

PASSAMARI

The Official Voice of the Sheridan Panthers Since 1923



The high school band and choir concert had a great turnout this year. Thanks to the Sheridan community, the music department was able to raise \$1600. The funds will be used for a tour pending board approval. For more pictures, see page 6.

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Band and Choir Provide Dinner and a Show

Jenna Nate- Senior

The high school band and choir held their annual Christmas concert on Monday, December 6. The evening kicked off with a delicious tri-tip dinner cooked by Jason Chisolm, Sr., which was served by members of the band. Proceeds from the dinner will go towards the band and choir's funds, which will eventually be used for a music tour pending school board approval. Following the dinner, the band performed *A Cartoon Christmas*, arranged by Michael Story, and *A Christmas Festival*, arranged by Leroy Anderson. "White Christmas was my favorite song because it's fun to sing," said Caitlyn Galiger. Soon after, the high school choir performed six songs, including *Jingle Bell Rock*, *Santa Baby*, and *White Christmas*. Mr. Johnson said he was very proud of both his band and choir classes. "The High School concert was really amazing. The band played really well and the choir, as usual, was angelic," Johnson said. Overall, the dinner raised \$1600 for the music department. Johnson hopes to use the money to arrange a tour for the band and choir if approved by the board.

Looking Back: The Switch to a Four-Day Week

Jenna Nate- Senior

Thirteen years ago, Sheridan Schools switched from a five-day school week to a four-day school week. At its inception, Sheridan's new schedule operated Monday through Thursday with one Friday per month. Additionally, school days were lengthened by twenty minutes to reach the minimum number of classroom hours required by the state. This switch was motivated by students missing school due to extracurricular events and was passed in hopes the absentee rates would go down, in turn increasing in-class instruction. Despite the four-day week being fairly popular now, when it was proposed, the faculty became divided on whether to pass it or not. They found that the K-6 teachers opposed it because of concerns about a longer day for younger kids, academic retention, behavior, and childcare for parents. On the other end of the spectrum, 7-12 teachers were in favor of the proposal. They were tired of student absences due to extracurriculars because they often had to reteach material the following Monday. Teachers and the school board weren't the only ones giving input on the idea; the school also polled families in the community and asked for their input. Many were in favor of the change and saw it as an opportunity to spend more time with their children. Very few families worried about less instruction time and too much downtime. After they received input, the school board looked at the pros and cons, and they eventually passed the proposal. Immediately following the switch, attendance improved, academic performance increased, and energy was high in the classrooms. Research has shown that switching to a four-day week has both pros and cons in relation to areas of finances, personal, and education.

Financial

Many schools hope that by taking a day off of school each week, they can save money. For example, teachers may not need to be paid as much as teachers working on a full five days each week, meals don't need to be provided to students, and the school saves on utilities like water and heating. This decrease allows money to be used in other areas that can benefit students. On the other hand, costs often go up for parents. Specifically, parents who work on Fridays need to find child care for younger kids who would have otherwise been in school. Additionally, parents must provide meals that would have normally been provided by the school and utility costs go up. For families on a strict budget, this increase in expenses can be a burden. Luckily, Sheridan has been able to offer students the opportunity to attend the PALZ program on Fridays, which gives parents a free place to send their kids on Fridays.

Personal

Having Friday off every week can be a huge benefit for families. For example, it allows parents to schedule doctor, dentist, and other appointments on Fridays. Additionally, parents who don't work can spend more time with their kids, and weekend getaways can be longer for families. A four-day week can also be helpful for students' mental health. Specifically, having a three-day weekend can give students downtime to recuperate and prepare for the next week. Conversely, having a four-day week requires schools to increase the length of school days in order to meet state mandates. This can mean starting earlier, getting out later, or both. These longer days can have a negative impact on students who aren't used to it. It also reduces the time after school for students to work on homework, play, and spend time with their families.

Educational

Cutting the school week off on Thursday gives teachers Friday to prepare lesson plans and other materials for the next school week. They can grade work and finalize grades, which allows students to receive more timely feedback. It also gives teachers more free time on the weekend, which can help them come to class on Monday refreshed and ready for the upcoming week. "Teachers find the extra time helps them prepare, grade, and rejuvenate. Burnout is a real thing for teachers across the country. We are facing serious teaching shortages," said Laurie Bartoletti. In contrast, getting rid of eight hours per week decreases time in the classroom. Increasing the school day by twenty minutes doesn't compare to the day lost per week. In Sheridan's case, however, there wasn't necessarily a decrease in classroom time as students would regularly miss Fridays for extra-curricular activities.

