FIND ME IN THE PAPER

- This picture will be hidden in the Blue Ink somewhere.
- Look for it throughout the issue as you read the articles and browse the pictures.
- Thank you Mrs. Granberg for creating the Blue Ink dragon

WORTH MENTIONING

- The first wrestling practice starts on Monday, November 17.

GERMAN PHRASE OF THE WEEK

- Your Mom
  - **Deine Mutter**
- Thanks to Johanna Knauer for providing the Phrase of the Week.

November 21, 2025
Volume 13, Issue 14
Garretson High School
Garretson, SD

GARRETSON BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Powerlifting club gets traction

New club gets a lift through new leadership and strong participation

by **Harper Hanisch**
staff writer

Recently, Mr. Hughes announced the arrival of an upcoming GHS powerlifting team.

For many years, Garretson has offered morning lifting sessions for anyone interested. Also, in the summer months, Hughes put on a summer lifting program.

Although Garretson has tried to organize a lifting program in years past, it has never been successful.

Seeing that almost 71 kids attended the summer lifting program, Hughes knew it might just work out this year. Discussion arose, and the Garretson powerlifting team was born.

Hughes stated that the kids become "bigger, stronger, faster, fewer injuries, and more confident." He has noticed all of these benefits in his kids, as they are avid lifters.

Current participants include Ava Peters, Amaya Millwood, Anna Ebbing, Johanna Knauer, Meiah Olson, Delilah Johnson, Wyatt Potter, Blake Carmody, Aiden Johnson, Jacoby Costello, and Jack Adler. They will start early December, practicing three days a week.

To compete, they will mostly be focusing on the squat, bench press, and deadlift. Throughout their practices, however, the athletes will do various exercises to prepare for these events.

Hughes said his goals for the program are "That the kids have fun and that they grow individually to meet their goals."

Their first meet will take place in Baltic on January 17 followed by another competition before state on March 7 in Brookings!



City of Garretson gets into holiday spirit

by **Chase Costello**
staff writer

It's that time of year! Garretson is hosting their Hometown Christmas.

As an addition to the annual celebration, they are hosting a festival of trees. It's where one were to donate a decorated tree and they will display them for the town to come and look at.

The festival of trees display opens to the public on Small Business Saturday, November 29 and on Saturday, December 13. More hours of the event will be posted on Garretson Living.

The Festival of Trees isn't the only big thing going on in Garretson. The Art Trail is doing a fundraiser to help light up the community tree.

This year will be the third year of this fundraiser. Thanks to all the donations the Art Trail has added so much this year to Garretson.

There have been a couple sculptures put up downtown such as a bison, Jesse James, a metal tree, and Billy the goat.

With all the donations this year the art trail will be able to go over the top with all the decorations for the community tree.

For the Festival of Trees, many local businesses and groups are participating including younger members of the community such as the Garretson FFA chapter, the Zion Lutheran Youth Group, and the Springdell 4-H Club.

The organizers are very excited for this event and hope to see everyone there.



SD High School football season ends

State tourney last weekend puts cap on season

by **Blake Benson**
staff writer

After this past weekend the high school football season is all wrapped; there was plenty of action at the state tournament in Vermillion. This year there were numerous extraordinary games. With 9-man playing on Thursday and Friday following that was 11-man playing on Friday and Saturday.

To start off the tournament, DR St. Mary's was on fire demolishing Avon 54-6 for class 9B. It didn't stop there. Wall beat Howard 60-6 for 9A, Freeman/Marion/Freeman Academy beat Elkton-Lake Benton 46-22 for 9AA. All 9-man games finished with top seeds winning in a convincing fashion.

On the 11-man side, St. Thomas More beat Elk Point-Jefferson 48-38 for 11B; Pierre beat Yankton 56-35 for 11AA.

There was a highly competitive matchup in 11A, Sioux Falls Christian faced off against Lennox, which was debatably the best game of the tournament. With the help of Jude Prins, a former Garretson student, he scored a clutch touchdown to seal the win for Sioux Falls Christian 28-24.

Finally, Brandon Valley versus Sioux Falls Lincoln, arguably the most impressive competitors in South Dakota. Lincoln was looking to get revenge from early on in the season when Brandon beat them but unfortunately for Lincoln, Brandon Valley won in the rematch 34-27 for 11AAA.

