all

Mr. Stuckey, an Ag teacher at NUHS, said he has no idea if we'll get a lot of snow this year or not, but he is "getting very very concerned that we are not getting any moisture."

Since there was a drought this year, snow is desperately needed so that fields are not so dry.

Elyce Nelson, a senior at NUHS, said, "I figure we will get enough to at least cover the ground."

Students at NUHS are not really concerned about this upcoming winter.

Whitney Wiethoff, another senior at NUHS, predicted "maybe a foot at the most."

But snow that we do get could affect moisture levels in the field.

"Any moisture we get is good moisture," said Stuckey. "Snow that we get at the beginning or end of winter is better than what we get in the

middle of winter."

Whether a little or a lot, people are prepared for the snow.

"I like to drive," said Stuckey. "I like to be outdoors with the dogs. Look at the river. I like to blow snow."

"I like to go sledding," said Nelson. "I like to frolic in the snow. I like shoveling."

"My family goes snowmobiling," said Wiethoff. "We all have snowmobiles. I have gone to Mount Kato to go skiing. We always go sledding in my driveway."

Farmers' Almanac says, "For the coming season, we're predicting winter will return to some - but not all - areas." They also predict that "real winter weather will return to areas from the Great Lakes into the Northeast."

This winter might be making some people wonder how it will compare to last year's winter. "I'd say its gotta be worse," said Stuckey. "This



year looks to be bad because it's December 1 and we don't have snow."

"I think we will at least get one snow day and a couple of two hour lates," said Nelson.

"Maybe a couple two hour late starts but probably not any closed," said Wiethoff.

Now that snow is here, we are prepared for what else is to come.

Sources:

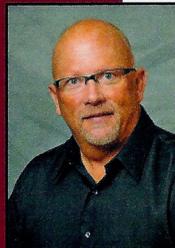
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Did You Know?

Hippopotomonstrosesquippedaliophobia is the fear of long words.

A seashell next to your ear is the sound of your blood surging, not the ocean.



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For Sale by Owner Sale of the DAC

By Jennifer Martens

NEW ULM - This past summer there was an article in the city's paper advertising the sale of the old Middle School, known today as the District Administrative Center (DAC). After that one article there wasn't much news about who was buying the old school or what they were going to do about it.

But currently the Superintendent reports that we are "90% there for the sale and there are two steps left. The first is to sign a tentative purchase agreement, and we hope to have that done at the December 20 school board meeting. The second and final step would be the title transfer, if everything goes well, and would take place July 3, 2013," said Mr. Harold Remme, Superintendent of School for District 88.

"The only issue is gym space and auditorium space," said Mr. Anderson, a history teacher.

"Hopefully, we'll either retain the right to use [the



auditorium] under certain conditions or find an equally spacious area to use for dances, band performances, plays, and such," said Mason Stolt, a junior.

"I have no idea what they'll use [the DAC] for," said Hannah Jakel, a senior.

"Maybe [they'll] tear it down and use the space for something else, or maybe for an office building, or maybe rent it to people for occasions like wedding receptions or maybe school dances," said Stolt.

"The buyers were Term Eagle Development LLC. My understanding is the purchasing group will renovate the facility for senior housing, with the exception of the auditorium space. The auditorium will remain for our youth for up to ten years. Plays and concerts can still be held here, and the rental for its use is \$1.00 per

year," said Mr. Remme.

"Money earned from the sale should probably go to facilities lost by the sale. Because where do you put an auditorium when you don't have one anymore?" asked Mr. Anderson.

After the sale, the money has a specific place that it must be deposited. One of the only concerns is how the sale will effect future classes.

"I think that any classes held there will have to find alternative places to hold them, but the money we get from selling it will be, hopefully, enough to make up for it in terms of how much could be spent per student next year compared to this year," said Stolt, a junior

"I don't think it's going to have much of an affect on future classes. The money could go to improving classes and helping teachers," said Jakel.

"The funds earned must follow state statutes. They must be placed in the school district capital outlay fund to be used for future facility improvements," said Mr. Remme.

The Nuisance Article Policy: Should Phones Be Banned From School? (from pg. 1)

Everyday, students are getting their phones taken away from them during school. Sometimes it's because they were caught texting. At times a student forgets to put his or her phone on silent and it goes off in their pocket. Occasionally, a phone will get taken because it fell out of the student's pocket. Certain teachers/staff will also take away a phone if they can see it sticking out of a student's pocket.

Some students do not object to this policy and are not upset if and when their phone is confiscated.

"I believe I deserved to have my phone taken away," said Brady Hoffman, a senior. "I forgot to put it on silent, and when it went off, the librarian heard it and took it away."

Many other students, however, believe that these rules are a bit much. A common complaint is about the times that the students are allowed to use their phones. "We should be allowed to use our phones during passing periods to do quick updates between classes," explained Adam Ryan, a junior.

"I think we should be able to use them in the library, as long as they're on silent, to access the new Wi-Fi network," said Luke Ahlers, a junior.

Even some teachers agree that students should have some time during the day during which they could access their phones and check messages.

"I believe it would be all right for students to use

their phones during their lunch hour, seeing as how they wouldn't cause any distractions for the other students," said Mr. Anderson, a history teacher at NUHS. "I also believe that the students should be able to use their phones inside the building prior to the first bell. Right now, students can use their phones before school as long as they are outside, but soon, there will be sub-zero temperatures, and they will not want to be outside in the mornings."

All of these ideas, however, have their downsides. Mr. Bergmann, principal at NUHS, understands the reasoning behind these suggestions, yet he also sees the potential problems that go with them.

"The problem with allowing students to use their phones between classes, or at lunch, is the cyber bullying factor," explained Bergmann. "We are responsible for anything and everything that goes on while the students are in school. I fear that if we allow students to use their phones during school hours, the privilege may be abused and there is always the risk of cyber bullying."

Other problematic factors include the inability to monitor what the students do on their phones. In the library, the librarian can see what is being done on all the computers and can regulate and control what the students are doing. This is not possible to do with students' cell phones.

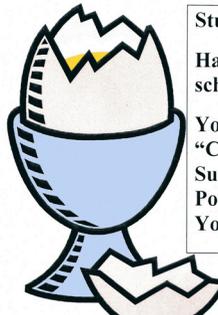
The fines associated with multiple violations of this policy seems to be another big complaint among the stu-

dents. However, many students don't realize that the idea of paying fines was actually brought up by other students.

It is not required that the student pay a fine to get his or her cell phone back; rather, it is more of an alternative consequence. There is also the option of waiting for a parent to pick it up or for the five-day wait before they get it back.

"It's like paying bail to get out of prison. The student can choose to pay to get their phone back, or just let it stay here," said Bergmann.

The only times when a student may be allowed to use his or her cell phone is with supervision by a teacher or staff member, such as an important phone call, or if a teacher allows the student or students to use it for educationally related purposes. Otherwise, the use of a cell phone during school is strictly prohibited for the time being.



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Jobs vs. Education

By Miranda Steinmetz

NEW ULM - Do you work, go to school, and level everything as well? Can someone really manage getting good grades, studying for tests, and work their job?

It all depends on the amount of time management skills someone has and how well he uses his time wisely.

Does having a job in high school affect the work ethic of students and their job, and how?

"I don't think so I think it's important having a job in high school because it is important to have balance," said Mr. Ziemer, New Ulm High School Guidance Counselor.

Having a job in high school can help a person understand what having a job is really all about. It may even help someone to become more responsible.

Is it right for students to have a job while managing all of their school work?

