

The 100th day of school was this past Tuesday. While ever class celebrated in their own way, the elementary probably had the most festive celebrations.

Blue Ink



Love is in the air

by Nobel Nothstine
senior writer

Valentine's Day, or St Valentine's Day, is celebrated worldwide every year on February 14th. It's the day when people show their affection to others by sending cards, flowers or chocolates with messages of love. But where did it begin?

This holiday begins with St Valentine, a famous saint who was a priest from Rome in the third century AD. Emperor Claudius II had banned all marriage because married men were considered bad soldiers. St Valentine felt this was unfair, so he broke the rules and arranged marriages in secret.

When Claudius found out, Valentine was thrown in jail and sentenced to death. There, he fell in love with the jailer's daughter; on February 14th, the day he was to be killed, he



An ironic beginning in now a time to show those in your life a little extra love



sent her a love letter signed "from your Valentine" Thus, the first Valentine's Day was in the year 496 A.D.

Along with this, the Romans also had a festival called "Lupercalia" in the middle of February – a holiday that officially marked the start of springtime. As part of the celebrations, boys drew names of girls from a box. They'd be boyfriend and girlfriend during the festival and if lucky, sometimes they'd get married.

Eventually, the church wanted to alter this festival into a Christian celebration and decided to use it to remember St Valentine as well. Even years and years after the origin event, St Valentine's name is still used by people to express their feelings to those they love.

Although, Valentine's Day is not celebrated similarly in all countries. In some Asian countries, there's a return day reserved for men to oppose Valentine's day, which is reserved for women. White Day, on March 14th, is a fairly new holiday (founded in 1978) celebrated in Ja-

pan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, Thailand, and other smaller countries, and is typically a day where men who received a gift on Valentine's day return the thought with a gift "triple the return" (meaning the return gift is 2-3 times the worth of the original gift).

Some countries even celebrate Black Day, a holiday observed on April 14th by singles. On this day, people who did not receive gifts on the previous two days dress in funeral black, then gather and eat black-colored foods together. There's often speed-dating or similar events going on throughout the day.

So if you've got someone to express your romantic love too, great! But if you're not cozied up with a lover this holiday, don't worry about it too much. Spend sometime with friends or family, or you can even treat yourself to chocolates or flowers - being in a relationship does not define you or your worth. Remember that tomorrow.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Garretson will celebrate 50 years of wrestling tomorrow during the quad.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Putting a bar of unopened soap in your drawers will make your clothes smell extra fresh.

CROATIAN WORD OF THE WEEK: Snow = snijeg (snee-yeg)

JOKE OF THE WEEK: How do trees get on the internet?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: I'm tall when I'm young and short when I'm old. What am I?

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, February 13

- Early out (1:30)
- Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:30-8:30)

Friday, February 14

- No School—Teacher In-Service
- Wrestling Quad v. Flandreau/Kinsbury Co/Tri-Valley
- Wrestling Parents' & Senior Night

Monday, February 17

- No School—President's Day

Tuesday, February 18

- GBB v. Parker (4:00/6:30)
- BBB v. Parker (5:15/7:30)

Thursday, February 20

- GBB @ Sioux Valley (4:00/6:30)
- BBB @ Sioux Valley (5:15/7:30)

Saturday, February 22

- Wrestling Region Tourney @ MCM in Salem (10:00)

Worth Mentioning

COUNTDOWN TO BREAK: 1 Day

There is a four-day weekend starting tomorrow, Friday, February 14 due to Parent-Teacher Conferences tonight and staff in-service that Friday. Then no school Monday on President's Day.

Blood Drive returns to Garretson on Wednesday, February 26 during National FFA Week.

Black history month

by Grace Panning
staff writer

Paying tribute, rejoicing freedom, and celebrating black history; this is celebrated on a special month called black history month. Black history month was started by an African American fellow by the name of Carter G. Woodson. Back in 1926 in the United States, Carter G. Woodson met with The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (which he founded) then later announced the second week of February was to be known as "Negro History Week".

The reason why Carter G. Woodson, considered the study of African-American history. Because he was the son of former slaves, Woodson spent his childhood working in coal mines and quarries. He received his education during the four-month term that was customary for black schools at the time. At 19, having taught himself English fundamentals and arithmetic, Woodson entered high school, where he completed a four-year curriculum in two years. He went on to earn his master's degree in history from the University of Chicago and later earned a doctorate from Harvard.

Disturbed that history textbooks largely ignored America's black population, Woodson took on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. To do this, he established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. He also founded the group's widely respected publication, the Journal of Negro History. In 1926, Woodson developed Negro History Week. He believed "the achievements of the Negro properly set forth will crown him as a factor in early human progress and a maker of modern civilization." In 1976, Negro History Week expanded into Black History Month.