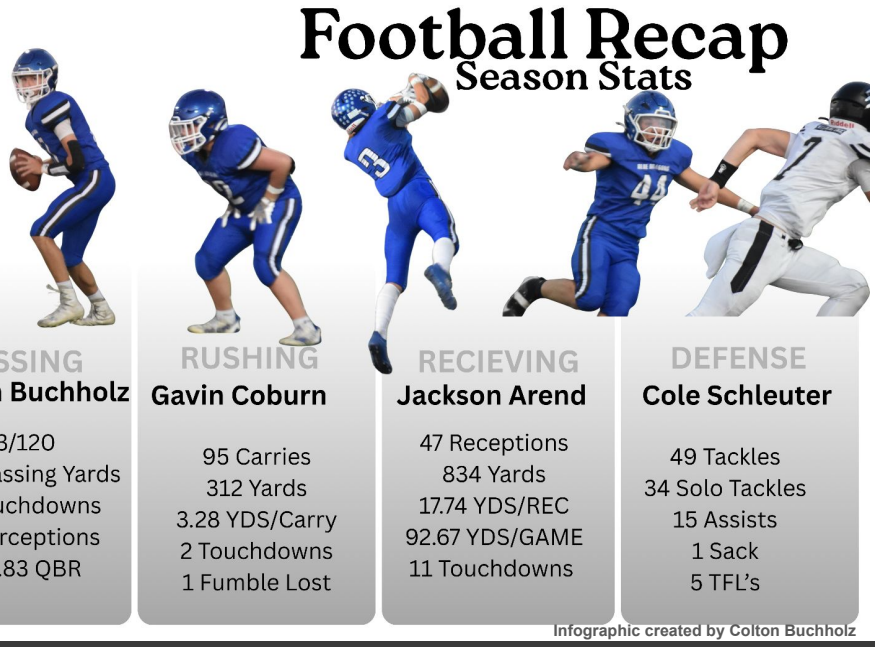
Overall, this year's state football tournament showed who was the toughest high school football teams in South Dakota. With huge blowouts to extremely close games, all the classes gave the players and fans lots of excitement and memorable moments. The tournament proved why high school football is such a big part of South Dakota sports.



Garretson football team statistical season recap

End of season banquet on Monday highlights team's accomplishments

	GHS	OPP
Total yds	2,394	3,503
Passing yards	1,332	950
Passing yards per game	148.00	105.56
Pass completions/attempts	76 / 148	70 / 132
Pass completion %	51.35 %	53.03 %
Passing TDs	15	8
Rushing yards	1,062	2,553
Rushing yards per game	118.00	283.67
Rush plays/average	245 / 4.33	337 / 7.58
Rushing TDs	11	45
3rd Down Conversions	(31.40 %) 27	(39.39 %) 26
4th Down Conversions	(40.00 %) 12	(50.00 %) 13
First Downs	104	148
Turnovers	16	8
Sacks	8	15



Senior Spotlight
Serie Risty



Activities Involved In:
High School Rodeo
Youth Group

Who/What Will You Miss Most:
Homecoming

Favorite School Lunch:
Crispitos

Favorite Class You've Taken:
Earth Science

Plans for Next Year:
Undecided



This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 24
- First Day of Girls Basketball Practice
- Youth Wrestling Parent/Athlete Meeting (6:00)

Wednesday, November 26
- No School - Thanksgiving Break

Thursday, November 27
- No School - HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Friday, November 28
- No School - Thanksgiving Break

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Worth Mentioning

THREE WEEKS left for the first semester. Coming back from Thanksgiving Break there are just three weeks before Winter Break. After Thanksgiving, check your emails for the Semester Test Schedule.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the students who have been recognized for showing positive ACE qualities (Attitude, Character, Effort). Our five winners from November are Cooper Smith, Alyssa Olson, Drew Chester, Caylix Buchholz, and Bryce Howe. Please see Mrs. Costello in study hall for an extra reward.

ORDER YOUR '25-'26 YEARBOOK today. They are $30 each, a steal for the millions of memories made this year. You can order online at ybpay.lifetouch.com. Please come find Dr. Buchholz if you have any questions.



NBA special Jerseys on display

Some logos are an absolute slam dunk while others a complete air ball

by **Shea Smidt**
staff writer - editorial

With the NBA In-Season Tournament come along the yearly special jerseys and courts. These jerseys and courts add a vibrant and fun factor, like the Miami Heats “Miami Vice” to pay homage to Miami's 1980’s culture, to the middle of the NBA season. Some jerseys look good and others make you want to turn the TV off.

The In-Season Tournament, meant to give a bit more meaning to the regular season games, is a tournament between all 30 teams that starts with pool play. Each team is placed into a pool that uses wins and point differential to decide who makes it into the tournament.