As you can see, there are many pros and cons to a four-day school week. Overall, whether a five day is better than a four day will depend on what works best for each school. Each school has different students with different demographics, and it is important to look at the needs of the students before deciding. Sheridan did just that while deciding what schedule to go with and the four-day week seems to be working for its staff and students. Mrs. Bartoletti tells "Ultimately, we found students who want to excel, participate, work, and have personal and academic goals do well in the four-day environment." As a student at Sheridan High School, I personally can't imagine doing a five-day school week. I use my Fridays to work and do homework, and the long weekend allows me to spend more time with my family.

Information Source: https://mtstandard.com/news/local/four-day-school-week/article_2eb63ee0-5020-11df-bb26-001cc4c03286.html.

<https://degree.lamar.edu/articles/education/the-pros-and-cons-of-a-four-day-school-week/>.

FFA Alumni Auction Draws Supporters

Jorien VerHow- Senior

On Sunday, November 21, the Ruby Valley FFA and Alumni held their annual Alumni and Supporters Auction. The event started at 12:00 pm with a lunch served by FFA members. "Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves during the lunch and it was a good opportunity for everyone to get out of the house to come support the Alumni," said Brooke Grow, the Chapter Treasurer. After everyone was done eating, about 1:00 pm, the auction began. The event offered both live and silent auction items. Items included both donations from local businesses and items made by FFA members. "We sold some pretty cool things and made a good amount of money to help our Alumni," said Myckena Wood, a member of the FFA. Over 60 items in the live auction and close to 40 silent auction items were donated by local businesses to the auction. The money made from the auction went to the Ruby Valley FFA Alumni, a group that supports and helps run the FFA. "I was really excited to see the amount of items we received and the amount of support that our FFA and Alumni has," said Faith Larsen, Chapter Secretary.



Many items were auctioned off, like this owl welded by senior Simah Anson.

Always Making a Statement

Madeline Lindroth- Senior

On the weekend of Friday, November 19th, the Speech and Drama team set off for their first competitive meet in Red Lodge, MT. The team spent a lot of 'quality' time together while being crammed in the school expedition for the majority of the trip. When the team finally made it to their destination, they had plenty of time for some good old-fashioned R&R before their big day of competing. The meet was held at the Mountain View Elementary School and started bright and early at 8:30 am. "With only a few weeks of practice under our belts, we were

excited to kick off our speech and drama season in Red Lodge with two new competitors this year, freshman Tristian Stout and senior Madeline Lindroth. The first competition of the year is always a little nerve-racking but all competitors showed up and worked hard. Joe Gilman ended up placing fifth in SPOI," said Speech and Debate advisor, Rachel Minert. For seniors Joe Gilman, Noah Caldwell, Rachel Zielenski, and Madeline Lindroth, this was their last first meet of Speech and Debate. "It was fun to meet new people. You'd think that competing against them would make you hate them, but really you all sit out in a hall and make jokes with one another till it's your turn to present," said Joe Gilman. For freshman Tristan Stout, this was his first meet ever. "It wasn't what I had expected it to be, there were a lot of different people there and it was actually a lot of fun," Tristan said. This meet was a great start to the team's season of competing ahead. The team is working on making their way to state, which will be held in Huntley on January 28th and 29th.

Sheridan Christmas Stroll Rolls Through Town

Joe Gilman- Senior

A few days into December, the town of Sheridan hosted its annual Christmas Stroll on Main Street. The night began at around six with an amazing light show parade; locals covered their vehicles in festive lights and then started the show. Additionally, during this event, many people were able to stroll around and look through local shops, as many were open during this time. Stores such as R&W Outdoors had treats, such as cookies or apple cider to offer its guests. Others, like Bread Zeppelin, kept serving dinner for those who found themselves wanting something delicious. "The pizza was delicious that night. We also went and got root beer from the brewery," senior Caitlyn Galiger said. The Candle-Light Cafe also had a fun game for strollers to play. This was similar to a carnival game, where one could attempt to throw small rubber balls into cups. It seemed to bring much more joy to those people on Main Street who participated in the game. The girl scouts were also at the event selling baked goods to those who had a sweet tooth. During the Christmas Stroll, the FFA was also hosting haybale rides. Noah Caldwell and Mr. Rodney Braaten were in charge of driving the tractor and trailer stacked with hay bales. This helped people cross town easier and also helped reduce foot traffic along the crowded sidewalks. By the time it reached nine at night, the Christmas Stroll began to wind down to a close. "It was a fun community event to attend," said junior Jason Munns. There was, however, something missing. "It was pretty dry that night; I was kind of hoping for some snow to be on the ground," said Mrs. April Wuelfing.