Woodson chose the second week of February for his celebration because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population: Frederick Douglass, who escaped slavery and became an abolitionist and civil rights leader; though his birthdate isn't known, he celebrated it on February 14. President Abraham Lincoln, who signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which abolished slavery in America's confederate states; he was born on February 12. For his work, Woodson has been called the Father of Black History. Along with others African American influencers like Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Muhammad

JOKE: They "log" on

BRAINTEASER: A Candle

Twist 'em like a pretzel

by **Kylie Uhl**
senior writer

The Blue Dragon grapplers had a long and eventful Saturday in Clark for the Big East/Lake County Conference tournament with four wrestlers placing. Wrestling fans will also celebrate the 50 anniversary for Garretson wrestling on Friday and the final home quad of the season.

Despite 106 wrestler Preston Bohl not being able to wrestle due to a hip injury and Tayson Swatek having to forfeit because injury, their teammates made up for the lack of points.

With wrestler Jayse Miller placed first for his 113 weight class; it was his first time ever winning a tournament in his high school career. Miller took down his first opponent, Gunner Ewing from Elk Point-Jefferson, in just nine seconds. He then beat Skylar Trygstad of Sioux Valley via a 10-3 decision. This placed Miller, ranked second in the bracket, against Weston Remmers, originally receiving the top seeding at this weight class. Miller was able to outwork Remmers for a 9-6 win, taking the top spot in the 113 weight class at the tournament.

Miller is also the only wrestler this year to win a tournament. "I knew I could beat my opponent with my strength because he was only a seventh grader," said Miller, a sophomore.



Garretson fared well at the Big East/Lake County Conference tournament having four wrestlers make the podium. Jayse Miller (113) took top honors, wrestling through his bracket. Jaden Richter (220) wrestled all the way back to a fourth place finish after dropping his opening match on the day. Hayden Stoterau (182) ended the same way Richter did, with a fourth place finish under his belt. Dominic Abraham (182) won the tournament with only one loss which resulted in a third place finish. The one loss was to the eventual champion. These four boys with the rest of the Garretson wrestling team will battle it out for a state tournament berth next weekend.

Thank you to the wrestling fans and parents for the wrestling photos this week.

Alongside sophomore Jaden "Ricky" Richter placing fourth and senior Hayden Stoterau placing fourth for his second time placing this year.

Garretson's wrestling program has a long standing tradition of success. And these wrestlers are doing what seems to happen every year, peaking at the right time.

Over the past 50 years in Garretson wrestling there have only been five coaches. Mr. Bohl has had the pleasure of coaching with four of previous coaches as well as being a head coach himself.

- Al Bowar: 1970-1991
- Tom Price: 1991-1993
- Jason Bohl: 1993-2005
- Jay Swatek: 2005-2013
- Jason Bohl: 2013-2015
- Francis Ruml: 2015-2020

"There are several good coaches in South Dakota and to name one in particular that has stood out in my mind over the last 27 years would be hard. I am just happy that I was able to learn and coach against several good coaches in our state," said Bohl.

As with anything, it evolves over time. Coach Jason Bohl said, "The biggest change has been the style of wrestling. Basics are important but now there are more scrambling situations in wrestling that you have to

cover with the kids."

Likewise of knowing some really impactful coaches, Bohl has had the opportunity to work with some exceptional athletes over the years.

"Although several of them had outstanding careers, more important to me was the fact that they were even better people and the fact that wrestling helped them in their lives, means quite a bit to me. Some former athletes that had outstanding careers wearing a Blue Dragon singlet were Tanner Donegan (3 time state champ, 4 time finalist, 5 time place winner), Dan Bonte (4 time state champ, 6 time state place winner), Tyler Sorenson (state champ, 2 time finalist, 4 time state place winner), Nick Bonte (state champ, 2 time finalist, 4 time state place winner)," noted Coach Bohl.

He continued thought, "There are several more wrestlers that have placed in the state several times but these are just a few. I've enjoyed the opportunity to coach all of the young men that have come through our halls in the past 27 years and look forward to seeing new faces on the mat every year."

The Garretson Blue Dragons have their final quad of the 2019-2020 season at home this Valentine's Day, with it also being parents and senior

Get to know your journalists

Valentine's Edition Mason Hofer

by Kylie Uhl

Q: What is your favorite topic to write about and why?

A: Sports and politics because I think they are interesting.

Q: What is the best part of journalism?

A: Chatting with the boys and Mrs. B.

