The Pirate Journal

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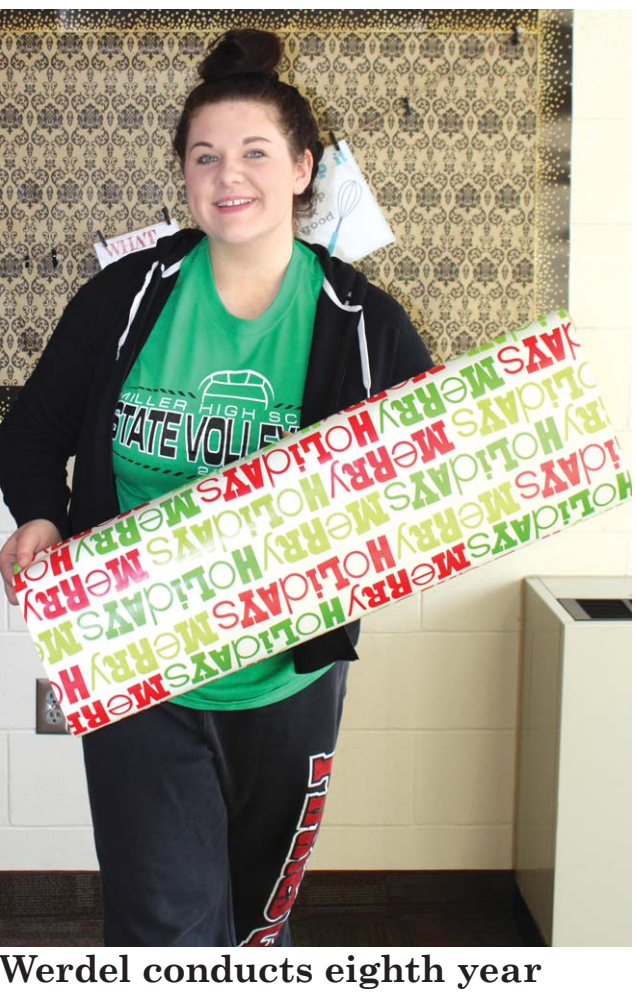
"Show them that we care"

Emily Converse

Shelby Hinkle, Sylvia Rodriguez, and Emily Converse are sending care packages to active military personnel overseas. They are having elementary and high school students donate food and personal hygiene products to send in the care packages.

These high schoolers are also selling "support our troops" bracelets for two dollars to aid in mail costs. They are hoping to send 10 care packages and raise $400 to send them. Everything they make is going to go to the troops. Shelby said "I was inspired by the news seeing other kids send over 50 care packages. I think it really helps the troops who are overseas with the fact, and that they don't get to see their family. And some of the things they buy overseas are out of their own pocket." Sylvia said, "Emily and I were going to send the troops letters by ourselves, when we heard that Shelby was planning on sending care packages I was like 'wow let's team up!'"

This project will be presented at the FCCLA convention in the spring. There will be drop off sites at Vilas Pharmacy, Church of Christ, and the Catholic Church. If you have any questions, call or text Shelby Hinkle at (605)-870-1851.



Werdel conducts eighth year of 'Operation Christmas'

Halle Kroeplin

With Christmas season just around the corner, Operation Christmas is in action.

Shantay Werdel, a senior at Highmore-Harrold School District, is keeping tradition alive for one more year. Operation Christmas is a project that Shantay started eight years ago. Thanks to Shantay, many children can enjoy a Christmas full of presents and joy.

"I started Operation Christmas at a young age when I realized how fortunate I was. I wanted to spread that joy to different children so they could experience Christmas like others," Shantay said. She wraps each gift individually and delivers them to the children.

Each child receiving a gift is nominated by their teachers. Shantay gets donations from many people in the community; some buy gifts and some donate money to the operation. Each child gets at least five gifts. Shantay has given gifts to 30+ families in the past.

After eight years of spreading her Christmas joy, Shantay is finishing her last year of Operation Christmas. Shantay's favorite part of this project was when the children who received gifts from her program sent her pictures and wrote her letters. Shantay's goal was to improve children's holiday experience, and she has done just that for the last eight years. With Operation Christmas coming to an end she would like to thank everyone who donated to the program and supported her throughout the years.

Holly, Jolly Holiday Wishes

Hope your season is merry and bright in every possible way!

State Conduct of Meetings

Blake Farstveet

The Highmore junior and senior Conduct of Meetings teams each took home third place at the state FFA contest in Pierre. The senior team ran a meeting on December 3 and qualified for the finals and ran another meeting on December 4. The junior team ran only one meeting on December 3. The senior team consisted of Madison Bollweg, Maria Pazour, Veronica Knippling, Lainey Aasby, Dylan McDonnell, and Blake Farstveet. The junior team is made up of Haley Husted, Telson Cowan, Regan Bollweg, Mark Hague, Remington Paynter, Trenton Ramsey, and Hunter Brueggeman.

"We ran a great meeting both days. Even though we didn't win, we all did our best and had a fun time doing it," said Veronica Knippling. At the contest, Veronica Knippling received all state for senior Conduct of Meetings.

"I'm really proud of both of my teams and what they accomplished. We didn't win but both teams worked very hard and they should be proud of what they did," said Ken Jones, the coach of the teams.