NHS Saves the Holidays

Brooke Grow- Senior

It's that time of year again: the weather is chilly, snow "should" be falling, and children are anxious for the arrival of Christmas morning; however, not everyone gets the joy of Christmas in their stockings or under the tree. The Sheridan High School National Honor Society is joining with Toys for Tots to make sure that everyone, even the less fortunate, has a merry Christmas. "Toys for Tots is a good opportunity to get the students of Sheridan High School involved and to help out families in need," said NHS Advisor Laurie Bartoletti. The leaders of the toy drive are members Brooke Grow, Kassidy McCoy, and Natalie Schrank. "I think Toys for Tots is a really great idea. It's [helping] kids that don't have a lot of chances to have a new toy for Christmas, which is a really great thing," said junior Kassidy McCoy. This year NHS is creating a competition among the junior high and high school classes to determine who will gather the most toys. The winning class will receive a movie party along with treats and coffee from Alder Creek in Sheridan, Montana. The reigning champs, the senior class, are eager to defend their title. "It's a great way to get some friendly competition in the high school while helping others during the holiday," explained senior Jenna Nate. In total, the 7-12th grades donated a total of 25 gifts, meaning around a quarter of the high school donated. "The turnout this year wasn't as expected, but I am still grateful for what we gathered. A new method of bribery might be used next year," stated Mrs. Bartoletti.



Athletes Honored at Fall Sports Banquet

Kaymbreigh Schwartz - Senior

On the 23rd of November, Sheridan High School held its annual fall sports banquet for volleyball and football. This banquet is held every year to honor the most outstanding athletes and recognize the fall sports. It is also a great time for people to gather around and visit. Pulled pork was served at the dinner, but senior Kole Hill claimed that "the pumpkin pie at the sports banquet was the best thing." Check out the full list of awards above!

Player	Award
Kaiden Batzler	1st Team All-State Running Back 1st Team All-State Middle Linebacker 1st Team All-Conference Running Back 1st Team All-Conference Middle Linebacker MVP Football Player of the Year
Kole Hill	1st Team All-State Outside Linebacker 1st Team All-Conference Outside Linebacker
Zakary McCormack	2nd Team All-Conference Safety
Joseph Gilman	2nd Team All-Conference Guard Most Improved
Caden Theis	1st Team All-Conference Punter & Kicker 2nd Team All-Conference Defensive End
Noah Caldwell	Panther Pride
Tristan Stout	Rookie of the Year
Caitlyn Galiger	MVP Most Inspirational
Faith Larsen	Panther Pride
Madeline Lindroth	Most Improved



Congratulations to Kaiden Batzler, who cleaned up at the awards banquet. Batzler received recognition both locally and state wide.

Production Continues On Film Class Movie

Cody Underwood- Senior

Mr. Johnson's film class has been producing a movie as part of the curriculum. The movie is entitled *Girl in the Gap* and follows the genre and style of a campy 80s horror flick. Joe Gilman, a student in the film class reports, "It's the same as those old horror movies from the 80s, where it's cheesy as heck and kinda funny while also being kinda scary." The film centers on Josh and Thana, two people that visit a graveyard in the hopes of seeing their wishes come true, which then backfires as their greatest wishes turn into their worst nightmares. Mr. Johnson, the film class teacher, stated, "We did lose some footage, so we have to re-film, but it is going well. We're a little bit behind schedule, but we're making good progress." The film class hopes to release the film by Christmas break, barring any major obstructions to the production process. Though the film falls into the horror genre, the cast does not forget to still have fun with the project: "...the process of getting ready for our film has been very fun and exciting. I am very excited to see how it turns out and to see our hard work pay off," said senior Madeline Lindroth.



Joe Gilman, a senior, has been a big part of creative process in Film Class this year. Go check out his editing skills on the performing arts YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCdpwqjmiw7PzrL0kYS83hrg>

Sheridan Athletes Co-Op with Dillon Wrestling

Simah Anson - Senior

There are two students utilizing the co-op between the Sheridan and Dillon high schools for the sport of wrestling in the 2021-2022 season: Sawyer and Simah Anson. Practices started on the 18th of November and they are held in Dillon Monday through Friday. So far, the team has competed in one dual match, which was in Dillon on December 3. Additionally, they have had one meet in Whitehall on the 10th and 11th of December. The meet included five duals, with Dillon taking two out of the five. As a team, the wrestlers made it to the second day of the Whitehall meet for the first time in about five years, which Coach Nelson was happy about. The Dillon team has fifteen wrestlers in total with eleven boys and four girls; there are four seniors total. On the weekend of December 17th through 19th the wrestling team traveled to CMR in Great Falls, which is a very big meet. Over Christmas break, the team will be practicing six days a week to improve their overall team performance.