Q: Why did you take journalism all four years?

A: Because Mrs. B teaches it, and I'm kind of a legend.

Q: Do you think it should be recognized as a holiday and why?

A: Yeah but we should just change it to a National Simp Day.

Q: What is your ideal date for Valentine's Day?

A: Beating Jerry in Madden a couple times.



Senior Spotlight Mason Hofer

SENIOR PROJECT:
Creating the senior graduation video

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:
Blue Dragon Swim Team
NHS
Journalism

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST:
Mrs. B, Mr. Hughes, and the boys

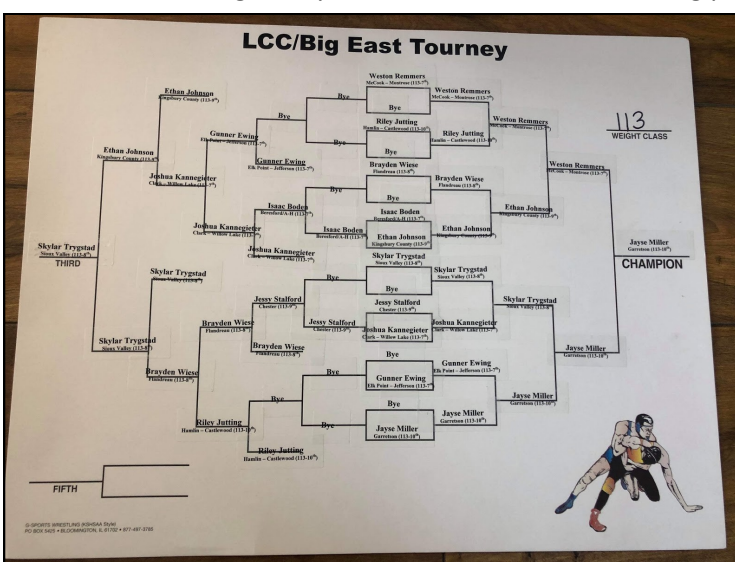
PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR
Attend SDSU for Consumer Affairs



Jayse Miller took control of his bracket, pinning his first opponents and winning by decision over the next two.

Photo by Kristen Westover

Junior Dominic Abraham placed third; this was his fourth time placing out of the five tournaments that Garretson has gone to. Abraham pinned his first two opponents in under three minutes combined. Then he fell to eventual champion, Mace Plucker from Parker. This moved Abraham to the other side of the bracket where he pinned his next two opponents, for a third place finish.



A photo of Jayse Miller's winning bracket.

BBB recap

by **Hayden Olofson**
senior writer

Garretson boys basketball team started off strong last Tuesday as they defeated their rival Baltic 65-53. Over the course of the game it was pretty close until the 3 quarter we outscored them 18-9 which was a big factor in the game. Cooper Long played a big factor in the game with 18 points on 3/4 3FG, and 6/9 FG. Right behind Cooper was Joe Zahn with almost having a double-double

Boys take down rival Baltic, fall to MCM, and give away the win to Beresford

with 10 points and 9 rebounds. It's always nice to beat Baltic.

Last Friday was parents night, but didn't turn out to be good for the Dragons. They faced off against McCook Central High School and ended up losing 35-66.

The only game this week was Tuesday. Tuesday was Cole Skadsen, Hayden Olofson, Treyson Buckneburg, and Lucas Fitzgerald's senior night. The Blue Dragons held the lead for the first three quarters and had a 12 point lead going into half

time. But the fourth quarter things went downhill. McCook outscored the Dragons 23-12 and ended up coming back and winning by five with the final score 54-59. Dylan Kindt was the leading scorer for the Dragons with 16 points, 3 steals, and 6 assists.

Garretson also dropped their game on Tuesday against Beresford. The Blue Dragons' record now stands at 2-15. The boys are back in action Tuesday hosting the Parker Pheasants in the Dragons' Lair.

And the Oscar goes to...

by **Nika Sapunar**
staff writer

The 92nd Academy Awards, or better known as Oscars, had a viewing percentage decrease of 20 percent but there were still some highlights worth noting:

"Parasite" makes history: The South Korean film became the first non-English language film to win best picture, while adding honors for director Bong Joon Ho, original screenplay and the international feature film category.

Four acting awards were handed out: Joaquin Phoenix won for his title role in "Joker," a dark drama spun out of the Batman franchise. Renee Zellweger, a 2004 supporting actress winner for "Cold Mountain," earned her first lead actress award for "Judy," a biography of Judy Garland near the end of her troubled life. Brad Pitt and Laura Dern claimed their Oscars in the supporting races for "Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood" and "Marriage Story."