Mr. Ziemer said, "I think it's totally fine as long as they can manage their job and school."

If they cannot manage their school work, then they shouldn't have a job in high school.

The minimum starting pay for a high school student at their first job is normally \$7.25 an hour.

They may get raises, if they have worked at their job for a certain amount of time.

Normally a high school student cannot work more than 40 hours a week while still in high school.

Did You Know?

You are born with 300 bones in your body, but when you get to be an adult, you will only have 206 bones in your body.

Your heart beats over 100,000 times a day.

Your right lung takes in more air than your left lung.

Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks, otherwise it will digest itself.

Is It Too Cold for a Party in the Parking Lot?

By Brooke Dalueg

NEW ULM - It's 12:06pm at New Ulm High School. Juniors and seniors are running out the doors, and every restaurant in town is bracing itself for the rush of kids that open lunch has brought.

That's how it was in the beginning of school when it was still warm out. Now some people are wondering if a Minnesota winter will be too much for open lunch?

Juniors and seniors at NUHS have been enjoying the privilege of an open lunch this year. "[Open lunch] is good. It breaks the day up," said Chris Huber, a junior at NUHS. And most kids would agree.

Even teachers like having an open lunch. "I think it's great. It gives juniors and seniors a time to escape, decompress, and practice a little responsibility," said Mr. Anderson, a social studies teacher at NUHS.

Open lunch has gone over well with the students and teachers at NUHS, but living in Minnesota, everybody knows that we are bound to get some snow. With snow comes ice and bad driving conditions. So what effects will they have on open lunch?

Some students admit that winter will affect the decisions they make about open lunch. "I may leave, but not everyday," said Destiny Ruelhing, a senior at

NUHS.

Some teachers think that the colder weather will also make students stay. "I think fewer people will be going out," said Anderson.

One of the main concerns for the students and teachers is driving in bad conditions. "I think if people leave there will be more accidents because people are rushing to get back on time," said Ruelhing.



Huber also agreed that his main concern is "[People] that don't know how to drive in snowy conditions."

The main point to remember is "[People] have to exercise a little higher de-

gree of common sense," said Anderson. Kids need to think about their safety and others as well. If conditions are bad, a student has to decide if he will make it to his destination and back in time for class safely.

Anderson also pointed out that money has a lot to do with it too. "Some kids can't afford to pay five dollars everyday for lunch.

To some degree it takes more effort to go out to lunch, and for some kids it may not be worth it."

Whether it's the road conditions or money, the decision is ultimately up to the driver. Have common sense when driving as the weather gets worse and be safe.

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Jazzin' It Up: Music in School

By Matthew Penkert

NEW ULM - Imagine twerkin' in class with the tunes blaring in your ears. Many students listen to music outside of school, but why not in school?

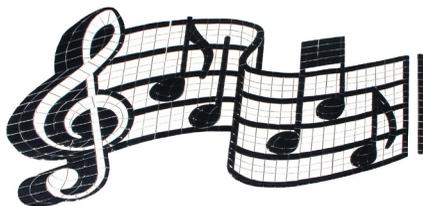
Many teachers consider listening to music in school or class as a distraction to other students and also disrespectful. Have teachers thought about how music could enhance students' ability to focus on their homework or projects?

Believe it or not teachers listen to music while they are alone. Maybe it helps them relax after a long day with students or helps them focus while grading papers. One person in particular is Mr. Weber, the assistant principal.

"I listen to music while I am working," Mr. Weber said. He listens to "calming music during the day and then I jam

out on my way home to unwind."

Students also listen to music whenever they get a chance or just need time to relax. It can also keep you from making it feel like you are alone. Clarissa Waibel, a senior, said, "I listen to music to keep from getting bored, and I also listen to it while I do homework for background noise."



With all the different types of music could come different styles of doing things. One person could be jammin' out to some heavy metal while one person could be conducting

their own symphony while listening to Beethoven.

Mrs. Nelson, a Languages teacher, said, "I think that listening to music in school could cause disagreements be-

cause students all like different kinds of music."

Even though our school does not allow us to listen to music on our iPods or cell phones, other schools allow their students to listen to music during passing times and in the hallways.

"I have not looked to see what schools allow it or check the statistics to see if it helps students," Mr. Weber said. "If I had the time, I definitely would just to make sure the students get the best deal."

"If we were allowed to listen to our music, I would follow the guidelines," Waibel said. "I would not want to get the privilege taken away."

If we were to be able to start listening to music in school, there would, of course, be rules in place.

"The only rules I would put in place for music is to make sure that your music is not too loud and to turn it off when a teacher is teaching," Mr. Weber said.

Graduation Day Is Coming; What Will I Do After That?

By Joshua Dunton

NEW ULM - After four long years at the high school, most of the seniors can't wait until graduation day. For them it means that they can do whatever, go wherever, and be whatever they want. Most high school graduates decide to go to college to pursue a degree in the career they desire. Some, on the other hand, either go into the armed services or want to get a jump start on a job so they can earn money and live life the way they choose.

If there are any seniors that are unsure of what to do, there are always the guidance counselors. Their names are Mr. Ziemer and Mrs. Weiss, and they have tons of advice and try to give a lot of information and opportunities.

"Whatever you do get some experience, have fun, meet new people, and if you are in college study abroad," said Mrs. Weiss.

Senior Hannah Jakel says that she plans on going to college. She has applied to Saint Olaf, Minnesota State University, University of Minnesota, and Gustavus. "My goal is to get a good education and find a job that I love to do," said Jakel.

Senior Bradley Hagberg is taking a similar route. He is going to South Central Technical College to get an associates degree in either machining or architectural design.

According to the Guidance Office, last year around 85% of seniors went to a two-year or four-year college. In college, there are many majors and minors to choose from. There are also differ-

ent types of degrees that go with the majors and minors. But going to college for more than four years will take a lot of time and money. So make a plan before graduation if college is the next step in life.

For the most part, seniors are happy to be done with high school. But it's sometimes hard because they become friends with students and teachers that they might not ever see again, if they go out of state.

But friends come and go, and wherever they end up, they are sure to find people that like them for who they are. So before graduation day all seniors should have a plan for what they are doing after high school because the time to live life to the fullest is right around the corner.

Did You Know?

A monkey was once tried and convicted for smoking a cigarette in South Bend, Indiana.

"Hang On Sloopy" is the official rock song of Ohio.

Worshiping in Public

By Airelle Carruth

NEW ULM - In a public school, we don't usually learn much about religion. Our teachers tend to stray away from the subject mostly because of the diversity, as well as the law prohibits teaching of religion. In a school such as New Ulm Public, we don't really have a huge amount of diversity. We live in a small town, consisting mostly of white, German people, so most of the people who grew up here aren't all that used to hanging out with people of a different culture.

The Lutheran School Association in Decatur, Illinois is a private, religious school that I attended. We had a schedule consisting of our core classes, a religion class such as Theology, and one or two electives. Unlike here at NUHS, we were able to speak openly about beliefs, how we practice them, and were taught how to worship God.

It was a part of our daily routine to pray in the morning, right before lunch, and after lunch. We had school meetings every Wednesday called Chapel days. During that time, we would join in either an all-school or all high school prayer. We would discuss a verse from the Bible, its meaning, and how we could apply it to our everyday lives.



Here at NUHS, the students, as well as the teachers, very rarely are heard speaking about anything having to do with religion. In a public school it is not permitted to teach such things, even though most of the students who attend are of Lutheran or Catholic background.