FFA Chops Down Christmas Trees

Kaiden Batzler- Senior

The Ruby Valley FFA met on Friday, December 3rd to go and cut down Christmas trees for the community. This is an annual tradition for the chapter and is a good way to help the community as well as raise some funds for the members and the chapter. The trees are sold downtown at Napa and are also available at the school to purchase for \$20. The event took place on Wimberly's - the same spot members went last year to cut down trees. "Nobody had to worry about getting stuck because there was no snow to get stuck in this year," said FFA officer Faith Larsen. Larsen's job was to count the total amount of trees that we had cut down because she was on crutches at the time. Members and advisors all brought trucks and trailers to load the trees up in. People then used chainsaws, handsaws, and sawzalls to cut down the trees. "I'm just happy that no limbs were cut off with a chainsaw," said Advisor Rodney Braaten. After collecting about 80 trees, give or take, the chapter returned back to the Ag building and unloaded them. The whole ordeal lasted about 2 hours and went pretty smoothly. "This is a good fundraiser for our chapter and it helps out people who don't want to go get a tree themselves," said Braaten. Overall it was a successful trip, but I do think that the Lorax would be disappointed.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



Tackling High School

Kassidy McCoy- Junior

Kaymbreigh is a senior at Sheridan High School and is a very energetic and fun person to be around. Basketball is her favorite sport, and she also loves hanging out with her friends and walking around town. Currently, Kaymbreigh plays varsity basketball as she is very good at rebounding and she is also very aggressive. She would like to take these skills and apply them in hopes of being a starter this year. When she's not making baskets on the court, Kaymbreigh loves being around her dogs and family. Her family made the big move from Arizona to Sheridan after her dad sued a company and won. Kaymbreigh enjoys living in Sheridan but says, "It's boring, but it's a safe place to live." The hardest part about being in high school for her is staying out of the drama and trying to find good guys, but she enjoys being social, hanging out with friends, not working, and getting out of the house. After she tackles the challenges in high school, she wants to take one or two gap years to figure out what she wants to do for the rest of her life. During this break, she plans to get a job and make her final decision on her career and college. Currently, she is undecided about what career she wants, but she is looking into becoming a cop and going to a 3-8 month military school. Despite being undecided, Kaymbreigh thinks she will probably go to military school, come back to Sheridan, become a cop in Sheridan, and then after a few years move somewhere else. Until then, she wants to stay out of trouble and continue getting good grades. The hardest part about leaving high school for her is deciding what she wants to do in her life, growing up, living on her own, her safety, and managing her money after graduation. She says, "Those are very big decisions that I am going to make and it's hard."



Getting Ready for the Future

Jayden McGath- Junior

"At Sheridan Montana highschool, we panthers are strong." In particular, Kole Hill is a strong panther making a great and amazing recovery after having knee surgery earlier this school year. Currently 17 years old and 6'1", the senior starting quarterback for the Sheridan Panthers was glad to be back under the field lights doing what he was great at. When Kole isn't hanging out with friends or throwing touchdowns, he is in school. His favorite class is metals class because there is a jeep that can be turned into a rock crawler. He and his peers are very excited to accomplish this task. Despite enjoying school and sports, Kole thinks students should be spending more of their own time on working and learning better things that will help apply to their future in jobs and the work field, like learning more about life and work ethical skills. Kole applies this mindset in his job for a concrete company, High Caliber. He hopes to be promoted in the company and one day achieve his dream of taking over. Following on with his dream, he hopes to make a good amount of money and take on an investing adventure to become a wealthy, successful, stress-free man and live life to the fullest.