An Obama-backed film won an Oscar: Despite being denied what would have been an historic best picture nod, Netflix's "American Factory,"

a documentary released with the support of the Obamas, was honored in that category. The film chronicles the takeover of an Ohio production plant by Chinese interests.

There was surprise performance by Eminem: His performance drew an enthusiastic reaction from the crowd, based on shots within the theater, but generated a "why" response on social media.

And politics came up: After winning the Oscar, Pitt joked, "They told me I only have 45 seconds up here, which is 45 seconds more than the Senate gave John Bolton this week. I'm thinking maybe Quentin does a movie about it. In the end, the adults do the right thing." Steve Martin joked about the Iowa caucus: "A couple of years ago, there was a big disaster here at the Oscars, where they accidentally read out the wrong name. And it was nobody's fault, but they have guaranteed that this will not happen this year because the Academy has switched to the new Iowa caucus app."

In memoriam: every year they have "in memoriam" where they put the names of the people that came to previous Oscars but died this year and couldn't be there. This year some of

them were Luke Perry, Cameron Boyce, Tim Conway and more.

But what about Eminem?: He came on stage singing Love Yourself and received a standing ovation from crowd. People have been asking why was he there. He won the best song back in 2003 but there was a no show award that year.

And the Oscar goes to...:

Best Supporting Actor: Brad Pitt with *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*

Best Actress: Renée Zellweger with *Judy*

Best Supporting Actress: Laura Dern with *Marriage Story*

Best Director: Bong Joon-ho with *Parasite*

Best Original Music Score: *Joker*

Best Animated Feature: *Toy Story 4*

Best Foreign Language Film: *Parasite*

Best Original Screenplay: Han Jin-won and Bong Joon-ho for *Parasite*

Best Documentary Feature: *American Factory*

Best Adopted Screenplay: Taika Waititi With *Jojo Rabbit*

Best Original Song: "(I'm Gonna) Love Me Again" by Elton John and Bernie Taupin in *Rocketman*

XFL finally back

Opening week draws big attention

by **Hayden Olofson**
senior writer

Nineteen years after the first incarnation, the XFL returned this last weekend and made their season debut. The XFL is a professional American football league which ran for a single season in 2001, but it's finally back. The XFL had doubtful thoughts throughout the debut weekend, but they actually received a positive reaction.



Just one week after the Super Bowl, the XFL debuted their comeback season, the first in 19 years. While experimental rules and special on-field access and interviews are different than the traditional NFL set up, the idea of football sticking around appealed to many fans

The XFL has a lot of different rules than the NFL. One of the biggest talking point from the opening weekend revolved around that's become a talking point at the NFL level. When an XFL team lines up for a kickoff, the alignment is way different from the NFL. All players, except for the kicker, are in front of the line of scrimmage. The coverage team lines up on the return side 35 yard line and the return team lines up at its own 30 year line. Many think this increases safety of the kickoffs.

The league also had some more things different from

competitive advantage that can be taken from this to be in the NFL. Last one allows your team to decide if they would like to go for a one, two, or three point conversion after scoring a touchdown. Some people like this rule, some think it feels like you are playing a pickup game with friends. Some people might like the fact of the XFL and some might not like it because NFL just got over. I think its just something entertaining to watch with different rules that might make the games more interesting.

What to get "this person" for Valentine's

A fun, non-scientific quiz created by the journalism class



1. If you could choose one sport to play with this person, which would it be?

- A. Basketball
- B. Football
- C. Tennis
- D. Mini Golf
- E. Black or Brown

2. What is your favorite restaurant choice ?

- A. El Tapatio
- B. O So Good
- C. Dave & Busters
- D. Johnny Carino's

3. Which candy bar would you choose?

- A. Snickers/Skittles
- B. Reeses/M&Ms
- C. Rolos/Sour Patch Kids
- D. Butterfingers/Mike & Ikes

4. What movie would you prefer to watch with this person?

- A. Star Wars
- B. Red
- C. Crazy Rich Asians
- D. Notebook

5. What did you get this person last Christmas?

- A. Candy or little gifts
- B. Whatever your parents said to
- C. Jewelry, clothing, something thoughtful
- D. A candy bouquet, pop

6. What's the most likely location that you would eat with this person?

- A. Mall/Fast Food
- B. Dinner at home
- C. Nice dinner, dinner date
- D. Food with a group of friends

7. What is your favorite time of the day during school?

- A. Gym
- B. Study hall
- C. Actual class time
- D. Lunch
- E. The end of school



Presidents' Day

by **Nika Sapunar**
staff writer

The nation celebrates Presidents Day annually during the third Monday in February. It's meant to commemorate the birthday of the nation's first president, George Washington. This year's celebration will fall on Monday, Feb. 17, and will include a difference of openings or closings at major locations. The holiday generally falls between Washington's birthday, Feb. 22, and Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Feb. 12.

