

It's Merry 'Greed-mas' Time

By Michaela Priess

Christmas is supposed to be a time of joy, love, and cheer. All too often though, the commercialized Christmas brings out the nasty, greedy side of people.

This year, people are projected to spend an average of \$882 on gifts alone. In turn, they expect others to rise to that same standard. Many people seem to need more "things" under the tree to be happy on Christmas morning.

To cater to these people, retail businesses put their Christmas displays up long before the Christmas season arrives. Before even Halloween was over, Christmas products were decking the shelves of businesses across the country.

Their goal is to maximize their profit by subjecting cus-

tomers to massive exposure of the things they "need" to make their Christmas a happy one.

Black Friday, Christmas sales, and the rush to get the new, limited toy or electronic device often make people go to crazy measures in the name of Christmas. There is enough craziness in the world without people losing their minds over Christmas shopping.

Christmas is one of the few

times when the best parts of the human character are expressed. Don't let the hustle and bustle take over the truly important aspects of Christmas.

Let's all take some time this Christmas to enjoy those in it who are special to us. Be grateful for what we have and do something to help those who are not as fortunate. Then we get back to the true meaning of Christmas.

JV Roasts Ducks, 37-0

The junior varsity football team finished the season with a strong win over the Taylor Ducks, 37-0.

"The players really came together to get a team win," Coach Shannon Petsch said.

Sophomore Eloy Alvarez rushed for three touchdowns in the game.

Shae Slaughter accounted for two touchdowns himself, a one yard touchdown run and a 35 yard touchdown pass to Remington Neffendorf.

Noah Gildersleeve also scored on a 40 yard touchdown run in his last game as a Billie to seal the victory.

On Oct. 22, the JV fell to the Liberty Hill Panthers 24-0.

"The whole group played with a lot of heart and emotion and never stopped till the game was over," Coach Shannon Petsch said.

Though no one scored, Dominick Petsch was the player of the week for his defensive play and his work on special teams.

More Money, More PROMblems

By Ann Blackmon
Prom.

It's that one time during the school year when girls and guys get to dress up, take tons of amazing pictures at a beautiful place, eat fancy food and feel like million bucks. The sad thing is - it's only for one night.

Only about seven hours of fun (and only about three of

those are at the actual Prom) and it's all over, and it comes with a big price tag.

Prom on average costs a student anywhere from \$235 - \$980, depending on how expensive his or her taste is.

With that money one could buy a MacBook laptop, approximately 456 gallons of gas, or 245 Iced Vanilla Lattes from Starbucks.

With all of these things money can buy, is it worth spending it all on one prom night over frivolous things that only last for seven hours?

Aside from the cost, prom comes with the burden of weeks of planning, organization, and naturally stress. Drama arises and tensions build all because this one

night has been placed on a pedestal, expectations are high and it demands perfection.

Whether you are frugal or not, prom comes with its pros and cons.

So if you're one of the many hoping to make prom special this year, take a breath, make the money spent, and time involved, worth it. Enjoy!

Teens Reel in Prize Winners

By Katherine McManigle

A day at the lake, sitting in a boat, catching a few fish. Ahh, relaxing and refreshing.

That may be true for many people, but for Blake Lilly, Calvin Todd and Keegan Stroud, it's competitive, pressure-filled and fun.

"Before I could even walk, my dad got me started fishing," Lilly said. "I've been competing in tournaments and opens for several years now."

These three are involved in competitive fishing and have won numerous awards over the last few years.

In mid-September Lilly and Todd competed in a fishing tournament in Marble Falls. Lilly placed third and received a trophy. Todd finished fourth.

Lilly caught 7.12 pounds of fish, with a three fish limit. They were largemouth bass and Guadalupe bass.

Marble Falls High School has a fishing team and Lilly, Todd and Stroud compete with them.

On Sept. 26 Lilly competed in the Faith Angler Network (FAN) tournament on Lake Belton in Temple.

"It was a hard day, but we placed 20th out of 50 fishing

teams," Lilly said.

"It was a difficult tourney, but I learned many productive patterns of the lake," Lilly said.

Usually a week before each tournament they spend time pre-fishing for a warmup.

"We learn the productive patterns that fish are relating to in different areas of the lake," Lilly said.

The boys compete individually at some meets and with a partner, or co-angler, at others. This year Lilly and Todd are partners. Stroud is partnered with a 34-year old semi pro named Darold Gleason.

"I compete with Gleason most of the time and we have several more meets coming up," Stroud said.

The boys spent Halloween day at Lake LBJ competing in the second qualifying FAN

tournament.

Stroud and his partner placed 21st, bringing in three largemouth bass for a weight of 5.19 pounds.

Lilly and Todd came in 26th with three fish weighing 4.38 pounds.

"It was an interesting day, especially fishing in the rain," Todd said.

At the Lake Travis Open, Todd and Lilly caught three large mouth bass for a total weight of 5.83 pounds. Lilly won the Biggest Bass award for the Marble Falls team.

In March, all three boys will participate in the state high school TBF tournament at Sam Rayburn Lake in east Texas.

"My goal is to place high at this tournament and be awarded the Angler of the Year award," Lilly said.

NJROTC Shooting to the Top

By Aaron Crenwelge

The NJROTC varsity Marksmanship Team has qualified for the Area 10 Marksmanship Championship.

The last time they qualified for this was three years ago. They will be competing at Joshua HS near Fort Worth today and tomorrow.

The team consists of top shooters, Levi Crawford and Ashley Sanchez, along with Kayla York, Autumn Adams, Joshua Treibs, Kira Bloodgood, and DJ Herbort.

Qualifiers from this competition will go on to compete in the regional tournament in Aniston, Alabama, in Febru-

ary.

Last weekend was NJROTC's last drill meet. They competed at Southwest High School in San Antonio, finishing 31st out of 39 schools.

"I'm very proud of the team this year. They have been working very hard," Chief Joseph Powell said.