Going Through Changes

Zak McCormack- Senior

With winter sports finally underway, the Lady Panthers are poised to pounce to the next level of basketball. During the off-season, many of the female athletes have worked on their craft and their coaching staff has seen a complete reconstruction. Coming in, new head coach Mike Grover and assistant coach Amanada LaYacona aim to dawn a new age of Lady Panthers basketball. In past years the records have been less than wanted and time has come for new coaches and leaders on the team to turn the tide. Senior player Faith Larsen commented about the new coaches, saying "I like his thoughts and mentality on the game and the support that they give to the team." Another Senior player, Brooke Grow, agreed, insisting "They're very knowledgeable of the sport. I like how blunt they are. They'll put us in our place when we're in the wrong and overall they'll be good for us and I'm excited for the season." Grover is very excited to see the girls thrive and work hard. When asked how the girls need to improve after their first couple of games at the Harlowton tourney, he responded saying "The girls need to work on defense, finishing layups and minimizing turnovers. We will continue to run our defensive drills and our fast break layup drills." Grover also has some names on a list that he's checking twice, and wants to count as wins. He stated that the games he was most looking forward to were "Ennis, Twin Bridges, and Manhattan Christian because those are some very solid basketball programs in our conference and i would like to see how our girls can compete against them." The Sheridan Lady Panthers will get their chance against Ennis on Friday, December 17th, and Twin the following monday.



Kialar Maddison, Jorien VerHow, and Kassidy McCoy take away the middle on defense against the Wilcats. The girls are currently 2-3.



Point guard Jayden McGath, a junior, looks to Gunnar Decker for an open look in the game against Harrison on December 14, 2021. The boys are currently 0-5.

Playing for a Spot

Faith Larsen - Senior

The boys basketball team has been practicing hard in preparation for their 2021-2022 basketball season. So far, the boys seem to be conditioned and excited to play. "I am excited for this year and to see where we go. I hope that we will be able to make it to Divisionals this year," said junior Caden Theis. This is not the only one who seems to have this goal in mind. Cade Cathey, a sophomore, also commented on his excitement and goals towards the season. "I am excited to prove people wrong about our team and make it far, and I also want to prove people wrong about myself...I want to work on scoring and work on keeping the team in check and working together." Tyler Theis, a freshman, also stated some of his goals. "As a team, I want to win and beat Twin Bridges and Ennis. Personally, I want to win and start varsity." This has promising skills for the future and has already stepped up to help out on varsity in the Harlowton tournament, which took place December 9 - December 10. The Panthers ended up going 0-2, losing to Park City 56-43 and Harlowton 63-14. "JV won their game in the Harlowton tournament. They could work on rebounding. Varsity can learn a lot from the JV players," said Assistant Coach Clay Pierson. Despite these losses, the boys and coaches are still hopeful about the upcoming season. "So far, JV has been playing very well, but varsity has a lot of improvements that need to be made. We are gonna give lots of young kids lots of playing time," Pierson added. The Panthers definitely have a long season ahead of them, but if they keep up the hard work, it will be a promising and rewarding season.

Come out and support the Panthers! For the schedule, see page 10.

Varsity Basketball

Day	Date	Opponent	Time	H/A	Order
Thursday	November 18	First date for practice			
Thursday	December 9th - 11th	Tip Off Tournament Hartowtown	TBA	A	JV-V
Tuesday	December 14	Harrison / Willow Creek	5:30	A	B/G
Friday	December 17	Ennis	5:30	A	B/G



Monday	December 20	Twin Bridges	5:30	H	B/G
Friday	January 7	Shields Valley	5:30	H	B/G
Saturday	January 8	Gardiner	5:30	A	B/G
Thursday	January 13	West Yellowstone	5:30	A	Boys JV-V
Friday	January 14	Ennis	5:30	H	B/G
Saturday	January 15	Lima	5:30	A	JV Boys V Girls
Friday	January 21	West Yellowstone	5:30	H	G/B
Saturday	January 22	Lone Peak	4:00	H	G/B
Thursday	January 27	Drummond	5:30	H	G/B
Saturday	January 29	White Sulphur Springs	5:30	A	G/B
Tuesday	February 1	Harrison / Willow Creek	5:30	H	G/B
Friday	February 4	Manhattan Christian	5:30	A	G/B
Saturday	February 5	White Sulphur Springs (Beator Night)	5:30	H	G/B
Friday	February 11	Lone Peak	5:30	A	G/B
Wed. Feb 18 th - Sat. Feb 19 th		Districts Tournaments - TBD			
Thurs. Feb 24 th - Sat. Feb 28 th		Divisional Tournaments - Franchtown			

The Fear of Finals

Rachel Zielinski- Senior

This time of year is already full of stress. With the holiday season, it seems like everything happens back to back. Just when you think you've gotten through the hard part, finals prove you wrong. The end of the semester is approaching quickly, and finals will be here before you know it. Here are a few tips to keep you sane during this busy time.



-Enjoy the break. If you're a student at Sheridan, you have over a week off from school. Use that time to just relax and unwind.

