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

- There is a tailgate supper put on by the American Legion before the football game tomorrow.

GERMAN PHRASE OF THE WEEK

- Long weekend
  - **langes Wochenende**
- Thanks to Johanna Knauer for providing the Phrase of the Week.

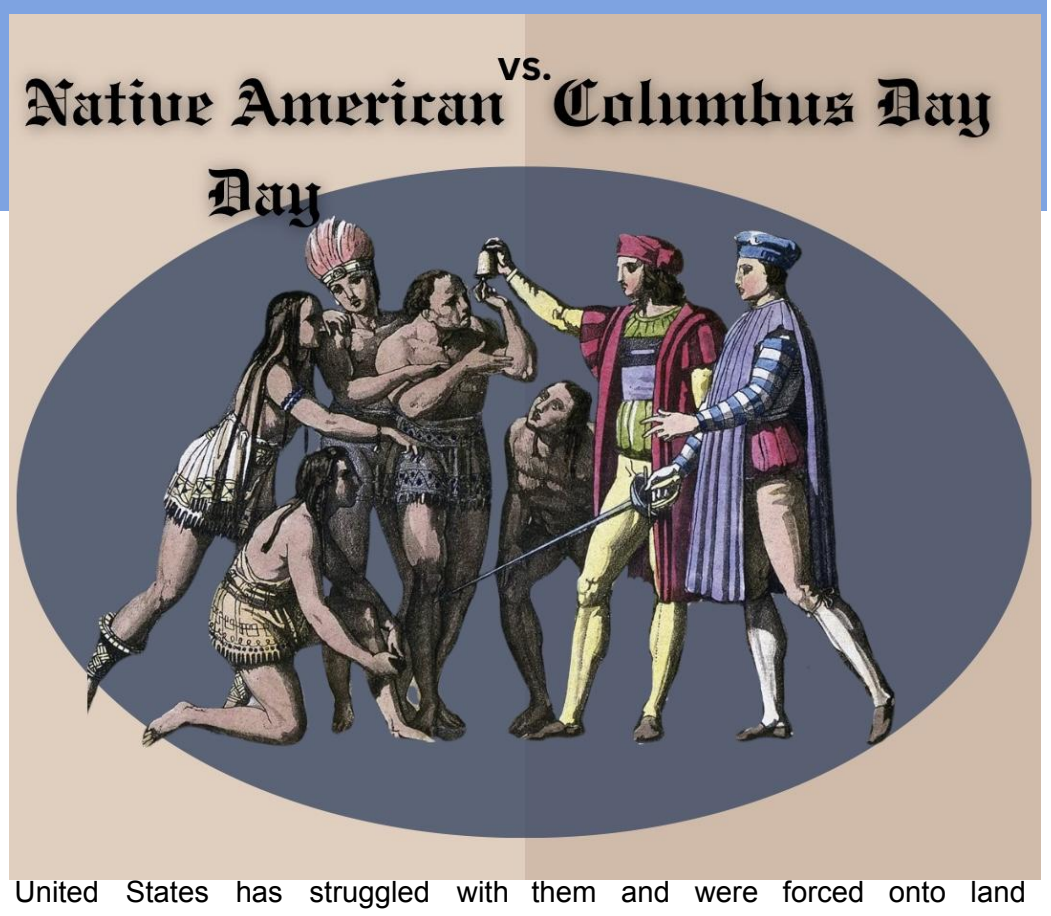
October 9, 2025
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Garretson High School
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GARRETSON BLUE DRAGONS

Blue Ink



Indigenous Peoples' Day vs. Columbus Day



by **Cece Fiegen & Johanna Knauer**
staff writers

On the second Monday of October, Americans reflect on the history and values of their country when celebrating either Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples Day. Each year the debate continues on whether the day should honor Christopher Columbus, the explorer credited with "discovering" North America, or the Indigenous peoples whose lives were forever disrupted by European colonization.

Columbus Day

Despite still being referred to as Columbus Day by most of the US, many people in recent years have challenged Cristopher Columbus' role in America along with whether he should even be celebrated. While many people falsely credit him with being the first European to discover the Americas, which was done by the Vikings centuries prior, that's not where his significance lies.