There are the few students who have moved here from a different state or town and have a different belief system. It is for the new students, ones of a different belief system than most of the other students, that public schools don't have a set religious class. Trying to push a different religion onto someone could - and most likely would - be offensive, which has the possibility to end in a lawsuit since the First Amendment protects the freedom of religion.

Mr. Anderson, a Social Studies teacher at NUHS, says that if religion were to be taught in school, it should be the history of it, not the beliefs themselves. It is not taught in a public school because it is not a part of the typical curriculum." He also says that if it were to be taught in school as part of a class, the teacher who is doing so should "be extremely careful." Teaching

religion in class could offend a student in the class, the parent of the student, as well as their community because religion tends to be more subjective and those who teach it tend to teach it from their own values.

Carissa Clancy, a senior at NUHS, says, "Students should not have a right to practice their beliefs in school, though we should have a right to defend it if brought up." If asked about the religion one practices, he/she should be able to discuss it without the possibility of being judged about it. She says that she has only come across one different religion in this school. Otherwise mostly all students here are Lutheran or Catholic.

Nicole Campo, also a senior, agrees with Clancy on the idea that students should have a right to defend their own religion, but doing so has the possibility of causing arguments among students. She also agrees with Anderson, saying, "Religion should be taught in class as history so that we can understand the ways of other religions." Campo says that she would be interested in learning the history of other religions as part of a class.

If the students agree to it and the school board deems it proper enough, I believe there should be a section, if not a class, that teaches students about the history of religions. This would help the students to be better equipped with dealing with a new person.

Are Cell Phones the Cause of Brain Cancer?

By Danny Cooper

NEW ULM - Think twice about the next time you talk for a long length of time on your cell phone. It could cause cancer.

Cell phones emit a radiofrequency of non-ionizing electromagnetic radiation, or "radiation that does not change the structure of atoms but does heat tissue and may cause harmful biological effects," according to the Environmental Protection Agency, when the phone is held next to the head, which absorbs the heat, and that is the myth about cell phones causing brain cancer.



To this day, there is no consistent evidence that non-ionizing radiation increases the risk for cancer. The tests that were conducted for these experiments consisted of people having brain tumors and people not having them. The tests that they did followed a large group of people over a long period of time, and the researchers would calculate the size of their brain tumor with the use of their cell phones and without using their cell phone.

The Interphone Study, with 13 other countries, have come to the conclusion that "no statistically significant increases in the brain or nervous system cancers are related to using the cell

phone, but there has been some statistically significant findings in certain groups of people."

There are groups out there that say the tests being done do not have the significant findings that are able to prove cell phones do or do not cause brain cancer. For the tests that would have to be done, they have to be able to control everything from the time of the call to the amount of radiofrequency for their location within the cell tower.

"It makes no sense," said Spencer Mullins, a New Ulm junior. "Some scientists think that almost everything causes cancer."

A major reason for inaccurate reporting is the possibility of the study groups giving false information. The type of cell phone, if it's a smartphone or not, also has a major impact on the amount of radio frequency between the caller, the distance from the cell tower, and the actual amount of radiation coming from the cell phone when making a call.

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Merry Chaos and Happy Spending

By Alyssa Hessel

NEW ULM- Americans love a celebration, and what is more celebratory than Christmas? A time of spending time with family decorating trees and cookies. But has anyone ever wondered what the overall total of all this holiday spending is?

There is no surprise that Christmas is one of the most expensive holidays of the year. Of the \$228.58 billion spent in 2012 on all major holidays, Christmas alone accounted for 59.2% of sales, according to Vincent King, writer for Moneying.com.

Last year, the average family spent about \$740.57 on Christmas. This year, the amount will increase to \$749.51. "I spend around \$500-\$700 during the holidays," said Mr. Janke, the art/pottery teacher of New Ulm High School.

According to economists, the United States is ranked second as one of the countries who spend the most money during the holidays.

It is easy for some families to overspend during the holidays with all of the holiday cheer and generosity in the air.

"Spending money stimulates the economy, so I guess it is okay," said Michael Nosek, a senior student.

"I buy one gift for each family member and friend,"

said Jenny Gag, a senior student, which is how spending can add up quickly.

But what exactly is the meaning of Christmas now-a-days? People know the true meaning of Christmas, but has today's generation twisted the meaning a bit?

"Yes," said Mr. Janke. "It has become more about status. When kids ask their parents that they want this and it has to be this."

"The holiday has definitely become more materialistic," said Mrs. Kroger, one of the newest art teachers. "I do not have kids yet, but I go for more of the homemade gifts. It means more and is less expensive."



Between the ages of 6-12 years, gifts are usually based on what is the big, new thing at the time, according to Nielsen Wire, a leading information and measurement company providing market research on what people want and buy.

The #1 most popular Christmas gift is the iPad ranging from \$499.99 to \$829.99. The new iPad "mini" is predicted to be priced at \$299 to \$249.

"This is America, it is go big or go home," said Nosek. The newer the technology, the more it is likely for

people to see it, want it, and buy it for Christmas. "I want an iPod Touch for Christmas," said Gag.

With families containing more kids than average, the spending of money becomes even more troublesome. An article from MSN estimates that each parent this year will spend an average of \$271 per child. One out of ten parents will spend a whopping \$500 per child!

To bring a halt, or at least decrease in the high expenses, why not try a homemade gift? Something with meaning and from the heart? Bringing back memories of the good times. "The gifts I remember the most are homemade ones," said Gag.

Being one of the most expensive holidays of the year, it can definitely put a little squeeze on one's wallet. But, in a way it seems to work out in the end. Nothing beats a full Christmas tree and happy faces. Happy Holidays, everyone!

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The Show Is about to Begin

By Jennifer Martens

NEW ULM - Going to the movies is an adventure every time someone steps into the dark theater. Whether the movie is a chick flick, a comedy, horror, or an action, it's a new experience every time. Sometimes movies blow expectations out of the water, and sometimes they let them sink.

"I guess it depends on my mood. Something that makes me laugh or something that makes me think," said Mrs. Kathy Nelson, an English teacher.

"Probably comedy because I like funny things. It's not serious and it doesn't make me think," said Gregg Calbick, a senior.

"If I like the actors and if it's either horror or comedy. I like the occasional action movie but only if it's superhero based. I'm not big into chick flicks, and anything with Will Ferrell is gold," said Marissa Johnson, a senior who works at the New Ulm Carmike 3 theater.

"Military action because there's always something happening to keep me interested," said Scott Jacobs, a senior.

Whether the movie is shown in 3D or not, as well as the cost, can also make a difference.

"Regular, cause 3D's too distracting and the glasses are annoying," said Calbick.

"If they were the same price, I would choose 3D over regular," said Jacobs.

Many people like 3D, but who doesn't love certain actors as well? In some eyes they make the movies that much better. Who wouldn't want to meet their favorite actor as well?

"Kenneth Branagh because he's an amazing Shakespearean actor. Plus others, and Johnny Depp just 'cause," said Mrs. Nelson.

"Tina Fey. I think she's a great, funny female role model and seems to have everything together. She just seems like a cool lady to chill with," said Johnson.

"Will Ferrell because he is an insanely funny guy," said Jacobs.

Although your favorite actor may not be in the film, there are a few movies people want to definitely see.

"*The Hobbit!*" said Jacobs enthusiastically.

"I'm gonna see the *Hobbit*," said Calbick as well.

With the rising costs of movies, though, how often people visit the theater varies as well.

"Probably a couple times a year," said Mrs. Nelson.

"Fairly often, a couple times a month," said Johnson.