-Keep to your schedule, just like you normally would. After time off, it's easy to get back into the groove of things once you go back to school if you've maintained a "normal" schedule. Use the weekends as a way to rest but get up and move around during the week.

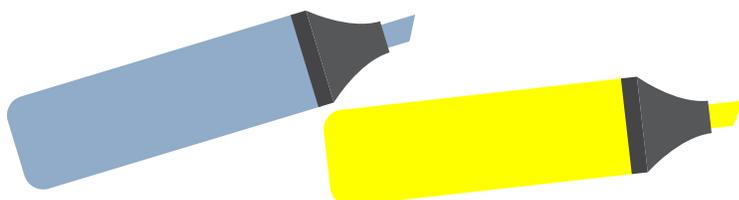
-Set aside time to worry about finals. I don't mean sit around for three hours and stress yourself out, I mean set a timer for 20 or so minutes to think about finals and how you can prepare for them in the best way.

-Practice self-talk, this is very, very important. It's easy to get into your own head with the "what-ifs":

"What if I fail my final?" "What if I choke once the test is set on my desk?" Instead of these phrases try and think: "I'm going to use the resources I'm given to do my best." "My test score doesn't define my intelligence."

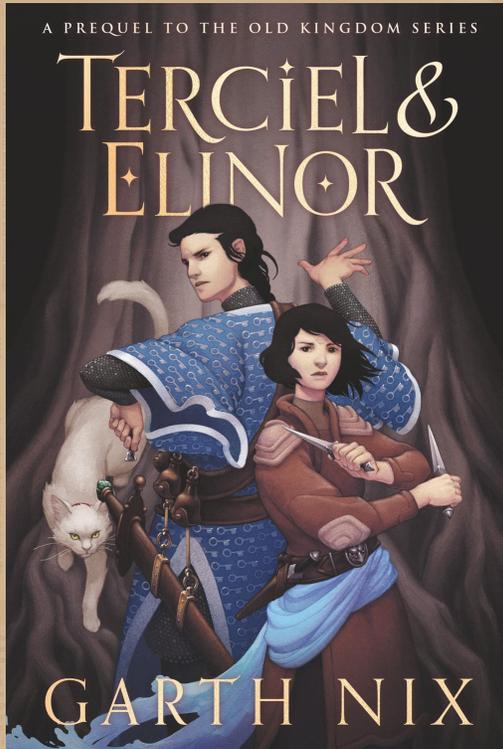
-Don't take the resources of your teachers for granted. Most teachers will give you the ability to have a notecard that you have to fit all the important things on, or they will give you practice assignments. These will help more than you might think, so take advantage of them!

Most importantly, remind yourself that it's just a test. I promise you that even if you do get a bad grade, it's not going to be the end of the world. Maybe for a little bit, but not forever.



Book Review

Katherine Tucker- Senior



Terciel and Elinor

Garth Nix

Fantasy, YA, Fiction

Goodreads- 4.3

Me- 4.5

anyone. Abhorsens and their struggle to keep the general population safe from undead creatures and other dangers is the main focus of the series. Abhorsens use certain tools to subdue their enemies, but these tools can be dangerous, even to the wielder. Because of this, one needs special training in order to become an Abhorsen, and only one person holds the title at a time. Terciel is in training to become an Abhorsen when the story takes place. Meanwhile, Elinor is living with her family in the kingdom across a huge wall from the Old Kingdom, Ancelstierre, where magic doesn't exist. In this book, Terciel and Elinor come together to fight an undead monster. While this story is described as a "never-before-told love story" on Goodreads, the core of this story is the personal growth and journeys of both Terciel and Elinor. In fact, through most of the story, the two are in different places, walking different paths. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, which is illustrated by the fact that I devoured it in a whopping two days, immediately after it was released. If I could change anything, I would increase the amount of time Terciel and Elinor are together in the story, just because I enjoyed their interactions. I've read the fantasy genre since I was very young, and so have a significant attachment to it. I also have a very significant attachment to this series, as you can probably tell. Reading this story was like coming home. I was glad that the author was still able to tell this story seamlessly 26 years after the first book was published. It's difficult to write a prequel so long after writing the series without accidentally writing in a plot hole, and I could not find any plot holes in Terciel and Elinor. I would not hesitate to recommend this series to anyone who enjoys reading the fantasy genre, however, it would be best to start with the first book in the series as you will most likely enjoy the story much more.