The Italian explorer arrived in Central America on a trip to find a western sea route to Asia funded by the king and queen of Spain. He brought his discovery of this "new land" back to Spain which sparked all of Europe's interest in the New World. This began the Columbian Exchange, the flow of ideas, people, goods, and diseases between the Old and New World. The exchange brought horses to the Native Americans which greatly improved their nomad life, making it much easier to follow bison herds. Not only did it bring new foods and animals to the Americas, but it also brought diseases that the Native Americans had no immunity to, causing the death of anywhere from 50% to 90% to their population. Despite not being directly tied to the outcome of the Columbus Exchange, Christopher Columbus can still be held responsible for his own actions from his time in the Americas. While there, Columbus tortured Natives and pillaged their villages in pursuit of their gold. The explorer also forced hundreds of Natives onto his ship to bring back to Spain as slaves. Should a man with such a complicated past be celebrated on a national holiday?

Indigenous Peoples' Day

The concept of changing Columbus Day was an idea first introduced in South Dakota in 1990. The state wanted to use the day to honor Native Americans and their heritage, after decades of mistreatment and hardship. The United States has struggled with Native American discrimination since the very founding of the nation and continues to today, and Indigenous Peoples' gives Americans an opportunity to recognize this and address the situation.

Very shortly after settlers began arriving in the Americas, a massive amount of Natives died due to diseases brought by Europeans such as smallpox, influenza, and measles. Violence and warfare also harmed the Native population, where colonizers even began placing bounties on their lives and giving them smallpox infected items. They often had their lands stolen from them and were forced onto land viewed as less valuable by the Europeans. Forced assimilation was also used, where Indigenous children were forcibly taken from their families and placed into residential schools. They were there banned from participating in traditional religious ceremonies, speaking in any language other than English, and partaking in cultural activities. After all these struggles and much more, the Native American people are still present in the United States. In modern times discrimination is still present, but people can only hope that will improve with small steps such as Indigenous Peoples' Day.



Support for State during homecoming

by **Blake Benson & Bence Bonte**
staff writers

Hobo Day is South Dakota State University's big homecoming celebration, held every October in Brookings. It started back in 1912, when students decided to dress up like hobos instead of wearing fancy clothes for homecoming. Since then, it's become one of the biggest one day events in South Dakota, bringing together students, parents, and the community for a week of fun.

During Hobo Week, students take part in things like Bum-A-Meal, where they eat with local families, the big BumFire bonfire, beard-growing contests, and the lively Hobo Day Parade full of floats and bands.

The main event is the Hobo Day football game at Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium, where the SDSU Jackrabbits take on the Northern Iowa Panthers.

The game will be packed with fans, school pride, and excitement, and the Jackrabbits usually come out on top. Every year, Hobo Day shows how close SDSU and the Brookings community are. Safe to say it is going to be a fun weekend for fans and players!

October 9, 2025 I ISSUE NUMBER 13-008

WNBA finals feature SD connections

Both Mercury and Aces coaches highlight South Dakota on national athletic stage

by **Colton Buchholz & Chase Costello**
staff writers

The 2025 WNBA Finals is the best-of-seven championship series concluding the WNBA season. This marks the first best-of-seven final in history. It started on October 3 and will end by October 17 at the latest.

This year, the Finals features the second-seeded Las Vegas Aces and the fourth-seeded Phoenix Mercury. This is the first time since the 2021 WNBA Finals that the top seed has not qualified. This will be Las Vegas' third Finals appearance in four years, while Phoenix will play in its first since 2021.

This year, something very unusual is happening; South Dakota is in the spotlight. Both Becky Hammon (Las Vegas Aces head coach), and Nate Tibbetts (Phoenix Mercury head coach) have both had their roots in South Dakota.

Becky Hammon, Las Vegas Aces head coach, grew up in Rapid City, South Dakota and attended Rapid City Stevens High School. She ended up achieving multiple awards in her high school career including South Dakota player of the year in 1994. Following that, she attended Colorado State University and overall, made it to the WNBA.