Here's a sneak peek of what might be coming to the New Ulm Carmike 3 cinema.

"*The Hobbit* and *Parenthood*, and possibly *Monsters, Inc. 3D*," said Johnson.

One big movie that has a lot of people raving is *Les Misérables*. *Les Misérables* is a 157-minute dramatic, musical romance. It's based on the book and the musical itself. It's about 19th century France. Jean Valjean, who for decades has been hunted by the ruthless policeman, Javert, after he breaks his parole. He agrees to care for factory worker Fantine's daughter, Cosette. A fateful decision that changes their lives forever. The movie comes out on December 25, 2012.

Another movie set to come out on January 4, 2013 is *The Promised Land*. *The Promised Land* is a drama about a salesman from a natural gas company who visits a rural town to buy drilling rights from local residents. With the town having been hit hard by the economic decline, he sees the residents as likely to accept his and his partner's offer to buy the land from them. It soon becomes complicated with the objection of a well-respected school teacher.

Whether going to a comedy or to a documentary, a horror, or a romance, going to the movies is a way to get away from the real world and go on an adventure with some amazing or not so amazing story lines.

An NUHS Christmas

By Hannah Innvaer

NEW ULM - *The smell of warm cookies wafts through the air. The tang of pine is all around. Presents dressed in vivid reds and greens linger in the shade of a towering tree. Shiny ornaments decorate its strong boughs. The soft melodies of "Jingle Bells" and "Deck the Halls" float above it all.*

For many in America, these are the sensations of Christmas. The annual holiday is a favorite for many people, from the children eagerly waiting for gifts from Santa Claus to the older crowd awaiting a time to relax and enjoy the season with friends and family. However, Christmas traditions vary greatly across the world. The Language Department at NUHS, as well as the annual foreign exchange students, provide opportunities to learn about the diverse observances in the other countries.

According to Santa's Net, an international database of Christmas lore and tradition, Christmas traditions in the United States depend on the influence of the settlers who originally colonized the many regions.

"Early European settlers brought many traditions to the United States," claim the website's editors. "Many settled in the early days in the South [;] these settlers would send Christmas greetings to their distant neighbors by shooting firearms and letting off fireworks." People in Hawaii still practice this tradition to this day.

According to Santa's Net, other examples of unique celebrations abound. In Alaska, colonial doorways are often decorated with pineapple, a traditional symbol of hospitality and goodwill in the icy north. In Washington, D.C., a "huge, spectacular tree is lit ceremoniously" by the President. In Boston, caroling with handbell accompaniment is common. In New Orleans, an ox is paraded through the streets with holly and ribbons tied to its horns.

A traditional meal is "roast turkey with vegetables and sauces," write the editors of Santa's Net. A dessert of mince pies, pastries, sweets, and dried fruit usually follows.

The majority of Americans celebrate Christmas by exchanging gifts, family visits, and church attendance.

Homes are decorated with holly, mistletoe and branches of trees, stockings hung on the wall, electric lights, tinsel, baubles, and a pine tree under which presents are placed until Christmas morning. At that time, gifts are opened and children look to see if cookies and milk left for Santa have been taken in exchange for gifts. Legend holds that good girls and boys will receive presents, while bad children will find only coal in their stockings.

In Europe, traditions also vary. In Denmark, Christmas is less of a religious observance and more of an opportunity to celebrate with one's family. "It's not for religious reasons," says Christine Olson, our foreign exchange student from Denmark. "It's just a holiday like everything else. You spend it with your family."

According to Olson, Danes mostly eat duck at Christmas. Side dishes include potatoes, red cabbage, and rice pudding with a hot cherry sauce. Families celebrate by singing and dancing around their tree. Church services are attended, but the main purpose of the day is to enjoy time with loved ones.

Like in the U.S., people in Denmark exchange gifts for Christmas. However, instead of celebrating both Christmas Eve and Christmas, the holiday is celebrated for only one day: Christmas on

December 24. Additionally, Olson states that Christmas in America tends to be slightly more religion-focused than Christmas in Denmark, and that while the number of gifts received by Danes is often less than Americans receive, the size and cost is more.

In Germany, the celebrations are very similar to those in the United States, especially in New Ulm due to the town's German roots. According to Mr. Engeldinger, a German and English teacher at New Ulm High School, many common Christmas traditions in America may have, in fact, originated in Germany.

"The idea of bringing a tree in the house and decorating the tree probably started in Germany," says Engeldinger. "Some [traditions] have naturally been modified," he adds. For example, it was once common in Germany to place candles in Christmas trees as decorations. That practice is no longer in wide practice in either country.

Common German celebrations include caroling, visiting family, and shopping in special "Christmas Markets." Small town squares are filled with booths during the holiday season, according to Engeldinger. There, people sell their holiday wares and "small crafts."

Furthermore, many Germans take this time to donate to charities. There is a large focus on helping the needy during the Christmas season. "It's a nice time," says Engeldinger. A special tradition involves children leaving their shoes out on December 5, hoping to receive treats in return for good behavior. Naughty children are said to receive only coal.

For Christmas dinner, Germans do not eat as much turkey or ham as people do in America. "The family I stayed with [during my stay in Germany] made beef," he says. Still cookies and pastries, as well as hot chocolate, are common treats just as they are in America.

However, Christmas does vary in other ways. The focus is less on presents; instead, more emphasis is placed on family and friends. In Germany, Christmas is "a little less commercialized," says Engeldinger. "It is still a religious holiday - less of church-going, more in the home."

Likewise, according to Mrs. K. Nelson, a Spanish and English teacher, Christmas in Spanish-speaking countries remains a religious holiday in most senses. When Spanish conquerors, or *conquistadors*, invaded native populations, their Catholic influences became a deeply ingrained component of the nations' cultures. To this day, Christianity pervades much of society in these nations. Also, the "economic status variations," says Nelson, frequently lead to less stable economies. This continues to keep the focus on family, friends, and faith, instead of gifts.

Christmas Day is usually spent in church. Gifts are not exchanged until January 6, also known as the "Day of the Kings." This is the day the three wise men visited Jesus and bestowed gifts upon him, according to Biblical text.

A traditional activity for Christmas Day is *Las Pasadas*, says Nelson. In this reenactment, two children are assigned to be Mary and Joseph. They and the rest of their friends parade around town re-enacting the search for "a room at the inn" as described in the



Bible.

Common foods include *pan* (bread), sweets, and *sopapillas* (a puff pastry). In Mexico, traditional hot chocolate is a favorite, especially among children.

New Ulm High School's Language Departments, as well as the foreign exchange students welcomed to the school, offer opportunities to learn about other celebrations of Christmas beyond America's borders. Whether it's dancing around a Christmas tree or moving from house to house in search of a room, these traditions provide a sense of community and peace to their observers. They also remind the students of NUHS, regardless of religious affiliation, that the holiday season is a time to slow down and enjoy time spent with those around them.

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The Insane Side of Shopping

By Colleen Taylor

NEW ULM - Shopping. That wonderful experience when someone has to elbow someone in the face to be the first to have a Tickle Me Elmo or purse they've had their eye on and watched for it to go on sale on Black Friday.

Black Friday is that time of year between Thanksgiving and the Army vs. Navy football game. According to Kakeland News, it started as a way for stores to make money and get "in the black and out of the red," dating back to the 19th century.

Stores open early on that day so crazed shoppers who have been waiting there since midnight can spend a lot of their money.

Why is it that they do this crazy act? According to Mrs. Curry, Relationship Teacher at New Ulm High School, people do it "to get a bargain and for the thrill."

