

Choral Director: Mrs. Erika Brown
Band Director: Mr. Nick Sittig

I am
THANKFUL
for...

The elementary held their music program last week, band earlier this week and choir is next week. The musicality of our Blue Dragons is absolutely beautiful.



Art News Sports Articles

Cheerleading Newspaper
Blue Dragons Math
History Basketball XC
Choir English
Baseball Volleyball
Marching Band Football
Soccer

Sumo up for another season

Garretson grapplers start their 2019-2020

by **Oliviya Thornton**
staff writer

On Monday, November 18 wrestling had its first practice this season and the coaches are looking forward to seeing how the new wrestlers grow and seeing the past athletes return this year. Only three, out of the seven who qualified for state last year returned this year: three graduated and one moved out of the school district. Because of this, the wrestling team has a young team, and a few haven't done wrestling before, but the coaches don't see this as a bad thing but more of a good one.

Mr. Ruml, the head wrestling coach is optimistic about the new, young talent. "I love that we have new people coming out for wrestling."

Wrestling numbers have been declining for the past few years but as of this year is a change from that trend. Mr. Ruml said, "Our numbers have really dropped over the years and we are doing what we can to get more student-athletes out for wrestling. I think some people are intimidated by wrestling because they have never done it and it seems foreign to them."

He continued, "Wrestling is one of those sports that you figure out as

you go and it really teaches you discipline and respect. Wrestling also teaches you how to take a loss and how to take responsibility for your mistakes."

Gabe Johnson, a sophomore, joined wrestling and this will be his first year. "This year I decided to do wrestling after I was approached by a football coach and asked if I would be able to give wrestling a week to try it out and so far I'm liking it!"

With joining for a recommendation he has enjoyed his first week so far. Even being a novice, Johnson has set goals for himself earlier on this season. "My goals are to improve myself whether it be sportsmanship, athleticism, or even footwork. I aim to improve myself to the best of my abilities and to be ready for every challenge that comes my way."

With having a younger team and new players, it can come with a disadvantage because of the lack of experience these athletes will have but there are more positives than negatives. Since they are brand new/younger, they don't have any bad habits on or off the mat.

Mr. Ruml explained more on the positives of having a younger team, "It is nice to be able to show a new wrestler technique that is new to them, so they only know how to do it one right way. We have seen in the

past where veteran wrestlers have learned lazier ways of doing a technique and then it doesn't work against opponents."

With the new/younger wrestlers, Blue Dragon supporters get to see them improve throughout the season. Garretson hosts three home meets this year, in contrast to the one they had last season. Home contests are December 12, January 28, and February 14.

Garretson wrestling also has seven wrestlers returning from the last year's team including three state qualifiers: Preston Bohl, Jayse Miller, and Dominic Abraham.

Bohl, a freshman, highlighted the benefits of coming back to the squad, "I knew that if I came out this year it would make me tougher not only physically but mentally also to help me become a better runner." He, much like Johnson, has set out goals for himself, giving a focus throughout the season, "This year I'm hoping to make it to state again and place."

The wrestling season is only just beginning, and the new wrestlers have much to learn and the older ones are gaining more experience. Their first tournament is the Flandreau Invitational which is on December 7 with a start time of 10:00 am.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: The average size of a dinner plate has increased 20% over the past few decades.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Eating your Thanksgiving meal earlier in the day gives your body more time to digest the high-calorie meal.

CROATIAN WORD OF THE WEEK: Hot Chocolate = Topla cokolada (Tow-pla Chock-oh-Lada)

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why couldn't the turkey finish its dessert?
Submitted by Jayden C

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: Can you unscramble these Thanksgiving themed words?

1. loebgb
2. kimpnpu
3. rvatehs
4. teryku
5. opnaocruci

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

- Monday, November 25**
- MS/HS Choir Concert (7:00)
- Wednesday, November 27**
- No School—Thanksgiving Break
- Thursday, November 28**
- No School—Thanksgiving Break
- Friday, November 29**
- No School—Thanksgiving Break
- Monday, December 2**
- Basketball practice begins

Worth Mentioning

COUNTDOWN TO BREAK: 3 Days
No School on November 27-29

Congratulations to the volleyball team on a successful season. They had their end of the year banquet last night. All-Conference were Lily Ranschau and Jaelyn Benson. All-Conference Honorable Mention were Kennedy Buckneberg and Lauren Heesch.