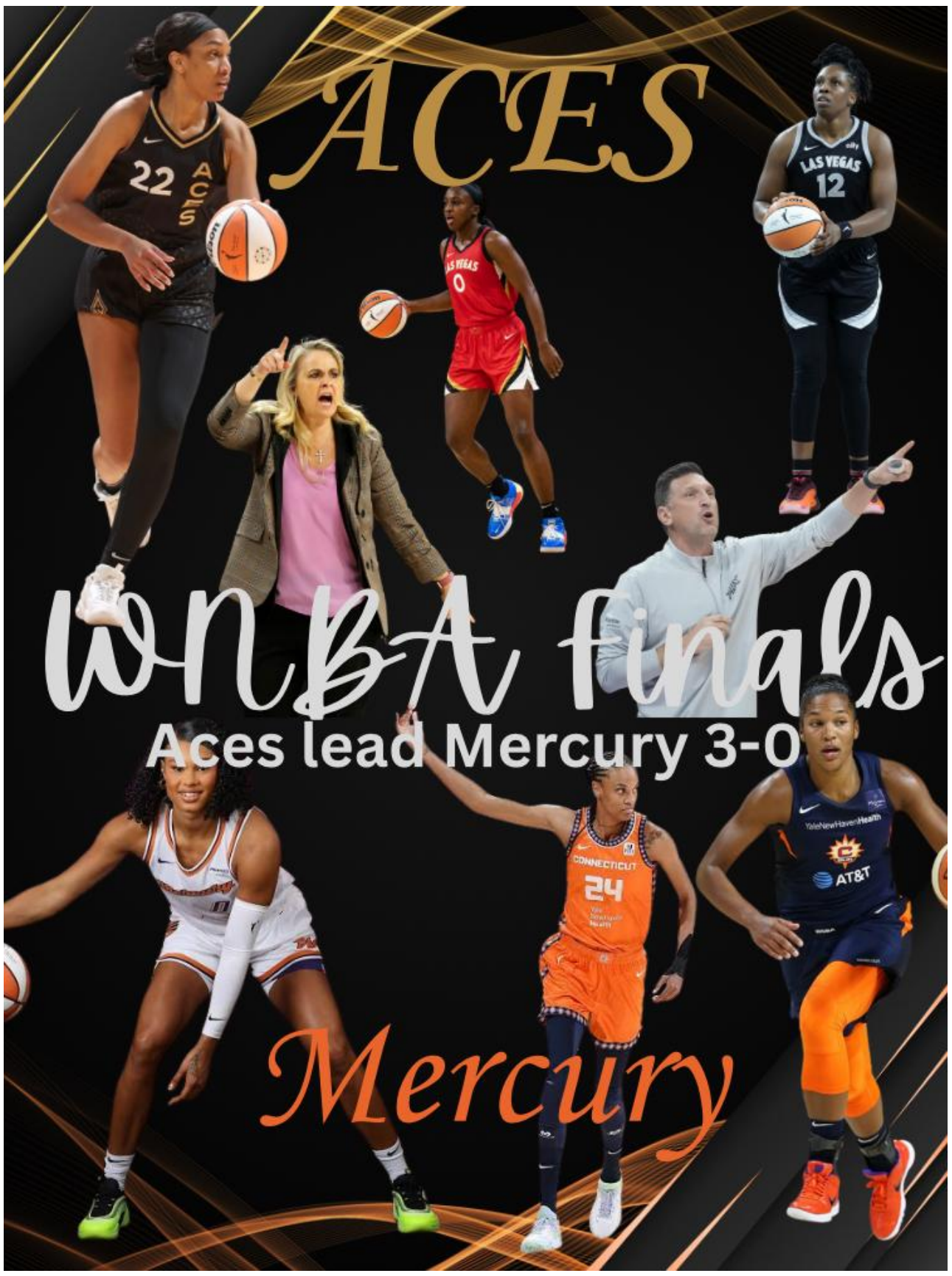
After having a very successful career, she moved onto coaching and became the first female assistant coach in the NBA for the San Antonio Spurs. Finally, she found herself taking a job in Las Vegas. Currently, she has had four years under her belt and two of the years, winning the championship. This year, Coach Hammon and the Aces look to take their third title in the past five years.

Nate Tibbetts, Phoenix Mercury head coach, is also a South Dakota native, but on the opposite side of the river. Coach Tibbetts attended Roosevelt High School and received a couple of awards including one first team all-state.