This year Black Friday seems it has started even earlier than usual - on Thanksgiving night. This isn't just one day of the year anymore; now it is creeping into the most family-oriented holiday of the year. When everyone should be thankful, they are instead elbowing a person in the face just to save a few bucks.

"Now that it is Black Thursday and Friday, I think it's infringing on family time," says Mrs. Curry.

While some might say that it is messing with the Thanksgiving spirit, others turn it into a family event. The waiting in line excluded. Bailey Ahlers and her aunt have been shopping on Black Friday for the last two years along with millions of others in stores and online.

"It's pointless because you sit there and do nothing," said Ahlers, a 9th grade student. "I think the people who stand out there in early morning are a little crazy."

It seems that every year it gets crazier.

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This Year Will Be Different, They Say (from pg. 1)

"I think people just get too excited," said Denney. "They make them unrealistic."

However, at the same time, researchers have found that sometimes resolutions are hard to keep simply as a result of the always quickening pace of everyday life. "People just forget about their resolutions," Byro said.

Regardless of the year, as long as humans exist, humans will be flawed, which means there will always be room for improvement. "People always feel like they have something to perfect," said Byro. However, without the right frame of mind, success is unlikely.

In order to increase one's chances of success, he or she should "spread it out and set weekly goals," advised Lechuga. "Don't have one big goal."

"Make your resolution something measurable," added Denney.

Also, according to Statistic Brain, studies have shown that those who make goals explicitly are ten times more

likely to succeed than those who keep their resolutions to themselves. "If I tell someone else about my resolution, then they can guilt me into keeping it!" said Nelson.

Yet, when it all comes down to it, a resolution can only be expected to "stick" if it is truly based around a person's desire to make a change.

"Whatever your resolution is," said Byro, "make it memorable."

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Racism Among Us

By Airelle Carruth

NEW ULM - As a school full of mostly German kids, the students here haven't really been exposed to anything different. According to the 2010 Census, New Ulm is 97.8% White and 3.7% other ethnicities. Needless to say, the people who have spent their entire lives here aren't all too acquainted with being around people of a different race.

Just a short drive away from here in Willmar, there is a huge difference in diversity. In the school alone there is almost an equal amount of Somali, Mexican, and white students. The students there are used to being around such different people. When I transferred there and told them about NUHS, they were all shocked. Being in a diverse school is nothing new to me, seeing as I have been to three different high schools as well as several different grade schools.

Coming to New Ulm was a shock, since there are so few different races here. The foreign exchange students make up most of our diversity.

Mrs. Nelson, a Spanish/English teacher, agrees, "New Ulm is a pretty homogeneous town. Most of the people here are related somehow. There isn't a lot of diversity." Nelson also says there isn't much change now from the past due to the lack of ethnicity.

New Ulm is a town that hasn't really been touched by change. When a new face comes to town, people tend to gawk at them because they are not used to seeing them. Though the townspeople may gawk, they can be very accepting of someone new. Mrs. Nelson goes on to say, "People in town tend to be more judgemental about someone's actions if they don't know them."

Mr. Bergmann, the school principal, says that he occasionally encounters a student who is the victim of racism.

Bergmann says that it is usually because of antireligious students. Bergmann adds, "When such things occur, the staff has to educate the students to help them to understand." The "penalty" is adjusted depending upon what is happening. Bergmann says, "The main concern is protecting our students."

As far as racism goes here in New Ulm High School, there's not much. There isn't much diversity in this school, so we don't tend to see a lot of racial "bullying." Travel just a few miles out and bear witness to something the people in this town have probably never come in contact with.

Did You Know?

In Minnesota, a person cannot cross state lines with a duck on their head.

It is illegal to pass a cow without tipping your hat in the Pine Island District.

All porcupines float in water.

In Minnesota all bathtubs must have feet.

Top 10 New Year's Resolutions Made

1. Lose weight
2. Get organized
3. Save more, spend less
4. Enjoy life to the fullest
5. Stay fit or get healthy
6. Learn something exciting
7. Quit smoking
8. Help others achieve their dreams
9. Fall in love
10. Spend more time with family

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Winter Driving

By Alexander Ahern

NEW ULM- Snow. Ice. Sleet. Winter weather is nearly upon us and the time to prepare for it is now. One of the many things that need preparing for is driving in the harsh winter weather conditions, especially for the young, new, inexperienced teen drivers who may be completely clueless as to how to prepare for bad driving conditions.

With winter weather comes multiple possible problems for driving. Heavy snow poses the possibility of getting stuck, freezing rain and sleet can make roads very slick, and white-outs may limit a driver's visibility to zero.

There is also always the potential for all these conditions to affect someone simultaneously. Maybe a driver gets into white-out conditions, hits a patch of ice that he or she couldn't see, and gets stuck in three feet of snow on the side of the road. What should one do to prepare for this possibility before it happens?

Local police officer Jay Backer suggests that the best things to bring along before going out in winter conditions, due to the possibility of getting stuck and stranded are a blanket to keep warm and a cell phone to call for help.

"I've gotten stuck before," said Backer. "The road hadn't been plowed, and I got stuck in the snow. So my dad and his friend came out with a pickup and a shovel and dug me out."

Other items that would also be wise to keep in the car include a shovel to dig out of deep snow, a bright-colored

flag or similar object to tie to the antenna if stuck in a ditch, and keeping the gas tank at above half a tank in order to keep the engine running and heater on if needed for warmth.

Driving in bad winter weather can take years to master. It is simply not possible to perfect since some situations are completely unpredictable. Yet every year, young teen drivers attempt it, completely unprepared for the worst case scenario, like they think they're professionals. And unfortunately, many end up suffering the consequences and learning their lesson.

"My best advice to the teen drivers is to completely avoid driving in bad conditions if possible," states Backer.



All I Want For Christmas Is..?

By Katie Ringle

NEW ULM - Oh, no! It's that time of year again! Christmas is right around the corner, and poor little Student Joe has nothing for gifts, and his pay check is all he has. What can a person in Student Joe's shoes do that would be quick, affordable, and from the heart?

A good start to find out what his friends want is to find out what is popular this Christmas.

"Most people seem to want electronic 'gizmos' and things like that," said Mrs. K. Nelson, an English teacher at NUHS.

Electronics are always nice, but they can be rather expensive, and Student Joe only works part time at his job. In his case, perhaps money might be better.

"Many people want money because it is something they can, and will, surely use," said Mrs. Curry, an NUHS FACS teacher.

Money is always lovely, but it is not very original and should be a last resort. What else could Student Joe do for Christmas?

"I like to make gifts, and I tend to buy or make everyone something," said Caitlyn Otto, a senior at NUHS.

Of course! Making things is always fun, easy, and from the heart. Even Student Joe can make a card or decorative jar! Homemade gifts can be sweet, serious, or even sometimes funny.

"Making something random that makes no sense is always a great gift and is hilarious," said Beth Bunda, a senior at NUHS.

It can be nice to make other things that could be used around the house, like cleaning tickets or coupons.

"Students could make a coupon book, which could have coupons for doing dishes or sweeping," said Curry.

All of these are great and inexpensive ideas.

Sometimes it is nice to give food, such as mixes or snacks.

"I like to give 'gifts in a jar,' which can be cookie or cake mixes," said Nelson.

Cooked foods can be great gifts, too.

"I enjoy making caramels and a tray of Christmas cookies and other goodies," said Curry.

Then again, the gift doesn't have to be food related. It can always be a fun craft as well.