Once the tournament is set, it's a single elimination bracket where the winner takes home a banner, trophy, and $500,000 for each player on the team.



Some jerseys can pull off the flashy colors but others cannot. But nothing can beat a clean black. This is my ranking on the jerseys based on how good they look. black. This is my ranking on the jerseys based on how good they look.

Brandon construction nearly complete

After a year and a half of traffic cones and delays, popular interstate interchange ready for use

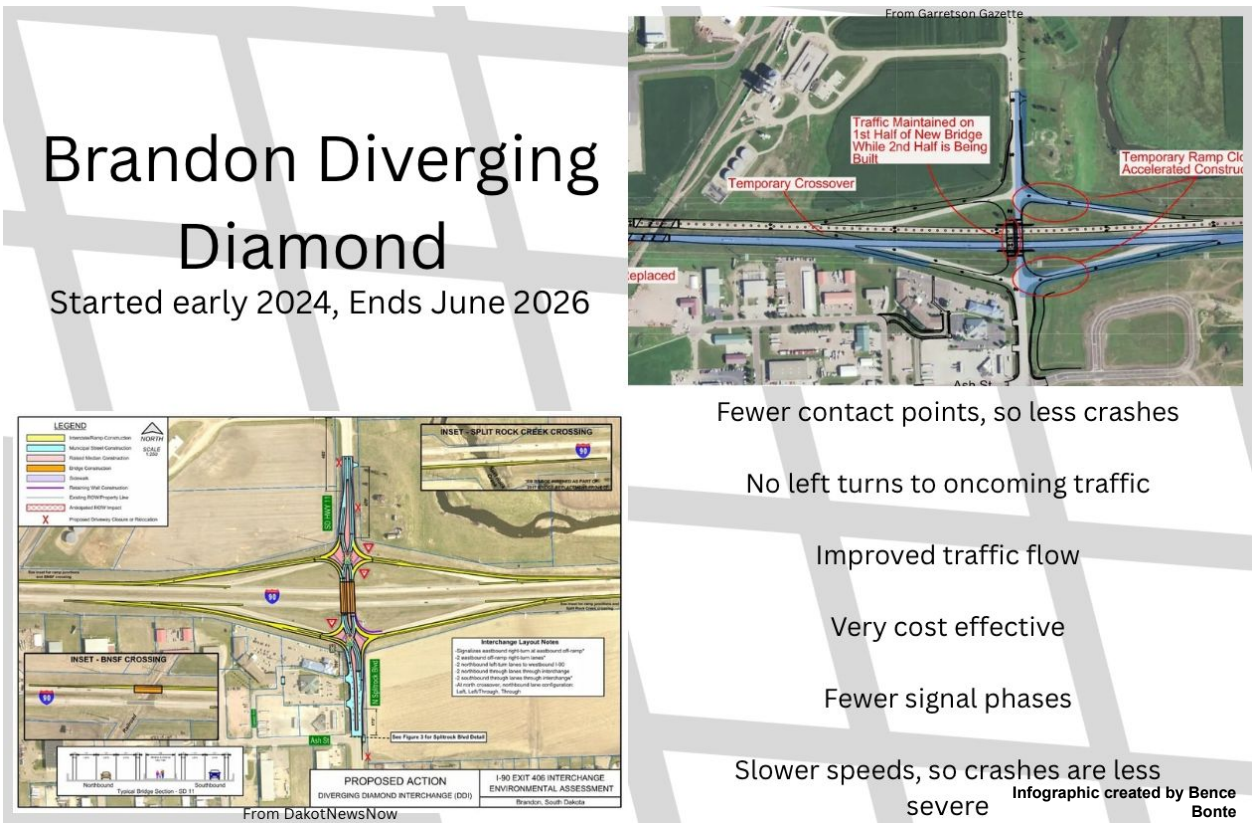
by **Cade Risty**
staff writer

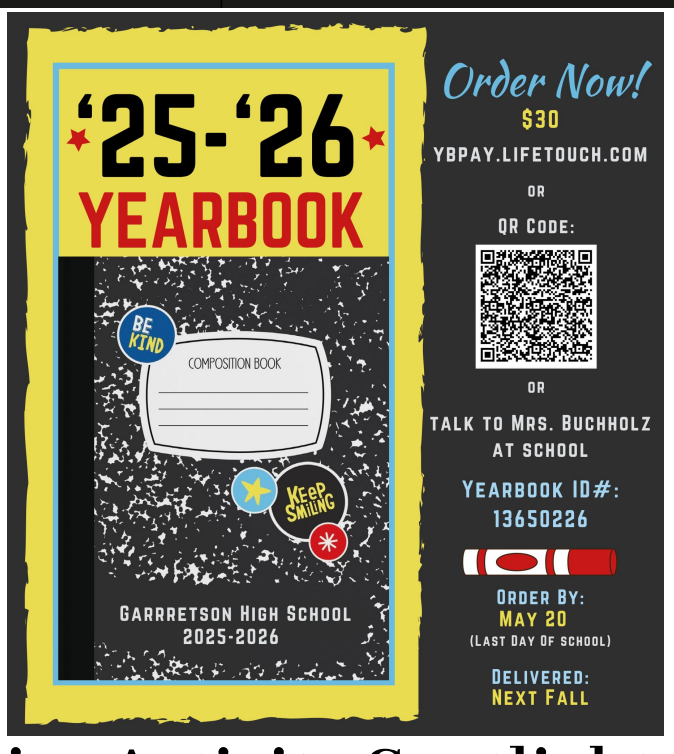
About a year and a half ago, exit 406 in Brandon, South Dakota went under construction for a new start and to speed up traffic. This project included the reconstruction of this exit, with new lighting, signals, and mainline interstate work.

This exit became a diverging diamond configuration, which will make it a lot easier to get in Brandon with not so much traffic.

The second phase of reconstruction on this DDI (Diverging Diamond Intersection) project includes completing the remaining on and off ramps, the eastbound lanes of I-90, the exit bridge, and the replacement of the eastbound I-90 bridge over the BNSF railroad.

A lot of people complained about all the construction and how annoying it was. But now it is nearly finished and it is time for people to enjoy it. In the end, the inconvenience of construction has given way to improvements that will benefit drivers for a very long time.





Senior Activity Spotlight



Garretson FFA shines at district competition

District VIII LDE Results

2025-2026 District Officer
Alexis Christensen- Student Advisor

Conduct of Chapter Meetings
1st Place (STATE QUALIFIER)
Team:
President – Gavin Coburn
Vice President – Harper Hanisch
Secretary – Kaden Hoogland
Treasurer – Jordyn Graff
Reporter – Chase Costello
Sentinel – Zach Hermanson
Student Advisor – Colton Buchholz

Creed Speaking
1st Place (STATE QUALIFIER)