Following his high school career, he took his talents to the University of South Dakota. While not playing his freshman year, he started his sophomore through senior year, and earned a spot in the Coyotes Hall of Fame.

After his playing career was over, Tibbetts became an assistant for the University of Sioux Falls Cougars, the head coach for the Sioux Falls Skyforce, and multiple assistant positions in the NBA including the Portland Trailblazers and the Cleveland Cavaliers. He is now wrapping up his second year as the Mercury head coach hoping to make it a memorable season.

With the finals being around two South Dakota natives, the WNBA Finals has a little bit more meaning for South Dakotans. Even though the Aces lead the Mercury 3-0 as of October 8, there is still time for each South Dakotan born coach to lead their respective teams to a WNBA title.



Upcoming Fan Themes

Thursday, Oct 9: Volleyball v. Canton - Crazy Hair
Friday, Oct 10: Football v. Howard - Pink Out
Monday, Oct 13: Volleyball @ Lennox - Denim
Themes posted on Instagram at @ghsthemes

This Week's Need to Know

Upcoming Events

Thursday, October 9
- XC @ Big East Conference in Sioux Valley (1:00)
- JH VB v. Canton (4:00)
- VB v. Canton (4:30/5:30/7:00)

Friday, October 10
- No School - Staff In-Service
- FFA Blood Drive
- Football v. Howard (7:00)

Saturday, October 11
- Soccer State Semifinals (TBD)

Monday, October 13
- No School - Native American Day
- JH VB @ Lennox (4:30/5:30)
- VB @ Lennox (5:30/6:30/7:30)
- School Board Meeting (6:00)

Tuesday, October 14
- JH VB v. McCook Central-Montrose (4:00/5:00)
- VB v. McCook Central-Montrose (4:30/5:45/7:00)

Wednesday, October 15
- XC @ Region Meet in Garretson (2:00)

Thursday, October 16
- VB v. Hills-Beaver Creek (5:00/6:00/7:00)

Friday, October 17
- Football @ Chester (6:00)

Worth Mentioning

END OF 1ST QUARTER is October 20, just 11 days away. Now is the time to double check grades and assignments.

CONGRATULATIONS to all of the students who have been recognized for showing positive ACE qualities (attitude, character, effort). Our first five winners are: Ava Peters, Rylee Farrell, Levi Top, Gracie Fiegen, and Joey Tonsay. Please see Mrs. Costello in study hall for an extra reward.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES are Wednesday, October 8 and Wednesday, October 22.

'24-'25 YEARBOOKS are still available. They are $30 each, a steal for the millions of memories made last year. Please come find Dr. Buchholz if you are interested.

The life of a music lover

by **Gracie Fiegen and Harper Hanisch**
staff writer & infographic creator
editorial

Taylor Swift's new album, *The Life of a Showgirl*, brought anticipated reviews of love and hate as it was released October 3, 2025. The successful, female artist's music is known for bringing extreme and controversial reactions.

Album Overview

The Life of a Showgirl is composed of 12 catchy, pop songs which mostly comment on fame, finding happiness, and her new fiancé. TLOAS is considered a "glitter gel pen" album with fun beats and less serious lyrics. This is a stark contrast to Swift's last "quill and ink" albums, but genre switches are a classic Swift move. This new era comes with exclusive content: a release party movie; special CD and vinyl editions with acoustic versions; personal interviews; and album creation footage.

Fans' and Foes' Reviews

Fans have claimed that *The Life of a Showgirl* is a major bop and foes have claimed this album is a major flop. Overwhelming critiques where internet hate outweighs support is routine, but eventually dies down.

Fans say this album is joy-filled, romantic, and a sneak peak into being a pop star. The catchy tunes have been earworms with relatable lyrics for some. They enjoy the uncomplicated and effortless enjoyment of the music.

Foes are claiming TLOAS is missing originality, has lackluster lyrics, and doesn't match the vibe. Haters are connecting her personal life to this artistic miss and holding the album to a high standard. Since the drop, Swift has lost Instagram followers bringing her account from 282 million to 281 million.

