



Patriot Pride Today

Volume 1, Issue 6. | February 2026

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 2

- Read Across America Day
- BBB Region 1st Round

March 3

- BBB Region 2nd Round

March 5

- GBB SoDak 16

March 6

- 9:00 am FFA @ Redfield CDEs
- 10:00 am Enhancement
- BBB Region 3rd Round

March 9

- 7:00 pm School Board Meeting

March 10

- 9:00 am FFA @ Wolsey-Wessington
- BBB SoDak 16

Best and Worst Valentine's Candy Gifts

By Kayla Fasching, 11th Grade



An image showing a variety of candy.

Now that Valentine's Day is over for the year, students are starting to talk about their thoughts on what the best and worst candies were. Overall, the most popular gifts, like every year, were chocolates and sweet treats. There were many classic options, like the popular Reese's, along with Hershey's Kisses and those heart-shaped variety boxes. These are all very simple and commonly bought every year.

On the other hand, some candies didn't go so well for some brands. Many people shared how they disliked hard candies like jawbreakers and lollipops, which can be annoying to eat because they get stuck in teeth. Some other people mentioned that candies that were too sour and/or spicy were not their favorite.

Most people, including students, agree that the best Valentine's candies are the ones that bring a smile to their faces. Some even stated that some candies they received were inside jokes between the pair. It's safe to say that the safest option for gifting candy is some form of chocolate. Some tasty candies are a great way to spread love during Valentine's Day!

The Perfect Date

By Laina Puffer
10th Grade

Flowers, ice cream, and an evening drive. What else could you possibly want? So many possibilities for the perfect date, but here is an ideal one for me.

So, it's a Saturday night. This guy shows up at your house at the perfect time. He knocks on the front door and walks you out to the vehicle. He opens the door and gets in. You go through a drive-through and grab some ice cream and French fries to dip with.

Rom-Com Basics

By Jocelyn Wagner, 11th Grade



A classic Rom-com is “10 Things I Hate About You” starring Heath Ledger and Julia Stiles

A romantic comedy, or rom-com for short, is a movie genre that focuses on a combination of humor and love. Some popular romantic comedies would include “When Harry Met Sally”, “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days”, “10 Things I Hate About You”, and “The Notebook”.

An ideal date must include a backroad with a sunset.



While eating your ice cream, listening to music, and driving on a back road, you are having a good, deep, but fun conversation.

As the sun is setting, he claims he has to pick something up for his mom and comes out of the store with a huge bouquet of your favorite flowers. He drives you back home, and you go inside with the biggest smile possible.

Now I don't know your ideal date, but here is my perfect date possibility.

Most rom-coms start with a “cute meet”, where the two meet in an abnormal setting or circumstance. Then comes the conflict, and feelings start to grow more.

Next is the “third-act breakup”, which could be when new information is discovered between the couple or a secret is revealed. After this, one of the characters decides to make a grand gesture, and the movie ends with a happy ending.

This plot line can differ depending on the trope. Some commonly used tropes are enemies to lovers, friends to lovers, and love triangles.

Best Break-up Advice

By Madisen Watson, 11th Grade



Breaking up is never easy, but advice from experts makes it unusually easy.

The first step: Accept that the relationship is over, don't drag it out because it can cause more pain. Taylor Swift once said in her songs that heartbreak can be turned into growth when you stop dwelling and start writing a new chapter.

The second step: Remove them on all platforms. If you still have them on social media and you get constant notifications about their life, it can reopen old wounds.

The third step: Cry it out. Let all your emotions flow, don't hold anything back. Take walks, write in a journal, or express it out loud, but if you dwell on the past, it will cause your healing to be delayed.

The final step: Don't take revenge or make dramatic endings. It is better to have a clean break-up rather than it being messy when it ends.

Overall, the healthiest breakups are not painless, but they are clean, honest, and focused on moving forward.



Random Acts of Kindness

By Danika Jacobs, 11th grade

I went around asking people what their favorite acts of kindness were. One of the students said their favorite act was complimenting someone's outfit, shoes, makeup, or hair. They said that most people don't ever get complimented, so it makes their day a little better knowing someone is paying attention.

Complimenting someone has a long-lasting effect on them, it could increase your friendship, communication, and be an overall positive experience.

Complimenting someone also strengthens the overall social bond.