Prequels are not often something I enjoy. They can often feel forced, like the author is just trying to jump off their previous success by half-heartedly explaining the story of a background character, place in the story, etc. Terciel and Elinor, however, did not feel like this to me. Having read The Old Kingdom Series by Garth Nix (known as the Abhorsen series to some) with my mom when I was 11 or 12, I was already familiar with the setting and was excited to dive back into a story that I loved. Terciel and Elinor is the 6th book in the series, taking place a few decades before the events of Sabriel, the first book. The Old Kingdom Series is classified as Fantasy Young Adult Fiction because it contains magic, extraordinary creatures, and monsters that the characters encounter or interact with on a daily basis. The main antagonists of the series are undead creatures who try to escape the clutches of death by climbing back into life and killing living creatures and people. They then live off the life they have stolen, but only temporarily, driving them to kill more and more people. These undead creatures are directly opposed by Abhorsens, a bloodline of people with a special talent; they are able to go into death without being dead. They use this talent to catch and bind undead creatures in death once more, binding them in death forever so that they cannot come back and harm

Dogsledding Through Winter

Noah Caldwell- Senior

With snow knocking at the front door and frigid weather with it, it might seem that everything is coming to a halt and there is nothing to do. Well, I have some good news for you. During the winter months, it is the perfect time to get out and sled, and I'm not talking about the regular sledding, I'm talking specifically about dog sledding. If you are not familiar with dog sledding, it is an activity in which you need around twelve dogs and a sled. In the very front, you will need leaders, which are usually the oldest and strongest of the group. Then after the lead dogs, you have your swing dogs who also need to be very strong to help steer the sled. And in the middle on your sled line are your team dogs. The team dogs bring the wheelers and the swing dogs together so they work as a team. And closest to the sled are the wheelers or wheel dogs, their job is to pull the sled out and around corners or trees. Some people may think that dog sled teams are controlled by reins or a whip, but that is not true. Musherers are the people who have control over dog sled teams and strictly only use words to make the dog go, turn left, turn right, or stop. These commands are heard by the lead and the swing dogs and they follow commands prompting the rest of the team to follow. The commands are: hike means get moving, gee means turn right, haw means turn left, easy means slow down, and whoa means stop. These are some of the simplest commands used by the musher. There are places all around Montana where you can pay to go dog sledding and learn more about it, but if you make your own team you can do distance races like the Iditarod or the Yukon Quest. Either way, enjoy the winter months as best you can and send some pictures to me, Noah Caldwell, and you might make it in the paper.



New Year: New Me

Lane Poirier- Senior

New Year is right around the corner and everyone is going to be celebrating this holiday again, but what is the actual reason we celebrate this holiday? For the past 4,000 years, many Civilizations have celebrated the New Year. The Roman calendar has 10 months and 304 days, but as a result of this ten-month cycle, the calendar actually fell out of sync with the sun. In 46 B.C. Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by discussing this issue with the smartest astronomers and mathematicians of his time. Caesar said that January 1 is the first day of the year, mainly to honor the month's name, Janus. Janus is the Roman god of beginnings whose two faces allowed him to look back into the past and into the future. To celebrate the god, Romans would offer sacrifices to Janus, exchange gifts with one another, and decorate their homes with laurel branches. Additionally, they had some pretty wild parties, fancy headwear, and a lot of beads and confetti. The Romans likely would have enjoyed our current customs for celebrating the new year. The meaning of New Year has also changed a lot. Many people see the new year as an opportunity to better themselves, so they set new goals for themselves in the form of resolutions.

Information Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/new-years>

Top 3 Christmas Gifts

Caitlyn Galiger- Senior

Christmas has gone mainly digital; in fact, many stores were not as packed on Black Friday as they usually are due to COVID changing the way people shop. During the pandemic, online shopping was one of the primary ways people were able to get groceries, clothes, and gifts. Very few stores were open, and those that were open held maxes on items. Not only has the pandemic contributed to the influx of online shopping, but the growth in technology has made shopping online for presents the easiest way to get your Christmas shopping over and done with. According to Good Housekeeping, the most popular Christmas present this year is a three in one Apple charging station. This item can charge your Apple phone, Apple watch, and AirPods at the same time. Additionally, it is great for keeping your nightstand and/or desk organized without all the tangled cords. Another popular gift this season is a knitted cuffed Carhartt beanie; these beanies have become quite popular in the last year as they are so warm and cozy and make the perfect gift for anyone on your list. Lastly, a portable campfire is a very popular Christmas gift this year as it can be used pretty much everywhere and is great for the outdoor enthusiast.