Multimedia has released some new videos in honor of American Education Week. Check them out on the Garretson Tech channel on YouTube.

Fall formal recap

by **Kylie Uhl**
senior writer

Last Saturday was the third annual fall formal for high school students to attend at the American Legion. With all those attending, there are always newcomers as well as a pair of shoes that are familiar to the dance floor.

This year for formal there was an aux cord and request list while last year there was a playlist made by students with the choice to request songs." I'm not going to lie the music my sophomore year was better than this year's," said junior Molly Hulscher.

Since formal has no unwritten rule about dates or going as a group, there's no pressure in finding a date like there is for prom. Hulscher stated, "I went with a group of close friends and it was a blast. I was expecting decorations and a fun filled

night and those expectations were pretty much met."

Aside from the dance, many people go out to eat before putting on their dancing shoes, but one lucky group of senior girls ran into South Dakota's governor Kristi Noem downtown at Crawford's. The group of young ladies knew how well respected she was, by learning about her in Mr. Steckler's government class.

"We were about halfway through our meal, and Kristi walked by. I hadn't noticed but Nadalie had said it so casually, 'Oh hey, look there's Kristi.' She was walking out and Riley yelled her name and she came back and talked to us. It was kind of fun to meet someone who's like a celebrity," recalled senior Rachel Kindt

These lovely ladies then took a picture with the governor, who later posted it to Instagram and captioning the photo: Look at all these



Gov. Kristi Noem took a moment to chat and snap a picture with the senior girls. Noem later posted the chance encounter to her Instagram, making this night a memorable one for these ladies

Beautiful girls I had a chance to meet on Saturday at Crawford's downtown Sioux Falls! They were on their way to the winter formal at Garretson and hope they had a great time.

Teacher feature: Athletic director

An insight into the life of an athletic director, get to know Mr. Steckler

by **Nobel Nothstine**
staff writer

The *Blue Ink* talked to Kevin Steckler this week to get an inside look on what his role is as an athletic director, his day-to-day responsibilities, his sports philosophy, and more.

1. What's the hardest thing about being an athletic director? "For me, it's making sure I'm completely organized when it comes to all of the activities that we offer. With practice schedules, meetings, physicals, banquets, contracts...etc. I have to make sure I have all of my bases covered!"

2. What's the most rewarding thing about being an athletic director? "I really enjoy the everyday involvement with the sports, the coaches, and the kids. I've also enjoyed just learning about all of the sports here, that I was never involved in before."

3. How long have you worked at Garretson? "34 years."

4. How long have you been the athletic director? "4 years."

5. What's some average responsibilities you have in this role? "Day to day responsibilities include checking my phone and emails to see if I have communications from parents, other directors, or coaches. I never let a one day problem become a two day problem. I have to organize gym schedules, work with the banquets and awards, coordinate with the South Dakota High School Activities Association...and the list is long, but distinguished."

6. What made you want to apply to be this/did they ask you? "It was a situation where I had coached for over 30 years, and poured my heart and soul into it, but I was ready to move on and go to bigger things. Mr. Johnson had this role before me, so he was in a double position. I approached him and expressed my interest, and here I am now! I'd say I gained a greater understanding of things I didn't understand as a coach."



Kevin Steckler has been in the role of an athletic director for the past four years.

7. Are there any athletic policies you'd like to change or implement? "Well, I think there are always policies in training violations, some monetary arrangement, and some handbook things that I would like revisited."

8. What's one thing you want people to know about you in this role? "I love what I do, I'm organized, structured, disciplined...I know what I'm doing and I'm good at it." People won't always agree with me, or like what I do, but in this role I often have to say no and explain the why behind it."