Who doesn't love being covered in glitter and glue?

Sherri Osborn, an online writer for arts and crafts, has a full list of ideas on her website. Some of these ideas include: fleece-tied blankets, pencil wraps, a fairy dust necklace, ornaments, handprint/footprint t-shirt, and many more.

Another popular place to find ideas is Pinterest, which Student Joe just happened to have on his cell phone.

"The DIY (Do It Yourself) page on Pinterest is great place for ideas," said Otto.



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Growing the Greenhouse

By Jake Gieseke & Andrew Forstner

NEW ULM - The greenhouse of the NUHS Ag Department has been a big part of the success of the New Ulm FFA for years. The FFA chapter is one of the biggest in the state of Minnesota and soon the greenhouse will follow in the footsteps of the chapter after its expansion is completed.

The greenhouse expansion has been in the back of the minds of the Ag advisors for years, and this year the plan to expand is being put into action.

"The greenhouse was initially constructed nearly 30 years ago. The original plans were to expand well before this year. The goal for the expansion has always remained but the means to realize this goal have not presented themselves," said Mr. Stuckey, an Ag teacher.

The Ag Department will look to utilize the greenhouse in many different ways. One of the ways is to use the space to have additional class projects and more growing space for different types of plants.

"The added square footage will be utilized to provide more growing space for individual plant projects, class plant projects, larger scale growing opportunities, and alternative growing methods, notably hydroponic growing," said Stuckey.



The greenhouse will also help in the education aspect of class by allowing the classes to have more opportunities to grow plants through different methods of growing.

"Lab space for propagation, hands on practicums, and growth experiments," said Ag teacher Mr. Nelson.

"The addition will provide needed space required to provide the type of learning experiences that benefit students in all agriculture classes. We have been limiting the number of students being able to use the greenhouse as a learning tool because of space limitations. More space will allow more students access to experimental learning," said Stuckey.

The addition will not only help students in classes but it will also help students that participate in Career Development Events (CDE) by letting them learn hands on instead of just through pictures.

"The opportunity to have live specimens to judge, propagate, and analyze for contests" would be really beneficial for the students, said Nelson.

Mr. Stuckey agrees. "Additional greenhouse square footage will permit us to maintain a larger inventory of plant material for study and preparation for CDE's. Photos and pictures are wonderful tools, but actual plantings are better learning tools," said

Stuckey.

The original plans for the greenhouse could not be fulfilled for many different reasons over 40 years ago. One of the big reasons was funds for the project.

With a lot of volunteer help from students and others, the addition is underway.

A Great Week for a Great Organization

By Andrew Hartley

NEW ULM - During the month of February, one whole week will be dedicated to the New Ulm FFA Chapter, not forgetting the learning aspect of the school day. The week is full of activities and will involve students of New Ulm High School with the FFA. This particular week helps interest students to join FFA.

Currently, the New Ulm FFA Chapter has about 250 members and two advisors, Mr. Nelson and Mr. Stuckey.

The FFA organization started in 1928 and has played a great role in schools all over the United States. FFA is a leadership organization based on agriculture. The FFA has made a positive impact on a tremendous number of students by helping to shape their lives with strong ethics and morals.

FFA Week started in 1948. The week is celebrated during the month of February. Mr. Stuckey, FFA Advisor and Ag teacher, said, "FFA Week is celebrated during the month of February during the week of George Washington's birthday."

This specific week has an impact on the FFA by involving all the individuals in the school with activities and other things, such as the Ag Olympics.

The week also helps students to find common ground on joining the FFA.

Jake Gieseke, FFA Treasurer and a senior, said, "I think this week will show the younger kids all the opportunities that they can have by participating in FFA."

"I think it is good because people will know more about FFA," said Kelsey Miller, FFA Historian and a senior. Not to mention the Peanut Day, along with the Medallion Hunt, and the

FFA Trivia, along with the Banquet and the Awards Ceremony. "My favorite part of the FFA Week is the Banquet because we get to hear from a speaker, and we also get to see the successes of the other FFA members at the Awards Ceremony," said Gieseke.

Every year, this week has been a great success thanks to the great individuals who make it possible, not to mention, the students who participate.

When it comes to the FFA Week, it brings students together and introduces individuals to the FFA.

Although it may be two months away, the anticipation can be seen by students and staff of the school.



"Funding is always a concern. Funds for the expansion have not been present because of our district's financial challenges. We have received grants and are continuing to provide the labor to date. The Welding, Masonry, and Power (WMP) class prepared the site and saw the foundation was completed. The Construction class led by Mr. VanRoekel has been key in working with the WMP students in site preparation. The construction crew will be framing the structure and sharpening their skills as they go. Even the building of the structure has benefits of NUHS students," said Stuckey.

The greenhouse construction is well underway, but the timetable for the plan is all based upon the weather.

"Completion of the project is dependent on winter weather, student progress, material availability, and financing of the construction materials. We are looking for a spring completion and perhaps being able to produce our first crop under the new roof," said Stuckey.



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NHL Lockout

By Andrew Forstner & Jake Gieseke

NEW YORK CITY- The National Hockey League's (NHL) lockout has been gut wrenching for the league's hockey-deprived fans. The owners, the commissioner, and the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) are battling over a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) which divides up the league's revenue between the owners and players.

The National Football League (NFL), the National Basketball Association (NBA), and Major League Baseball (MLB) have all agreed on their own long-term CBA deals within the past two years, and only the NBA's resulted in a loss of regular season games.

However, this year's NHL lockout has been by far the worst. About 42.8% of the season has been cancelled (526 games) with the rest being in serious doubt as both sides have taken on the congressional way of doing business, not compromising. The All-Star game and the Winter Classic, the NHL's single biggest revenue generating event, has also been cancelled. It is estimated that the NHL is losing about \$20 million dollars everyday.

This is not to mention the negative economic impact on the local establishments and businesses the lockout has had in the 30 different NHL cities across the United States and Canada. The lockout has done more than just taken hockey off the ice; it has hurt some people's daily livelihood.

The fans are the ones stuck in the middle, and that has everyone upset, and just wanting hockey back. After all, the money that the league is fighting over comes directly from the fans' pockets.

Just Lead It

By Andrew Hartley

NEW ULM - The FFA Organization, established in 1928, is a leadership organization with its roots based in agriculture. For many years the FFA has influenced many individuals with positive learning experiences and lessons learned that many would say are permanent.

The FFA plays a huge role in many high schools, along with the students who are members of this organization. The FFA spans out in all 50 states along with the 557,318 members and the 7,498 chapters in the United States. FFA also reaches out to Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"FFA is a leadership organization based in agriculture," said Jake Gieseke, FFA Treasurer. The FFA organization helps with passing down many other skills, ethics, and morals.

"FFA develops assertive agricultural leadership and gives awareness of the global and technological importance to agriculture. An individual can also gain confidence while being a member of FFA," said Gieseke.

While an individual is in FFA, he or she can gain many qualities that can help during everyday life. "An individual can gain confidence while being in FFA. It also develops skills in teamwork and communication," said Gieseke.

The FFA Leadership Day can make a positive impact on the individuals who attend. The Leadership Day was in Mankato at SCC. The day focuses on developing leadership skills and teaching students about FFA.

For some it was their first time attending this event. Caitlyn Otto, a senior and an FFA member, said, "That was my first FFA trip I went on, so I think I learned more about the FFA in general." The knowledge that can be obtained from this event is tremendous. Ross Schnieder, a senior and an FFA member, said, "I learned about different officer positions that I didn't even know existed."