Christmas Around The World

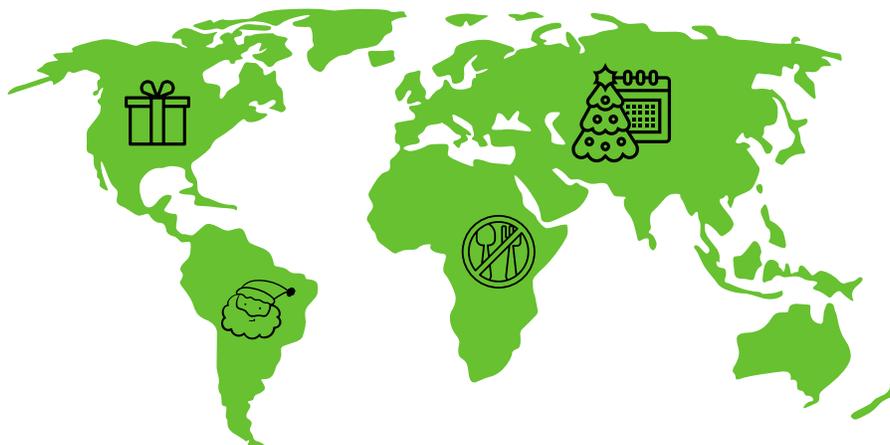
Kole Hill- Senior

Christmas is celebrated worldwide, but everyone celebrates differently depending on where they are in the world. There are 195 countries in the world, and out of that, there are 160 countries that celebrate Christmas every year. While December 25th is the most commonly celebrated day for Christmas, some people celebrate on the day before, and some even celebrate the day after.

In the United States, Christmas is often celebrated with a decorated tree, gifts, and a special dinner Christians celebrate what they believe to be the true meaning of Christmas, which is the birth of Jesus. Poland celebrates in a similar way. Sticking to advent calendars, which usually start on December 1st. These calendars count down the days to the birth of Jesus.

The people of Chile like to celebrate by eating tons of unique foods such as “Pan de Pascua,” which is a Christmas cake similar to Panettone. In Chile, Santa is called Viejito Pascuero, which is translated to “Old Man Christmas.”

In other countries, people like to fast before Christmas. Some countries will do this before Christmas and then on Christmas day, they will have one huge meal. Ethiopia is one of these countries. They take part in a fast known as the Fast of the Prophets. This fast starts on the 25th of November and for 43 days, they fast. They are only allowed one vegan meal each day during this fast. These are just a few of the countries around the world that celebrate Christmas.



Information Source: <https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/>.



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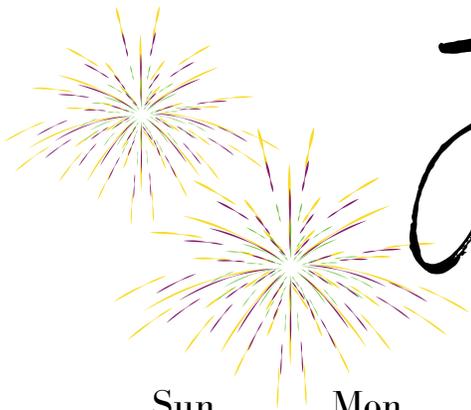
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January



<u>Sun</u>	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tues</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>	<u>Sat</u>
						Happy New Year 1
2	End Christmas Break Girls MS BBall Practice Starts 3	4	Oula & Yoga Adult Ed 6:30 5	6	BBall vs. Shields B/G Forensics @ Forsyth 7	BBall @ Gardiner B/G Girls BBall @ Harrison Tourney 8
9	10	Girls MS BBall vs. Ennis Board Meeting 7:00 11	Oula & Yoga Adult Ed 6:30 12	Boys BBall @ West JV/V End of Semester Girls MS BBall vs. Twin 13	Bball vs. Ennis B/G 14	BBall @ Lima JV Boys/V Girls Girls MS BBall Booster Tourney Forensics @ Simms 15
16	17	Girls MS BBall @ Harrison 18	Oula & Yoga Adult Ed 6:30 19	20	BBall vs. West B/G 21	BBall vs. Lone Peak G/B MS Girls BBall @ Twin Tourney Forensics @ Manhattan 22
23	24	BBall @ Twin G/B 25	4th & 5th to Homestake Lodge Oula & Yoga Adult Ed 6:30 26	BBall vs. Drummond G/B MS Girls BBall @ Ennis 27	FFA Fergus Mechanics 28	BBall @ White Sulpher G/B 29
30	31					