9. Is this an all year position? "This job doesn't end when the school year does, it's a 12 month commitment."

10. What types of athletic experience did you have as a player/coach/previous director/etc? "I coached football and basketball for over 30 years. In high school I was in football, basketball, track, baseball... I was a 24/7 athletic junkie."

11. What is your philosophy when it comes to sports? "We want every kid in our athletic and activity program to love and have a passion for what they're doing. I want every kid to feel success."

12. How do you define "success" in athletics? "Success isn't just about winning, winning is important, but to me, it's more 'have we gotten

everything out of this young man or lady?' Have they improved from the beginning of the season to the end? We want the athlete to have fun, get some satisfaction from working hard, and learn about discipline, teamwork, and accountability."

13. In terms of winning vs playing time for all, what's your view for elementary, middle, and high school? "At the elementary and middle level, we just want to teach kids the basics and start developing an enjoyment for the game. In high school, it's about competition and earning the right to be out there. Because frankly, we do have a scoreboard and it is important."

14. What do you believe is the proper role of parents in athletic programs? "#1, we want parents to be supportive of the student and the team. Their kids are there because they want to be."

15. What is the role of a booster club? "We formed the booster club 3 years ago, and we have a good working relationship with them. The booster club helps out when a team wants something that's not a necessity, but is a good want. They supplement things that we don't have the whole budget to cover."

16. What can coaches and students do to ensure academic and athletic success? "It all starts with the student. They have to have a want and self-motivation. You're a student first, and an athlete second."

17. How do you develop community support as a director? "I get out in the community. I'm at most, if not all of the events, and I love talking to people. Even by writing this article, I'm getting visibility and being transparent in this role. Just be open with people."

Well, his words speak for themselves. Steckler is a great director, loves what he does, and knows the people in the athletic activity's program like the back of his hand. If you're a student athlete, take some time today to reach out and thank him for his hard work.

Region oral interpretation contest wraps up season

by **Noel Johnson**
staff writer

On Monday oral interp took a trip up to Brookings on the SDSU campus for regions where Garretson's one participant, Oliviyah Thornton, recited her piece. Thornton placed fourth putting her as the second alternate for the state competition.

Thornton preformed a piece called "Even Superhero's Have Bad Days" by Shelley Becker which fell into the category storytelling. But there are plenty of other categories for people to participate in like oratory readers theater, serious, humorous, duo, poetry, and a few others as well.

"I joined oral interp because I thought it would be a very good experience to get out and do speeches along with learning how to talk in-front of people because I tend to get really nervous. Plus I know when I get a real job, I'll have to get used to talking in front of people, so oral interp is a really good way to do that" said Thornton.

Oral interpretation is words from a piece that the reader or performer gives life to through one's body and voice, and also brings out emotion and meaning to a piece. As for previous years, there have been more than one person out for oral interp but this year no one's schedule seem to fit, leaving just Thornton alone to represent Garretson. Although Thornton represent alone she does encourage others to join.

"Being my first year and the only one in oral interp; it was kind of weird, and I was hoping people who had done it previous years would go out so I could learn from them. So in that way it was kind of a bummer," said Thornton, "But, yes, I think it's a very good experience because once you get older there is high change you will talk in front of a large crowd; plus you will need to get along with co workers."

Black Friday

by **Hayden Olofson**
staff writer

Next week, starting Thanksgiving night, stores will start to open for Black Friday deals. It's traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year because it kicks off the holiday season.

The National Retail Federation (NRF) predicts that every year sales will keep going up. Shoppers in 2018 spent about \$1,007.24 each. Of that money, roughly \$637.67 went to Christmas gifts and another \$215.04 on food, decorations and other necessities. The NRF was right about the sales going up every year because, in 2002 the total amount spent on Black Friday was \$416.4 billion and last year in 2018 the total was \$717.5 billion. So if the trends over the past decade and a half continues, the NRF's prediction will come true.