Harper Hanisch

Market Plan
2nd Place (STATE QUALIFIER)
Team:
Alyssa Olson
Brooklyn Trudeau
Brielle Weir

Prepared Public Speaking
3rd Place (STATE QUALIFIER)
Alexis Christensen
7th Place
Abigail Fetter

Ag Broadcasting
4th Place (STATE ALTERNATE)
Tanner Baatz
5th Place
Jacoby Costello

Ag Sales
6th Place
Team:
Austin Graff
Cole Schleuter
Levi Top
Brecken Weir

Extemporaneous Speaking
4th Place (STATE ALTERNATE)
Blair Ellefson
7th Place
Dylan Waltman

Employment Skills
4th Place
Alexis Christensen
5th Place
Carter Siemonsma



Best NFL QB may not be who you think

Only two of the MVPs over the last five years earn A or better recognition

by **Chase Arend**
staff writer - editorial



There is a lot of talk going around about NFL Quarterback rankings and who stands at the top. Every ranking can be different as there are millions of options on who is the best NFL Quarterback. In my eyes, it goes to just two people right now: Lamar Jackson of the Baltimore Ravens and Bo Nix of the Denver Broncos.

Jackson is a stand out Quarterback, not only in the NFL but he started his career playing college at the University of Louisville and winning the Heisman Trophy award in 2016. Soon after getting drafted by the Baltimore Ravens as the 32nd overall pick in the first round of the 2018 NFL Draft.

After the draft he was a two-time recipient of the NFL Most Valuable Player award. Leading the Ravens in rushing yards every year as a starter. Jackson is a candidate as one of the best quarterbacks of his generation, and by some analysts as the greatest dual-threat quarterbacks of all time.

Bo Nix is my next pick as the top quarterback of this year. Nix was very successful in college as well.

Playing for the University of Auburn in 2019-2021 and the University of Oregon of 2022-2023. As a senior for the Oregon Ducks he was a finalist for the Heisman Trophy in 2023, finishing third in the voting. Nix was selected by the Denver Broncos in the first round (12th overall) of the 2024 NFL draft.