If an individual were to ask around, he or she would get many of the same responses about how the Leadership Day experience helped them. The majority of this knowledge that an individual can take in can be used down the road. "I plan on being more involved with FFA in the future. We learned about leadership which will help me in college, and stuff like that,"



"The thing that upsets me most is how the argument is over money when they already get paid a ton," said senior Adam Ellanson.

Senior Collin Kral said he's "more annoyed because they said they solved it several times but that isn't the case."

Much, if not all, of the blame for the lockout is put on the people who originally locked out the players, the owners and Commissioner Gary Bettman. Commissioner Bettman and the owners have been the fans' punching bag in every lockout discussion, as they are seen as the greedy ones in this fight between billionaires and millionaires.

"I feel the owners are greedy to want even more money! The players are the good guys because they are trying to fix this so they can get back out and play," said senior Blake Neumann.

Senior Josh Cooper agrees when he said, "I think the commissioner is too greedy, and I feel bad for the players because they have to deal with him."

"I'm just mad at Bettman," said Kral.

"I definitely have a different perspective on everyone involved. It seems like all they care about is money," said Ellanson.

This is the ugly side of sports, but it is a business, and like every business there are labor disputes with a lot of money on the table. It's only natural for each side to try to get the best deal for themselves. However, it's a deal that needs to get done soon to prevent further damage to the league, and the only way it's going to get done is if there is great compromise by both sides.

When the NHL lockout is finally over, all eyes will once again be focused on the product on the ice. Some people think the players will be rusty

initially and team chemistry could be thrown off because teams haven't been able to run practice as an organization, and they haven't played competitively since last year.

Players that have moved to new teams haven't had a chance to get accustomed to their new system and new teammates. It will take some time for the coaches to find the right lines and get each player where he can be most productive and build team chemistry.

Also, young teams have lost valuable growth and development time which could negatively affect where the organization ends up at the end of the season. The older, more experienced teams would benefit most if the lockout is lifted and the NHL has a shortened season.

"Absolutely, team chemistry will be gone because they have been apart for a long time," said Neumann.

"Yes, they will be rusty from not having much competitive play," said Kral.

Through it all the NHL is lucky that they have some of the most loyal fans in the world. Most fans will be ecstatic to see their teams play again, but they will never forget how the lockout made them feel.

"When it's over, I'll still be upset with the NHL, but I will start watching the games right when they start up again," said Ellanson.

"Yes, I will [start watching games]. I love to watch hockey," said Cooper.

"I will feel happy when it's over and start watching games right away," said Neumann.

Maybe the league will learn a lesson from this lockout and next time when they have to work on a CBA, they will do it in a more peaceful way and not at the fans' expense.

"The lockout was unnecessary," said Kral.

After all without the fans the NHL is dead.

said Otto.

"This experience has shown me that to be successful in life you need to have leadership skills," said Gieseke.

With some people, they had their own favorite parts of the Leadership Day. "I liked the games we played," said Otto. The games at this event focused a lot on leadership and leadership skills. "My favorite part was the basic focus on leadership. Along with splitting into groups and learning about different types of leadership," said Gieseke.

The views on the Leadership Day varied, all in a positive perspective. Ron Kokesch, a junior, said, "I liked the aspect that I got to meet new

people!"

With the New Ulm FFA Chapter being one of the biggest chapters in the state of Minnesota with about 250 members, it could be said that there are about 250 individuals who walk through the doors of New Ulm Public High School 5 days a week and come out with leadership skills that will benefit them in the long run.

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Just for the GIRLS!

The Inside Story of the Latest Fashion Trends

By Miranda Sandberg

NEW ULM - Jelly shoes, denim overalls, bob cuts, and ugly Christmas dresses. These are fashion trends from when we were in kindergarten. Now the hot fashion trends are scarves, Ugg boots, everything sparkly, and colored skinny jeans.

Amanda Zupfer, a senior at NUHS, said that her favorite fashion trends are scarves and cardigans. "I love wearing these because you can wear them with anything, and they are so comfortable. They can change your outfit and make you look a little more classy," she said.

Clarissa Waibel, a senior at NUHS, said that her favorite trends are sequins, boots, and colored jeans. "I just want to be comfortable but look good at the same time," she said.

In addition, trends from our past are slowly coming back. Examples include colored skinny jeans, Converse shoes, leggings, leg warmers, and denim jackets. According to Mrs. Fairbairn, an English teacher at NUHS, "Fashion trends that are coming back from when I was in high school would be rolling the skinny jeans," she said.

According to Fashion Pulse, a fashion website by famous fashion

Gettin' Cozy: Teen Sex

By Matthew Penkert

NEW ULM - "It started in a chair and ended in a chair," says the main character in *Juno* explaining her teenage pregnancy experience. NUHS's health classes are seen as inappropriate in the eyes of some parents, but if the school does not teach teens about sex, who will?

Today's teens have been around sexual content since they were little kids-on television and on the radio. It is all around us. Many people do not understand why teens have sex or do what they tend to do.

Mr. Bergmann, the principal, said, "I hear of students from eighth grade all the way to the seniors having sex."

Maybe the two required health classes are helping or maybe parents are talking to their kids about sex earlier but the rates of teen sex are going down.

Mrs. Longtin, a health teacher, said, "Only 66% of students are staying abstinent these days, but that percentage is slowly going up."

Despite the fact that teen sex is going down, it is still happening. Whether it is peer pressure, curiosity, or just to get a better status, all teens have thought about sex at some time.

The school does as much as it can to help make sure young teens are educated about sex-that includes the negatives and the consequences of teen sex.

"Our health program does a wonderful job with the kids," Bergmann said. "It covers diseases, consequences, and also the process of teen sex."

Parents and teachers know that sex does happen, so the health class makes sure the kids are taking safety precautions. The health class teaches about protection, and it still

ion designers, letterman jackets, three-fourths sleeves, leg warmers, and ripped sweatshirts are all old trends coming back. Also coming back are the old classic-retro fashion, black and white, and pastel colors.

Fashion trends go in cycles and they are always changing. "Fashion trends change so much because teens are always seeing new trends," Zupfer said.

"Fashion trends are constantly changing because people are always changing, and they want to be different, so they do different things," Waibel said.

The benefits about fashion trends is that these trends



shows in seniors' minds.

For example, Collin Kral, a senior, recalls, "Always use two kinds of protection-birth control and a condom."

Even after the classes, the parents should still be one of the main people that are there to talk to about sex by having the famous "sex talk." The sex talk is given at different ages depending on the family and the tradition.

The difference between school and home is obviously clear. "We can only do so much at school to prevent it," Bergmann said. "They are not having sex at school, so in all reality, it is the parents responsibility."

Whether it is the students or the parents that worry about STDs, STDs should be a big concern. One out of four students has an STD and it is slowly moving to every one out of three students.

"Teenagers are not worried as much as they should be about getting pregnant or catching an

STD," Kral said.

"I try to let the kids know what is right and wrong to do and hopefully they listen," Mrs. Longtin said. "I just hope they wait until they find the one person they love and want to grow old with."

In the words of Mrs. Longtin, "Be safe, make good choices, and keep your pants on!"

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Why Schools in MN Are Banning Yoga Pants

By Miranda Sandberg

NEW ULM - To many people, yoga pants are so comfortable and easy to wear, so why are schools banning them? Schools such as Minnetonka High School are banning these pants. Many people have their own opinions about why they are being banned, but here at NUHS yoga pants are a girl's best friend. Yoga pants are just like sweat pants only more form fitting.