Another act of kindness that was mentioned was that if they see someone who looks like they are struggling, they will ask if they need any help. Asking someone if they need help with anything can have a positive effect on them because it can reduce stress and the overwhelming feeling. Checking up on someone can also help with emotional relief. Some people just need that one person to pay attention and ask.

How to Promposal

By Olivia Fasching,
10th grade

Prom is one of the most exciting times of the year, and that means promposals are happening.

First, think about the person you're asking. Are they shy, or do they like attention? If they're shy, a simple promposal after school might be better than doing it in front of a big crowd. If they love fun surprises, you could make a colorful poster or bring their favorite candy.

Next, try to make it personal. Add an inside joke or something they really like, like their favorite sport or movie. That shows you actually care and didn't just copy something off the internet.

Most importantly, be respectful. They might say yes, or they might say no. Either way, stay kind and mature about it.

Prom is supposed to be fun, so keep it simple, thoughtful, and true to you.



A baseball player asks his date to prom under the stadium lights with balloons and a handmade sign, proving that a little creativity can hit a home run.

FFA & FCCLA week

By Keilee Schone, 10th
grade

FCCLA week was run by Sienna Stoner this year. The whole week, the school participated in a "Guess Who" game. Each day an FCCLA member had three hints on a piece of paper. Then students would guess to whom the hints applied. Once they found out who it was, they would bring it to Mrs. Johnson, and the first person to get it right would get a candy bar.

FA week was run by Regan Lutter and Sienna Stoner. Monday was the corn count, which was a glass jar filled with corn, and Dalton Rathjen guessed it correctly. Wednesday was the famous FFA breakfast, which included pancakes, eggs, biscuits and gravy, and links. The breakfast items were supplied by the senior class, who made them from scratch.

Mr. Gross was named a finalist for the SD FFA Golden Owl Award.



During breakfast, Mr. Gross was presented as a finalist for the FFA Golden Owl Award.

Thursday was the "pie in the face" fundraiser where students bid to pie a teacher or FFA member in the face. Every day, FFA members would hide emblems around the school for kids to find and win a prize.

That concludes FFA week and FCCLA week.

Super Bowl Sunday

By Tess Bixler, 11th Grade

Super Bowl LX was played on Sunday, February 8th this year. It featured the New England Patriots vs. the Seattle Seahawks. The Seahawks won 29-13, in SoFi Stadium in California.

The defense that the Seahawks had was what got them the win that night. They kept pressuring the Patriots quarterback, Drake Maye. Their defense caused him to keep getting the ball turned over while passing it to his teammates.

After the game runner back for the Patriots, Kenneth Walker 111 was named the Super Bowl MVP. He had a great performance for the Patriots. The halftime show was performed by Bad Bunny.



Sudoku Puzzle

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

#176278

Difficulty: moderate

Science Fair Results



By Sydnee Stoner, 12th grade

The Science fair is an organized event where students present independent research projects, experiments, or models, and they are more than likely getting judged on their experiments. A purpose of it is to promote curiosity and hands-on learning, and to deepen understanding of scientific principles.

Projects usually feature a visual display board, a written report, and a live demonstration or presentation. Events range from school-wide to national levels, covering fields like physics, biology, chemistry, and engineering.

People who participate develop research, problem-solving, and time management skills, which can boost academic growth. The 9th-12th science students competed on Monday, February 23rd, in the Doland/Faulkton/Hitchcock-Tualre Science Fair.

The following are the Hitchcock-Tulare project results that will be heading to NSU on March 26th:

1st place overall: The Silent Epidemic: Internal parasites in Sheep - Addy Ihnen & ReaAnna Knock

Animal Science:

1st place: : The Silent Epidemic - Addy Ihnen & ReaAnna Knock

2nd place: Tiny but tough- Rylee Knock & Jocelyn Wagner

3rd place: The Anatomy Behind the Stride- Kayla Fasching & Madisen Watson

Physics & Engineering:

3rd Place: Does the Battery Care? - Brynn Binger & Krue Lutter

Additional projects that will advance to NSU:
Stop the Sizzle - Gracy Bixler & Rebecca Huizenga

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to keep the student body informed, connected, and engaged while highlighting the achievements and stories that matter most to our community. Covering everything from sports and academics to arts and student life, the newspaper is created by students, for students.

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Sudoku Answer Key

Solution of sudoku #176278 :

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

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