Abraham Lincoln, who was 16th president of US, led the nation through its greatest moral, constitutional, and political crisis in the American Civil War. He died in office upon his assassination. But he was not the only one who was assassination, John Fitzgerald Kennedy was assassinated. He served

as 35th president, served at the height of the Cold War and the majority of his work as president concerned relations with the Soviet Union and Cuba. Franklin D. Roosevelt who was assuming the Presidency at the depth of the Great Depression as our 32nd president and helped the American people regain faith in themselves.

Although Washington's birthday has been informally celebrated since the 1800s, it wasn't signed into law until 1879. Until 1885, the holiday only applied to Washington, but became national in that year. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act ensured that the celebration took place on predetermined Mondays. Congress passed that into law in 1968 and former President Nixon enacted it in 1971 via executive order.

Senior spotlight

Geraldine Fry

SENIOR PROJECT:
Girl Scout Award with work toward Whooping Crane Conservation

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:
Cross Country

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST:
My family

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR
Going to college



Senior spotlight

Kaci Danforth



SENIOR PROJECT:
Bird photography

ACTIVITIES INVOLVED IN:
FFA
Cross Country

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST:
Seeing my mom and little brother every day at school

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR
Attend SDSU

What should you get this person for Valentine's Day?

If you got mostly A, you are probably buying for a friend. Keep it simple. Things like candy bars and a small stuffed animal are nice but your friendship is probably what's most appreciated. Enjoy the fact that you have people who want to be in your life and love you for who you are.



If you got mostly B, you're most likely buying for a family member, or someone who is like family to you. They are in your life for good. They love you for who you are and are stuck with you whether they want to be or not. You are enough of a present yourself. After all, your family is blessed with your presence year round.



If you got mostly C, you're already dating someone (or should be dating this person). You are a couple and are expected to do what other couples do during this holiday. Buying flowers, chocolates, leaving notes in their locker are all nice little gestures that would definitely make your significant other's day. Hopefully you have something

planned for Friday night. Spend this night with this person whether it is going to a movie, having a nice dinner together, or doing something special like ice skating or roller skating (if you prefer to stay warm).



If you got mostly D, you are really close to this person and probably just need to give it a shot. It's obvious you like them. And if they are spending that much time with you, they probably like you too. Just ask—make it a memorable Valentine's Day. But just in case you are afraid of really committing to dating someone or what they will say if you ask them out, keep the gift simple. Get them something small yet meaningful. A quaint heart shaped box of chocolates with a personal note just might be the trick to get you to the next step in your relationship.

Painting to perfection

Senior Rachel Kindt hosts a Creative Canvas party on Friday, February 14

Creative Canvases



Grades 9-12 painting

Come Paint with Me!
Only \$15 per seat



Grades 4-8 painting

Join me at the Zion Lutheran Church Basement
Friday, February 14th
Grades 4th- 8th session at 1pm – 3pm
Grades 9th-12th session at 4pm – 6pm

Refreshments and snacks will be served!

We will provide you with the 16" x 20" canvas, paint, brushes and step by step instructions. Just bring yourself, have fun, and take home your work of art!

Spots are limited, pre-registration is required.
To RSVP contact Rachel Kindt at RK3189@k12.sd.us or 605-

Science fair region qualifiers

Middle school students participated in the science fair this past Monday. With the aid of community members and high schoolers to serve as judges, the students were able to present their research in the following categories: Animal Science, Technology, Behavioral Science, Energy & Transportation, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Engineering, Mathematics, Microbiology, Physics, and Plant Sciences.

The following 27 students qualified to go to the regional competition on March 24: Kaitlyn Steinhoff, Eliza Potter, Jade Bertotti, Nora Bonte, Addison Hove, Aleah Wagner, Cade Uhlich, Tayler Benson, Ava Nordstrom, Isabella Sysa, Lane Ellefson, Martin Welch, Carsten Rozeboom, Caleb Westerbur, Cash Pullman, Blaine Trower, Allison Gawarecki, Alexis Gawarecki, Jordyn Williams, Hannah Frewaldt, Sydney Olson, Sage Solheim, Dylan Wolf, Dmitriy Sysa, Abrianna Doppenberg, Lacey Lumpkin, and Cadence Magnuson.

Congratulations to all participants and good luck students in one month in Brookings for the regional science fair.