But all this money doesn't just come from Black Fri-



day, it also comes from Cyber Monday, this is the Monday following Thanksgiving promoted by online retailers to encourage people to start shopping online. There is also small business Saturday, right in between Black Friday and Cyber Monday, to encourage shoppers to keep

their money local.

But some of the best Black Friday deals are surprisingly, not on Black Friday. Many companies including Amazon and other business, offer earlier and earlier. For example most deals that involve electronics are offered at the beginning of November.

Black Friday, itself, is still the best day for deals as many of the sales in stores are also available online. But since technology is getting more advanced every year, a lot of people are switching to purely shopping online. Although I don't think shoppers will ever completely abandon the actual stores, it just for most people it might be more convenient for customers to shop online.



First year interper, Oliviyah Thornton, placed fifth at the Big East Conference meet earlier this year and finished her season fourth at regions..

Photo by Ms. Erika Brown

Professional...but unprofessional

Myles Garrett appeals suspension after hit on Steeler's QB with helmet



Myles Garrett, defensive player for the Browns (#96), attacks Pittsburgh's quarterback, Mason Rudolph, with own helmet after a sack in week 11. Garrett was suspended indefinitely but is challenging the ruling citing precedent from a few year's back. Rudolph has apologized for the role he played in the brawl. Photo by (David Richard/AP) printed at the New York Daily News <https://www.nydailynews.com/sports/>

The appeal being upheld means he will be suspended without pay for at least the remainder of the 2019 season. This is the second-longest suspension in league history for a single on-field accident at six games, behind Vontaze Burfict's twelve games.

"This punishment was not fair to Garrett because the last player to swing a helmet at another player only received a suspension for two preseason games and one regular season game," said Mr. Schrank.

Both organizations, the Steelers and the Browns, received a fine of a quarter of a million dollars for the players' actions. Browns' defensive tackle, Larry Ogunjobi, received a one game suspension and Rudolph received a \$35,000 fine, along with teammate Maurkice Pouncey receiving a two game suspension for their part in the brawl. Schrank stated "Rudolph's punishment should be greater because there is too much discrepancy between his and Garrett's."

Either way, the actions of the players are unacceptable and unprofessional. Both players should understand what they need to do to make sure it never happens again to keep the sport in a healthy state.

by **Preston Bohl**
staff writer

The first overall pick in the 2017 NFL draft, Myles Garrett, is appealing his indefinite suspension for his hit on Steelers' QB Mason Rudolph. The Browns' defensive end met with an appeals officer on Wednesday in New York in hopes to reduce his suspension that has ended his season.

This whole situation started in Cleveland on Thursday night in the closing seconds of the Browns-

Steelers game. Garrett muscled Rudolph to the ground, and Rudolph hit him in the groin twice and tried to rip off his helmet before the two got up. This triggered Garrett to yank off Rudolph's helmet and swing it at his head.

Yesterday, Garrett's indefinite suspension was upheld by the NFL. During his appeal, Garrett accused Rudolph of using a racial slur before the incident. This allegation was not proven though, and thought to only be a desperate attempt to mitigate his suspension.

Injury updates

Professional sports have seen their fair share of notable injuries this year

by **Nika Sapunar**
staff writer

IS NHL PLAYER KEVAN MILLAR PROGRESSING WELL?

Kevan Miller, a 31-year-old player, won't return in the next few games because of a knee injury sustained last spring before his team's Stanley Cup Final run. He was a defensive player and he could return to game action in the next week.

Miller only played 39 games last year with 12 missed games already this season for the Bruins and he is not going to play in the next three games, which are happening in four days, begging with Sunday's games vs. Ottawa.

Miller appeared to go through Tuesday's practice okay and his coach said that Miller did a great job. But that wasn't any contact and that she suspects that he will start practices in his jersey next week.

Miller only averages 15:33 time on ice, which is low for a defenseman. The problem is that the Bruins, unless there is an injury, already have seven NHL-caliber defensemen on the roster. Four of seven are right shots like Miller, so one or two of them have to go when Miller comes back.

BEARS HOPE MITCHELL TRUBISKY WILL PLAY ON SUNDAY

Bears head coach Matt Nagy said on Monday that Mitchell Trubisky will start as quarterback against the Giants this week and as long as his health doesn't impact him.