Conduct of Meetings is when multiple teams compete against each other and are scored on running a meeting and a test. The senior team has 12 minutes to run the meeting while the junior team has 12 minutes to run a meeting and do opening ceremonies. The senior team is made up of six sophomores to seniors while the junior team is made up of seven junior high or freshman members. There are seven different positions in the junior contest, which are president, vice president, advisor, sentinel, reporter, treasurer, and secretary. There are no positions in the senior contest except for the president. Everyone, but the president, has to debate on a topic and use motions assigned to them during the meeting. Every team is scored on how well their debates are and if they use their motions properly according to Robert's Rules of Order. Each member of the senior team has to do two motions, while in the junior they only have to do one. In addition, the junior contest takes a 25-question test and the senior contest takes a 50-question test regarding the motions, the proper way of running a meeting, and the duties of the officers.

Things to remember as we prepare for winter conditions

Oakley Jandreau

As winter is upon us there are some precautions we should be taking that could keep us safe throughout these winter months. The Pirate Journal is here to give you some tips!

→Have food and water in your car.
→Have salt to apply to ice on the sidewalks.
→Shovel snow from the side walk to prevent ice from forming.
→Keep a blanket in your car.
→Have fuel in your furnace.
→Keep an ice scraper in your car.
→Be sure to have candles and flashlights in your house in case of power outages.

Question of the Month

Veronica Knippling

Jennifer Farstveet

Halle Tvedt

Trenton Ramsey

What are you plans over Christmas Break?

Sylvia Rodriguez

"I will be coming into work periodically on my own schedule to take care of money boxes. December 29th is my birthday and we might be going to Sioux Falls to celebrate Faith's birthday at Sky Zone. Every year my dad always reads The Christmas Story on Christmas Eve and we open presents at mom and dads and eat a meal. On Christmas day we have a big turkey dinner, my kids open presents from me and their stockings. After cleaning we nap and watch football, usually on December 26th we go to Pierre and get after Christmas sales at Menards." - Jennifer Farstveet

"Well first were going to buy and decorate a tree and then I'm going to go ice skating with all my nieces and nephews. We're going to decorate sugar cookies and make chocolate dipped pretzels with caramel on top and were going to midnight mass on Christmas. Just spend a lot of time with my family and open presents then were going to Red Rosa the day after." - Veronica Knippling

"We eat lasagna on Christmas Eve and make a cake for Jesus." - Halle Tvedt

"We're going to church on Christmas Eve with my immediate family and we're probably just going to go to my grandma's house to celebrate with my cousins." - Trenton Ramsey

Dear Pete (The Pirate)

Dear Pete,

"I think my body is changing, what do I do?"

Sincerely, a Troubled Teen

Dear Troubled Teen,

Everyone's body has to change, all you can really do about it is to let it happen. It isn't preventable, you cannot do anything about it, and all you can do is try and keep it private. I don't wish to go into detail, but as every parent has said at one point "it's not the end of the world." There really isn't anything you can do, this change is guaranteed to happen, so all I can say is best of luck!

Sincerely, Pete

Dear Pete,

"Why girls so mean?"

Sincerely, a Confused Student

Dear Confused Student,

Not every girl is an angel. You don't want to try and change the girl, but instead change yourself. Tolerance is something you want to try and develop, because tolerating something is a lot easier than combatting it. If you wish to combat it, then try to improve yourself by being nicer, and if that is too hard, just stay silent, it is rather hard to be angry at a quiet person.

Sincerely, Pete

Dear Pete,

"I have this friend that's complaining too much, how do I fix that?"

Sincerely, an Annoyed Friend

Dear Annoyed Friend,

If you have a friend that is complaining too much, just tell them to stop. You are his/her friend, it is your job to acknowledge these things and inform them. Friends are supposed to tell their friends if anything about them is wrong, or if they are lacking in certain qualities, if you don't do this or your friend doesn't do this, then it is hard to call them your friend.

Sincerely, Pete

Dear Pete,

"Why doesn't my boyfriend respond to my snapchat?"

Sincerely, Heartbroken Teenage Girl

Dear Heartbroken Teenage Girl,

Men to women are like women to men, they never truly understand each other. Chances are that you did something that angered him. Some men are easier to anger than others, so depending on how hotheaded he is, it may be hard to find out what he is angry about. No matter what it was, if you two are really boyfriend and girlfriend, then just talk to him. Communication is important in relationships, maybe you should work on it.

Sincerely, Pete

Hottest toy ideas of the 2017 Christmas season

Emily Semmler

Its Christmas time, and gift giving time. Children all over await the arrival of Santa Claus and parents scramble to get gifts for their children. The anticipation leading to Christmas is palpable. This article will dive into the five hottest Christmas toys for boys and girls alike, as well as the price.

1. The *Thomas Super Station* is a hit for those children who love *Thomas and Friends*, but if this is something your child wants, you're going to have to shell out $79.99 and $99.99. This set holds over 100 of the toy engines, has three different levels, and can be used for all the varieties of the toys. From *Wooden*, to *Take-Along*, *Trackmaster*, and even *Minis*, this track is can be used for all of them.
2. The *WowWee Fingerlings Interactive Baby Monkeys* are also big this year. These little toys were named collectable of the year. Prepare to spend $17.99 on each individual monkey. They react to touch, sound, and motion. They blink and move their heads and make monkey sounds.
3. Kids will be excited when they receive the *Nerf N Strike Elite AccuStrike RaptorStrike*. This toy will cost $32.88 out of your pocket. This is includes 18 of the *Elite Strike bullets*, made to increase accuracy.
4. *Roarin' Tyler* from *FurrReal Friends* is a roaring moving tiger that will cost around $94.00. He has over 100 phrases and motions.
5. If your child wants a game they can play with their friends, the *Laser Tag Multiplayer*. With a cost of $89.94, it is well worth it to watch your children have a blast with this. Christmas may cost some cash today but it will all be worth it to see your child smile.

Here's hoping the year ahead is filled with nothing but the best.

Pirate Journal Staff