The past three seasons before Nox was on the Broncos, Denver had an overall record of 26-37, going 7-10 in 2021, 5-12 in 2022, and 8-9 in 2023.

Nix got the starting spot in 2024 as he was a rookie quarterback trying to bring back a broken program.

In his first season he went 10-7 making the playoffs, breaking the streak of the Denver Broncos not making the playoffs since 2015 with Peyton Manning and Von Miller winning Super Bowl 50.

Bo Nix, in his sophomore season, is now 9-2 in his first 11 games, leading the Broncos to the top of the AFC West.

I have watched Nix in person and he looks way better than his stats tell about him. He's gotten the Broncos to the top of the AFC being ranked #1 team in the NFL in the middle of the season.

Most people will be surprised as they see 2018 and 2022 NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes at C tier. Winning 3 Super Bowls it impressive, but he is now 5-5 being third in the AFC West behind Bo Nix and the Broncos.

I witnessed the Broncos-Chief game this past weekend and watched Mahomes in a down mood not only hurt the team but it played a huge role in the game, as the Chiefs fell short losing 22-19. Kansas City is not even in the playoff picture; he has a lot of work to do to get back to where he is expected to be by his fans.

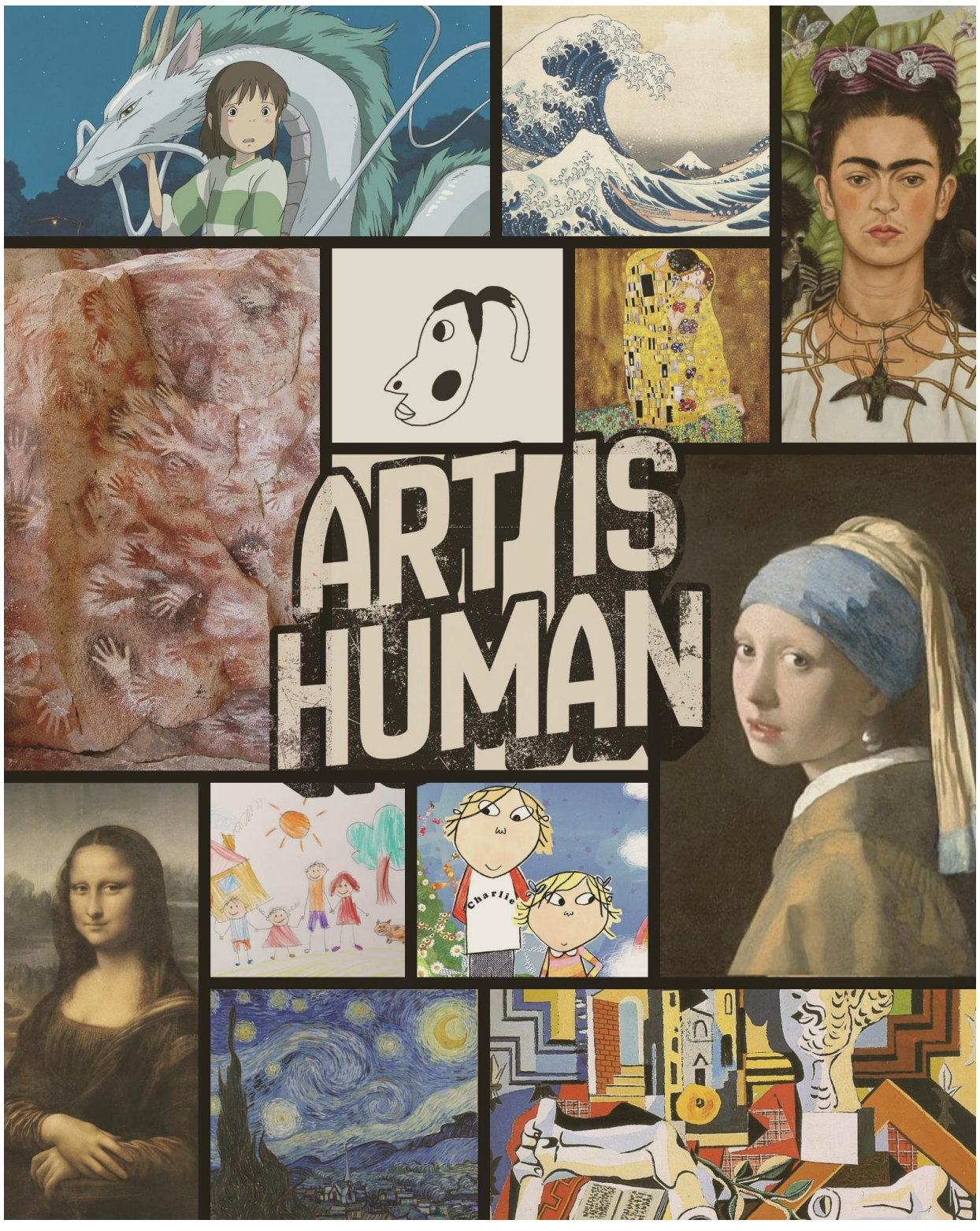
Lastly J.J. McCarthy missed his entire rookie season in 2024 after suffering a torn meniscus in his right knee during the preseason against the Las Vegas Raiders, which required surgery for a full repair. Then in the 2025 season, he suffered a high-ankle sprain in Week 2 and was sidelined for five games. Leading the Vikings to, so far a 4-6 record, being last in the NFC North.