Trubisky was pulled from last Saturday's game, after suffering a right hip injury in the second quarter of the game, but he remained in the game until the fourth quarter.

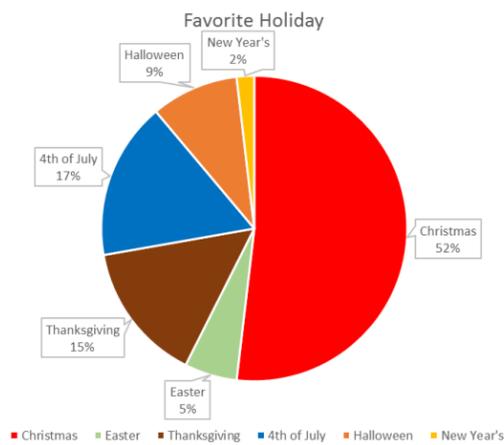
Nagy denied that Trubisky's hip stiffened up over the course of the game, which led to putting Chase Daniel, back up QB, in the game.

Nagy doesn't know if Trubisky will take part in the practice and hopes that he will be able to work, during this Wednesday's press conference.

Student opinion poll



We are in the midst of the holiday season and students were asked what their favorite day to celebrate was. Christmas was the clear winner with Thanksgiving and 4th of July in a close battle for second.



Holiday treat from Croatia

Nika Sapunar shares a recipe for one of her favorite holiday desserts

by **Nika Sapunar**
staff writer

It's a yeast based cake, traditionally baked in a distinctive circular Bundt mold.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ teaspoon active dry yeast
- 2 tablespoons warm water
- 1 cup of milk
- 7 tablespoons of softened butter
- 6 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 3 ¾ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs

Mix together water and yeast and leave it to sit for 5-10 minutes. In the meantime heat milk with 6 teaspoons butter and sugar over low heat until it becomes a mixture. Sift together flour and salt into on other bowl of standing mixture. Make a well in flour and add yeast mixture. Add warm milk and yeast mixture. While mixing it add eggs, continue to mix until Dough is smooth and elastic. Mold with remaining tablespoons butter, and put 1 almond in each depression in bottom of mold. Cover top of mold with oiled plastic wrap and a kitchen towel and let it rise in



Holiday apparel store now open

All your Blue Dragon gear is available for order now through Tuesday, December 3. <https://garretsonxmas19.itemorder.com/sale>



GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

National events trigger conversation about school safety procedures

by **Mason Hofer**
senior writer

Over the years, the threat of an attack on schools has been on a steady incline. What should schools do to prepare for this situation, and is our school doing enough? Whether or not lockdowns and active shooter drills have a positive or negative impact on students lives has also been a lingering question.

In today's society, anxiety has increased in the general population. According to *Time* magazine, 40% of adults and teenagers feel more anxious than they did last year. Things like sending your kids to school only enhance these feelings; 72% of adults fear a shooting will occur at their child's school on a frequent basis, and 57% of students feel this fear frequently.

Some students believe that there is a lack in preparation for these events. "While schools are required to have drills for fire and tornado, lockdowns are a bit different. We have usually had at least one per year, but we didn't have one last year. Plans are in motion for a drill this year, but I can totally understand in our society of some of the anxiety that parents have in sending their students off to school," stated Principal Long.

So once again, this raises the question, are lockdowns/active shooter drills playing a positive or negative role in these stress levels? "Unfortunately, I don't think anyone really enjoys a lockdown

and it can be traumatic and confusing to a lot of our kids, especially younger ones. I think that is one of the reasons that you don't see these as a more frequent occurrence," stated Long.

Even though stress levels surrounding this topic are very high, the likelihood of a shooting actually occurring at a school is very low, a Harvard instructor stated that a student getting killed with a gun on any given day is 1 in 614 million.

Experts in child trauma state that over preparation/conversation of an attack can give children depression, anxiety, poor sleep, and worsening academic progression. So some preparation is good, but constant drills and constantly putting those thoughts in a child's head has a very negative impact on students' lives.