Your Hometown Swiftie's Review

I have enjoyed forming my own opinions on this album, the era, the deeper meanings, and the criticism. I liked TLOAS the minute it was released, but it wasn't until the listening party movie that I truly loved the album. Although thoughtful, sad music is my usual jam, it is refreshing to get some happier dance music.

The flashy showgirl era has amazing visuals unlike any other modern work and the concept is perfect. I do wish the music reflected this theme more with possibly a more old-fashioned sound. I enjoyed the meaning behind most of the songs and I quickly got swept up into other people's bold interpretations that can be way off base. In my opinion, all art should be subject to criticism, but I think many people are taking it way too far.



The Charts Don't Lie

All of these statements are opinion based, but the statistics show this album's performance. Once again, Taylor Swift is making history! According to Billboard, TLOAS broke the record for the largest ever sales week surpassing 3.5 million album sales. *The Life of a Showgirl* breaks Spotify's 2025 Single-Day Streaming record with 250 million global streams. This album has made a plethora of major accomplishments and it has only been one week!



Football player struggles with guilt, aftermath of accident

by **Zach Hermanson & Cade Risty**
staff writers and infographic creators

In April 2025, former Louisiana State University wide receiver Kyren Lacy passed away due to suicide via firearm. This accident occurred two days before Lacy was due for court.

Lacy was charged with negligent homicide, felony hit and run, and reckless operation of a vehicle after police said he caused a December 17, 2024 car accident in Southeastern Louisiana.

Lacy's attorney released a new video recently that showed that Lacy was actually far behind where the car accident occurred, which ended up killing a 78-year-old man and injuring two others.

Even though he was way behind, it is said that his reckless driving is what caused the crash.

Surveillance video show that he had already passed four other cars before the crash.

A separate man said that Lacy went around a truck and a woman had to swerve to avoid a truck that had slammed on his brakes allegedly because of Lacy's car.

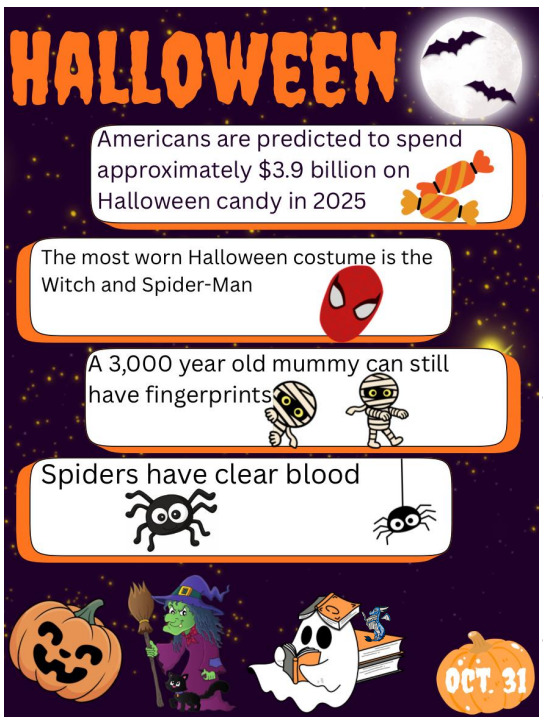
Lacy's involvement is still not clear; different people have different opinions on the accident. Despite the amount of involvement in the crash, Lacy still felt tremendous guilt surrounding this accident, which led him to take his life.

If you know someone that is facing a crisis, talk to them and let them know they are never alone. If you think about self-harm, call 988, the suicide crisis hotline.

Spooky season only weeks away

Candy, costumes, and decorations starting to appear

by **Chase Arend & Shea Smidt**
staff writers and infographic creators



Trick or treat! Halloween is right around the corner as we are stepping into October. Halloween is on October 31. Get your candy ready to go because it will be here before you know it.

Did you know that Halloween was not created at a specific point but evolved from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, which was celebrated 2,000 years ago which marked the start of harvest and the new year.

The top three candies are Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, M&M's, followed by Sour Patch Kids or Skittles as a popular third choice.



Soccer finishes season

After a solid showing in the last week of the season with a tie and win over two Minnesota schools, Garretson qualified for the state soccer playoffs as the #6 seed. This sent them West River to play St. Thomas More. The Cavaliers dominated the offensive possessions and came away with a 4-0 victory, ending the Blue Dragons' season.