Looking at individual stats and team records the QB is the most important player on the field and it really shows how the team is overall.

AI lacks true artistic intelligence when it comes to creativity

Use of AI to create art causes controversy as to the true definition of art

by **Cecelia Fiegen**
staff writer - editorial



Leave Art to Humans

AI is everywhere, from Coca-Cola ads to your parents' Facebook page to the media or *art* you consume. The use of generative artificial intelligence to make "art" brings up the question: does AI even belong in art?

While there are some conveniences with AI images, it shouldn't be considered real art, it takes away from human artists, it doesn't make art more accessible than it already is, and it is unethical.

Can AI art be considered art?

Calling AI generated images "art" gives it more credit than it is due, and calling the ones who prompt "artists" is an even bigger stretch.

While the word "art" has many definitions, the one I feel is the most accurate refers to art as the expression of human creativity and imagination.

A hypothetical situation that has the same relationship as AI and its prompter: I commissioned an artist to paint a portrait of me, with the alterations of blue eyes instead of brown and wavy hair instead of straight. Now that the painting is done, who should be credited as the artist? Me, the commissioner or my friend, the painter?

Most people, including myself, would say the painter. Despite a human putting the prompt into the AI, the AI is the thing that is doing the actual production. This puts the artificial intelligence in the position of "artist", something that isn't a human, which makes the generated image no longer human expression.

Does AI art take away from human artists?

In 2024 and again in 2025, Coca-Cola released a holiday ad created heavily with generative AI. This ad may have saved Coca-Cola money in production, but it also took the jobs of the many human creators.

Companies opting for cheaper, quicker AI are rapidly increasing, reducing the need for human creators reduces art related job availability. This poses the scary possibility of a jobless future for many artists.

Artificial intelligence also devalues human art and the effort they put into their work. Artists put their time into creating art that they feel carries an emotional value to them, and AI minimizes this by making mass produced images in a matter of seconds. This makes creators less sought after due to the unnatural convenience of AI generation.

Does AI make art more accessible?

Those who support AI being used as art often use the argument, "AI makes art more accessible." Let me ask you this, what about art isn't accessible? Art was the first written language of humanity, starting with paintings and handprints on cave walls.

The quality of art can't be measured in how realistic or creative it is, because that was never the point. The purpose of art is to express human emotions and experiences, and limiting it to only "good" art restricts the experience.

Any artist will say that their skill developed from years of practice, filled with many difficulties.

Challenges have never stopped humans from creating art. Sarah Biffin was a 19th century artist who was born without arms or legs, a condition now known as phocomelia. Despite this challenge, Biffin was determined to create art and became a renowned painter of her time.

Is AI art unethical?

There are many concerns with AI generated images that go further than simply leaving a bad taste in consumers' mouths. Generative AI is trained with vast internet databases full of photographs, human artists original work, and copyrighted material. This often leads to plagiarism and copyright infringement. Major artists have filed lawsuits against generative AI companies for using copyrighted materials in their models.

Not only does artificial intelligence hurt the artist community, but every community. Because AI releases around 300 million tons CO_2 per year, the cost of using AI is affecting all of us. Many people don't realize that AI is also "drinking" our water faster than humans ever could. Larger AI data centers require around 3 to 5 million gallons of water per day to cool their servers. This puts stress on already water scarce regions, such as Nevada where AI data hubs are being built.

What can we do?

Instead of unknowingly supporting AI, take the time to learn how to be able to tell the difference between genuine art and artificial intelligence. This enables you to be able to make the conscious decision to not aid AI in growing popularity. Instead, support human artists and raise awareness of the cost of using AI.