Some schools even have taken it as far as having full on active shooter drills, using fake bombs, guns loaded with blanks, and students having realistic bloody bullet wounds. At an Indiana elementary school this year, teachers were told to kneel against a classroom wall, while local law enforcement unexpectedly shot them with pellet guns in a simulated execution. Teachers say they were told, "This is what happens if you just cower and do nothing." This was training to prepare teachers to rush school shooters or throw objects at them rather than cower in fear.

Thank goodness, Garretson doesn't partake in this traumatic experience. We are with the other

95% of public schools who practice hiding in a corner in silence to prepare in case of emergency.

"Our staff is aware of the procedures that accompany a situation where we would need to go into lockdown. It brings up a good point though that more frequent reminders, and perhaps more informal practicing, maybe on a classroom by classroom basis, would not be a bad approach to keeping everyone updated on what to do in case we ever had a situation warrant action," said Long.

Not all lockdowns take place only if there was an active threat in the building, Garretson practices something called a "soft lockdown" if something were to happen in the community that could put the school in danger. Mr. Long explained, "There are steps in place to react to a situation where a threat locally would cause the school to take action. If something locally would happen we may go into lockdown, or a even where we continue the school day with restrictions in place that no one leave or enter the school. A lot would depend on the severity of the threat or the location in which it occurred."

While the possibility of something actually occurring at school where we would actually need to go into complete lockdown are very slim, the school wants to make sure that we would be completely prepared, and we're constantly making progress on ensuring that our school is a safe place.

South Dakota on meth?

Controversial ad campaign has caught national attention

by **Parker Schlenker**
staff writer

As we all probably know, South Dakota recently released their new anti-meth campaign which caused a multitude of emotions including aggravation and confusion..

The title of the campaign "Meth. We're On It" caught many South Dakotans and others around the country by surprise with a name that could be easily misunderstood.

Many jokes spread around twitter and other social media about the campaign. Most will take the name of the campaign and assume that South Dakota has a massive meth problem and that everyone in South Dakota is on meth, when the meaning of the campaign is to say that we are on it as in taking care of the problem and trying to stop it from spreading.

Not only is there controversy on the topic of the title and commercial, but other South Dakota residents are more concerned about the amount of money the state and its taxpayers put into the making of the ad and who it was paid to. South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem launched the \$449,000 campaign which was made by a Minnesota company.

Junior Jake Schroeder said, "I think South Dakota could have used the money to actually prevent the use of meth instead of paying it to make the ad."

The controversial wording has made national headlines including being the punchline of multiple late night talk show hosts. But South Dakota has said the ad is doing what it is supposed to, getting people to talk about the issue.



From walking in the hallways of school to walking on an entirely different continent

Grace Panning, journalism staff writer, shares her story

by **Grace Panning**
staff writer—editorial

A lot of people have been asking me the reason why I went to Kenya. Well, in this article I will highlight the key things I did on my trip with pictures and words.

I went to Kenya for a week and a half on a mission trip to volunteer in a VBS (vacation bible school) as a worship teacher. I taught the kids songs that I previously made actions too. It was really fun doing this because my sister and I got to see how much fun they were having learning the actions and dancing along to the music. VBS was held at a school in Eldoret, Kenya. The school is for kids who have sponsors to pay for their food, education, and housing. This was the first time that the school opened its doors to other kids in need for just a week.

Our mission group was able to pick 50 new potentially sponsored kids out of the 500 kids that went to VBS. While there the kids would do everything from game time, craft time, worship time, and movie time. At the end of it all, the children's families came for a get together. The students all showed them the actions to the song they learned.

After VBS was done, I got to go on a safari and see wild animals. I would definitely say that going to Africa was a once in a lifetime experience and I would go again.



Lion seen while on a safari. The lion was one of many wild animals including zebras and baboons.

Pictures provided by Grace Panning

While volunteering with the VBS, Grace taught the children songs, played games, and made long lasting friendships.