Many people do not think it is fair for schools to be banning yoga pants.

“I do not think they should be able to ban yoga pants because it expresses your feelings for that day,” said Kate Schroeder, a senior at NUHS. “They are so comfortable. I wear them four times a week. They are cheap and you can get them almost anywhere,” Schroeder added.

Another senior at NUHS, Bree Friedman, also agrees that schools should not be allowed to ban yoga pants. “They can't take away our rights about what we want to wear,” Friedman said.

If NUHS were to attempt to ban yoga pants, Friedman said she would do anything not to let them do so, and Schroeder said that she

would just wear more sweat pants.

Mr. Bergmann, principal of NUHS, said that he has heard about schools banning yoga pants. “I do not see our school banning yoga pants as long as it doesn't become an issue,” he said. “If it does become an issue, we will have to address it.”

According to Mom.me, a blog by moms who express their ideas, yoga pants are being banned in schools because they want their girls to look more modest, because it is a distraction, and girls are showing too much.

“I believe schools are banning them because they think it is (distracting) the boys, yet they are just like skinny jeans and leggings,” Friedman said.

“They shape you and can be too tight. Private schools are banning them so they look more conservative,” Schroeder said.

“Yoga pants are a girl's best friend because they are so comfortable and easy to wear,” according to Mom.me. Yes, schools are banning them because it is “distracting” and is a disruption to the

schools, but do they really have the right to ban them?

According to Hawkeye, the Mountain Lake Terrace High School Newspaper, “Banning yoga pants for girls would be like banning basketball shorts for boys. It's not fair to put more limits on girls' apparel than guys' apparel.” Female students should not ever be given such an unreasonable clothing policy as the one banning yoga pants, according to Hawkeye. Yoga pants have never been a problem with the school district for years when girls wore them without a second glance.

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ACT Prep: Why It Matters

By Miranda Steinmetz

NEW ULM - Are you planning on going to college? If so, what field do you want to go into?

One thing people need to think about is that if you want to go to a four-year college, then you need to take the ACT test. Most colleges require ACT test scores to be sent by a student's high school to be able to get into the college of their choice.

“The ACT and Accuplacer are required for a college entrance. The ACT equals four years and the Accuplacer equals a total of two years,” said high school Guidance Counselor Mr. Ziemer.

Any student that takes the ACT or Accuplacer may take it multiple times to improve their score.

A couple students at New Ulm High School said they would consider retaking it depending on the score they received.

“If I don't get the score that I want, I will take it again,” said Airelle Carruth, a senior at NUHS.

The test takes three and a half to four hours to complete.

Many students feel pressure while taking it the first time, but taking it the second time there would be more pressure on the student because they are hoping for a higher score than the first time.

“I think I did as well on it as I could have,” said Abby Matthews, a senior at NUHS.

There are two versions of the ACT test. One is the No-Writing and the other one is the Plus-Writing test. The No-Writing has four sections to it, and each section is taken one at a time. The sections include Math, Science, Reading, and English. The Plus-Writing ACT includes the previously mentioned segments and an additional writing segment. Typically the ACT is taken at the high school from approximately 8 a.m. to noon.

The New Ulm High School counselors offer the Accuplacer after school several times throughout the school year. It is not a timed test. Mr. Ziemer reports that it takes students an average of

an hour and a half to complete the Accuplacer.

There are several reasons that colleges look at a high school student's ACT or Accuplacer scores. Colleges look at those scores because they are aptitude readiness tests, which determine if that student is ready for college or needs remediation courses.

Some colleges require a minimum score on the ACT or Accuplacer in order for their admission to the college.

“I took the test on December 8, 2012, because I want to have a better chance of getting into the college I want to attend,” said Carruth.

Students are encouraged to take these tests early so they have an opportunity to retest if necessary. Check with your Guidance Counselors for the upcoming ACT and Accuplacer tests. The ACT Plus-Writing test requires a \$50 fee and the ACT No-Writing test is \$35. The Accuplacer is free to students taking the test at New Ulm High School.



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Horoscopes

By Joshua Dunton

Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19) - Today is a day to kick back and forget your worries. Try going on a walk or play a video game to keep your mind at ease.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20) - Luck is on your side. Take a chance on new things you haven't done. Odds are you will enjoy the outcome.

Gemini (May 21 - June 21) - Stop complaining; nobody is going to listen to you. Everything you want to talk about is only centered around you. Start talking of good things instead of only the negative things in society.

Cancer (June 22 - July 22) - Slow down. Life isn't a race. Try taking a detour and go out with friends. You should enjoy high school, not try to finish it as quickly as possible.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 22) - Wipe that look off your face. You have been pushing people around too much and too far lately. If you don't stop, karma will hit you hard.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22) - Grades are just letters. They don't show how smart you truly are. When people think you aren't smart, prove them wrong by answering the teacher's questions.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23) - Feeling like your life is same day-to-day routine? That's a sign that you should try something new, like read a good book or see a movie you've never seen.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21) - Congratulations, you are today's big winner. Go out and collect your reward by doing what you feel like doing. No matter the outcome, you won the jackpot.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21) - Relationships are difficult, even family ones. Friends and family aren't seeing your point of view. Try to explain to them how you feel and what you think. Communication is the key to a happy relationship.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19) - What are you doing? What made you make such a strange decision? People are wondering if you are okay, so let's stop and rethink what is going on today.

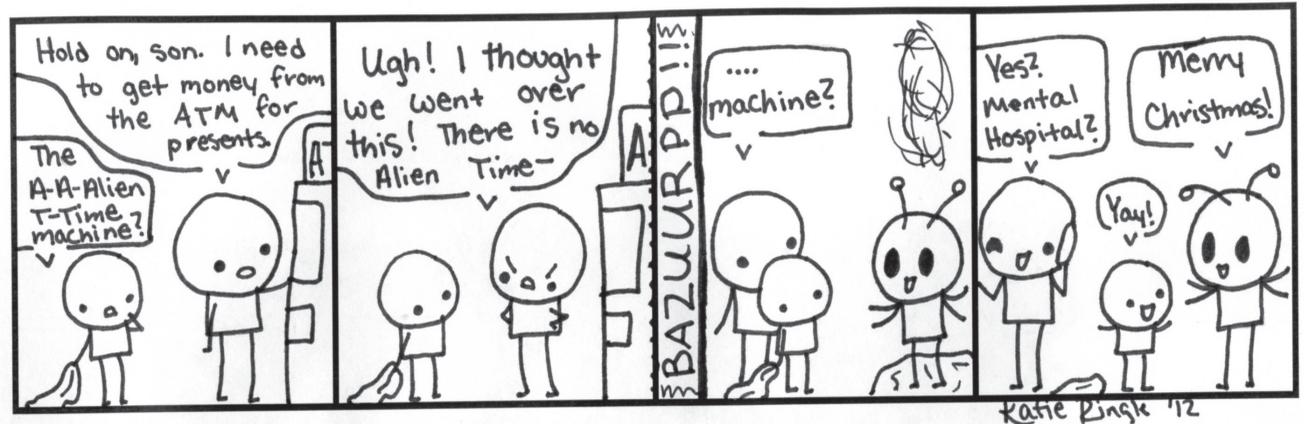
Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18) - Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will hurt forever, but only if you let them. Don't listen to these words.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20) - Sorry to say it, but today is really not your day. You have no luck. Try ducking down and staying low until the end of the day. Tomorrow will be brighter.

*Thank You to the New Ulm Journal
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Comics

By Katie Ringle & Caitlin Harrington



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